

From Tent Cities to Tiny Homes, From Homelessness to Community

New Mexico communities have a very wide range of approaches to addressing homelessness. One of the more ambitious approaches is moving beyond providing temporary shelter to building community.

[Hope Village](#) is an early prototype of this approach: a tent city providing transitional living for the homeless, located on the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope campus, an alliance of service agencies that address homelessness in Las Cruces, NM. Permanency is not the goal. Instead, *the* intention is to provide a sense of community until the City of Las Cruces succeeds in effectively and humanely reintegrating its homeless members back into the larger community.

More recently, Bernalillo County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley and City of Albuquerque Councilor Diane Gibson are spearheading a [tiny home village](#) project that will offer safe and dignified housing within a supported single-site community setting, provide autonomy for the villagers and facilitate their reintegration into broader society. Last November, voters approved a \$2 million general obligation bond to fund the development of the tiny home village project.

In October, the Bernalillo County/ hosted a presentation by Andrew Heben, author of *Tent City Urbanism: From Self-Organized Camps to Tiny House Villages*. Andrew draws upon his own experience founding the organization, [SquareOne Villages](#), a continuum of options in Eugene, Oregon, from tent cities to permanent housing in tiny home villages. If you missed it, you can view Andrew's presentation on [YouTube](#), beginning at minute 8:15. Also visit his organization's website:

How is your community addressing the issue of homelessness? SHARE your experiences, ideas, challenges and successes. Together, New Mexico can meet this challenge, end homelessness, and build stronger, safer, inclusive communities. Send your contributions to info@sharenm.org.

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