



*A Look at
Dome Village*

Dome Village



Organization Description

The Dome Village, a project of Justiceville/Homeless USA, is a non-profit organization which offers a structural alternative for homeless people unable or unwilling to live in traditional shelters. The domes are used as a stabilizing tool to provide affordable transitional housing which is non-threatening to the chronic homeless person and to the neighborhood, creating a positive and innovative approach to housing homeless people and achieving the goals of alleviating homelessness and reducing urban blight and decay in our city.

The Dome Village is located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. Founded by homeless activist Ted Hayes in 1993, it has transformed an unsightly encampment site into a community of formerly homeless people who have become productive, industrious and responsible.

The Dome Village is comprised of 20 Omni-Sphere domes which provide housing and supportive service for 18-24 individuals and family members. Eight domes are community-use and include an office, kitchen, community room, separate women's and men's bath facilities, laundry and a computer education center. The remaining domes are residential, partitioned in half and providing private living space for two individuals.

The Dome Village targets homeless individuals as clients for its programs. Often these are the individuals who have shunned or been unsuccessful in traditional programs for the homeless offered elsewhere. While it true that a variety of programs for the homeless are available, most have fallen short of providing long-term impact on the problem, unable to meaningfully engage individuals in activities which can alter the course of chronic hard-core homelessness. The Dome Village's philosophy of self-governance, responsibility, productivity, volunteerism and respect for individuals and the community, allows avenues for homeless people to seek empowerment and make a break from the chronic cycle and psyche of homelessness.

Dome Village develops and operates programs to achieve the following goals:

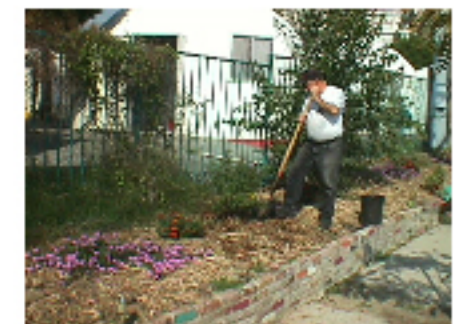
Engage the residents of Dome Village in productive, industrious and responsible projects right where they live, helping them to transition out of homelessness,

Create jobs and incentives for village residents which can provide them with an opportunity to earn extra income, increase their self-esteem and work ethic, and better their immediate community,

Teach the residents valuable skills and technologies they can utilize to help them return to mainstream society. Skills may also be used to help residents manage, facilitate and improve the Dome Village and assist in the creation of future homeless communities.

Develop micro-enterprises and generate income to help support the community, as well as provide residents with an opportunity to develop marketing, sales and leadership skills and improve their ability to work cooperatively, while assuming individual responsibilities.

Clean and beautify the local neighborhood by regularly removing trash, debris, weeds and graffiti from the surrounding area; improve the aesthetics and atmosphere of the area by creating a park-and-garden setting at Dome Village for residents, neighbors and other visitors to appreciate; instill a sense of appreciation for a clean and green environment.



Justiceville Occupational Business Services (JOBS) promotes positive community service as well as providing ways for residents to earn extra income, improve skills and work ethic--factors which increase their ability to transition to a self-sufficient life. Dome Village residents also find meaningful work in helping Ted Hayes develop and promote a comprehensive *National Homeless Plan (NHP)*.



The Domestic Peace Force and Community Volunteers are integral parts of the Dome Village.

These skilled people provide support for the homeless and staff by helping with program development, casework, literacy tutoring, outreach, the National Homeless Plan (NHP) and other efforts. VISTA/AmeriCorps volunteers, student interns, professionals, Boy Scouts and other skilled individuals have all contributed significantly to many Dome Village programs.



>> USS CyberDome
>>
Computer Education Center and Office

Skills development have been an important part of the Dome Village's programs. Residents learn computer techniques from beginner through advanced levels and cover elements of word processing, accounting, graphics, database, internet and other topics. In 1999 the Dome Village was proud to announce the opening of the USS CyberDome which is entirely dedicated to computer ressources and education for Dome Village residents and other community



The Urban Farm & Orchard (UFO) and Garden Projects give homeless people the opportunity to grow flowers, herbs, trees and vegetables at an on-site garden. The program features professional training in landscape architecture, organic gardening and other greening techniques. In addition to the therapeutic value of working in the garden, the program aims to help create jobs and education. In 1999 a new JOBS program funded by EPA was begun at Solano Canyon Community Garden. The homeless who participate in the Urban Farm & Orchard (UFO) are converting an unused area into a productive farm and orchard. The Garden Club also has a history of providing support labor for other gardens in the community.



A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AND INSPIRATION

In addition to the homeless, the project also benefits local youth, youth "at risk" and the general Pico-Union business and residential community. The Dome Village has spawned inspirational fitness programs for kids, which help to curb gangs and provide healthy recreational outlets. In addition, the Dome Village is growing as a community center hosting yearly holiday events, cultural activities, health fairs and works to maintain the neighborhood as a clean and safe environment

The Game of Cricket and the Dome Village

In September 1995 an historical event took place. The Justiceville Krickets, a team of homeless men from the Dome Village, toured England for two weeks playing the game of cricket. Led by Ted Hayes, his son Theo, Katy Haber and coach Leo Magnus, this most unusual team of cricketers in modern history was invited by several British cities to play.



The homeless men of Dome Village have trained a new American born cricket team comprised of youths from Compton who also traveled to England in 1997 and in 1999 where they visited Northern Ireland as well. This team called the "Homies & the POPz" was received by HRH Prince Edward at Buckingham Palace for tea. In addition, the "Homies & the POPz" are helping to promote the restoration and establishment of cricket in the U.S., and inspire youth to put a halt to the self destructive activities of the gang culture in America and abroad.



Skate Programs sponsored by the Dome Village are becoming well known in downtown Los Angeles for their in-line skating activism in support of non-violence, inner-city youth and the National campaign to end homelessness. Dome Village has sponsored popular after-school skating clubs for middle-school and elementary school age children and has been able to distribute scores of donated skates to inner city youth and to homeless Dome Village members. Skate program participants benefit not only by the physical fitness, conditioning and social interaction that skating brings, but also from the positive energy sparked by skate programs for good social causes. Dome Village also leads a monthly Downtown Thursday Night Skate and members have skated in



yearly "Skate Against Violence" campaigns and have organized skate events throughout "skid row" to bring hope and wide publicity to homeless issues.

Art Programs are sponsored by *Street Without A Name* (SWAN) together with the California African American Museum (CAAM). Art activities aim to provide therapeutic experiences as well as enhance the aesthetic environment. Projects have included collective mosaics, signs, tabletops, treewells, animation pieces, murals, banners, creative garden installations, holiday crafts and special events. Dome Village residents have also helped to facilitate SWAN sponsored arts and crafts projects at L.A. area



emergency shelters. In addition, arts projects may facilitate economic opportunities for individuals and sponsors programs where individuals can earn income through cottage industries and the sale of handmade arts & crafts.



What's Ted Hayes' National Homeless Plan (NHP) all about?

The Prime Objective:

The Prime Objective is to break the cycle of homelessness wherever it can be found throughout the United States.

Ted Hayes, Homeless and Youth Activist

The completion of the Prime Objective is projected to be achieved within ten years from the day of its implementation. When considering the Prime Objective, there are two basic facts that all concerned, involved, interested parties do agree upon. They are:

- (1) Yes! There is a need for A National Homeless Plan,**
- (2) No! To the outlawing of American citizens simply because of their social status...Homelessness.**

Government and private sector's support for Ted Hayes' National Homeless Plan is steadily growing. On October 13, 1998 the City Council of Los Angeles acting at the request of Council Person Rita Walters passed a resolution to call for a National Action to End Homelessness. Further, on January 5, 1999, Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite-Burke and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors passed a similar motion as proposed by homeless activist Ted Hayes.



At the present time the National Homeless Plan Campaign is headquartered at the Dome Village.

From its inception, Dome Village has generated tremendous support for its innovative way of addressing homelessness. Special events take place regularly and the Dome Village makes considerable effort to publicize and to encourage community volunteers to join. Each year, hundreds of volunteer groups and individuals participate in our programs. Moreover, our projects have inspired community members to initiate other neighborhood improvement projects with local businesses repainting and refurbishing their facilities and local and state governments cleaning up and landscaping the surrounding area.



Dome Village has become an internationally known and respected project. The architectural structure of Dome Village is a powerful visual, forcing the general public and government to confront the inhumanity of homelessness, yet at the same time, providing an alternative, more humane strategy for alleviating homelessness and creating opportunities for people to help. Dome Village's presence has also leveraged food, clothing, financial donations, ideas to end hunger and has become a model for future homeless housing.





JUSTICEVILLE/HOMELESS, USA

ORGANIZATION

Ted Hayes, *Founder JHUSA, President*
 Katy Haber, *Executive Director*
 Ronda Flanzbaum, *Program Director*
 Ron Lamont, *Case Manger & Special Events*
 Al Renner, *Urban Garden Club Coordinator*
 Mike Watson, *Urban Garden Club Admin. Assistant*
 Gekko Escobar, *Domestic Peace Force*
 Virginia Contreras, *Domestic Peace Force*
 Chester Ward, *Dome Village Staff*
 Ernie Bell, *Dome Village Staff*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaime Conal, *Social Worker Mental Health*
 Tom Floras, *Paralegal*
 Arlene Hayes, *School Teacher, JHUSA VP*
 Warren Jacob Esq., *Attorney, JHUSA Treasurer*
 Sabir Jaffer, *Holiday Inn Downtown*
 Alden Moore, *Dome Village Graduate*
 Jeffrey Peninger, *Dome Village Resident*
 Eliseo Villanueva, *Social Worker, Chairman of the Board*
 Harry Youtt, *Lawyer / Consultant, Secretary*

ADVISORY BOARD

Cameron Bonner, *Community and Youth Activist*
 Craig Chamberlain, *SurvivalSphere Domes*
 Lennox Hawk, *UPS Community Relations*
 Mortimer Laski, *Tax Attorney*
 Jamie Snyder, *Buckminster Fuller Institute*

Justiceville/Homeless, USA
 Dome Village
 847 Golden Avenue,
 Los Angeles, CA 90017
 Phone: 213.892.9011
 Fax: 213.892.9068

www.domevillage.org

Justiceville/Homeless, USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
 Donations are tax deductible. Federal Tax Identification # 95-4017329
 For information about facilitator programs sponsorship please call:

Dome Village Booklet Publication

Ronda Flanzbaum, *Editor*
 Dome Village logo by Jeanne Yen
 Issue 5, July 2001

