

What does “Respect” mean for Heading Home? *Thoughts from our CEO, Dennis R. Plummer*



Heading Home’s vision that experiences of homelessness are rare, short-lived and nonrecurring is guided by seven core values. They are more than just words that describe our approach to this work; they define and direct us. Our core values are of such deep importance to Heading Home that we want you – our friends – to know them and understand how they are interpreted.

**Justice | Equity | Equality | Safety | Trust | Empowerment |
Respect**

Of these seven, our foundational core value is that of respect. “Respect” for Heading Home means that: **We recognize and respect the unique needs and circumstances of the people that we serve.** In practice, it means the following:

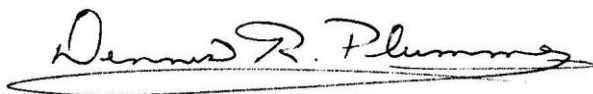
1. We are committed to a Harm Reduction model.
2. We are committed to a nonjudgmental attitude. Focus is on current behavior, not character or past.
3. We believe language is impactful and are sensitive to how people identify themselves. We strive to use language aligned with respect. Examples include use of such identifiers as:
 - “guests”;
 - “neighbors”; and
 - “people experiencing homelessness”.

This foundational value supports all of our other values, which you can read about by [clicking here](#).

These values help our staff collaborate effectively as a team, which is especially crucial when we are spread across three separate locations (the downtown Annex, the AOC Campus and the Westside Emergency Housing Center). They act as a beacon in the darkness to guide our strategic direction. This lets us effectively respond to community needs as we work to achieve our vision. Most importantly, they guide us in all of our interactions with individuals and families experiencing homelessness whom we serve.

Our values uplift and inspire us and remind us of our purpose at Heading Home. In upcoming newsletters, we will explore our core values in action. If you see great examples of these values personified in our community, please share them [here](#) on our Facebook page!

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Plummer
CEO, Heading Home

From the September 2019 edition of “Passages,” Heading Home’s monthly newsletter