initiatives get off the ground

County targets chronic problem

BY ELISABETH ARRIERO

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR
Orange County kicked off an ambitious plan in 2007 to eradicate chronic homelessness in the

The Orange County 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness is the result of a collaborative effort between Orange County, Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough.

"The main thing the 10-year plan tries to do is make sure people who need help, can get help," Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy said.

Sally Greene, chairwoman of the executive team of the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, said that instead of targeting the entire homeless population, the plan focuses on chronic

"This is often a huge mis-conception," Greene said. "The 10-year plan focuses mainly on helping those people who have lived on the streets for 12 months or more and have a serious and debilitating mental or physical

Two other programs also began this year to aid the local homeless population

Project Homeless Connect, held Oct. 25, provided legal, medical and social services to about 100 homeless people at the Hargraves Community Center. Chapel Hill was one of more than 115 cities nationwide that held the one-day

event.
"We thought that Project Homeless Connect was a fantastic program that helped a lot of people in need," said John Dorward, associate director of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service. "Even though it was just a one day event, they were able to get a lot of service viders togethe

Greene said that the positive feedback from Project Homeless Connect didn't come just from the homeless people being helped, but also the service providers.

"A great number of service pro-

viders indicated they would like to return and continue providing services," Greene said. "So we will definitely be planning another Project Homeless Connect in the next year."

Greene said the 10-year plan's main task for the coming year will be to find a coordinator. Greene said the board now is gathering resumes to fill the position.

The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership also introduced a program aimed at helping the homeless population — Real Change from Spare Change - on

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"We're taking baby steps, but we're going to get there. I'm very optimistic.'

MEG MCGURK, CHAPEL HILL **DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

The program targets panhandling and homelessness while simultaneously raising money for a street outreach program said Meg McGurk, Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership assistant

"We want people to donate to this program instead of giving money to people on the streets," McGurk said. "All the money we raise will go toward paying for more street outreach workers who can help individuals find the help

McGurk said that so far, Real Change from Spare Change has collected \$1,700 of its \$70,000 goal. She added that community interest in the program has grown steadily during the past couple of

"Our goal is lofty but complete-ly feasible, as evidenced by the amount of interest the community has showed," McGurk said. "We're taking baby steps, but we're going to get there. I'm very optimistic

Greene said that, considering the success of Project Homeless Connect and Real Change from Spare Change in 2007, she is looking forward to the coming

"Both programs show a great deal of potential in our area," Greene said. "I'm excited to see how far we can move the 10year plan forward in the coming

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TOPPINGS

Homelessness Art series draws record numbers

Officials tout successful season

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY

When Carolina Performing Arts hosted its first season in the newly renovated Memorial Hall in 2005 and 2006, the organization sold out five individual shows to the

1,434-seat hall.

Halfway into its third season,
CPA already has sold out more than two times its first-season record and a number of its remaining performances are in limited ability.

Emil Kang, UNC's executive director for the arts, said 2007 has been the most successful year for Carolina Performing Arts since its

"2007 has been the best everything since we opened. Everything from response, ticket sales and impact," he said. "From a sales perspective, we earned \$1.1 million in our '06-07 season. In the current '07-08 season, just from September to December, we've made over 1 million.

But 2007 also saw several cancellations from artists, most nota-bly the 2007-08 season opener, Aretha Franklin, who canceled her September performance during the summer. CPA inked soul singer Al Green to fill Franklin's spot.

Just last month, Mary Chapin Carpenter, another headlining act, canceled her Feb. 15 appearance. Emmylou Harris, Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin and Buddy Miller will perform in a sold-out joint concert Jan. 14 in Carpenter's

Kang cited increased student turnout to many performances as one of his organization's biggest

"It was really fascinating that the virtual reality presentation of 'The Tempest' had an audience that was three-fourths students," Kang said. "We expected it to be not so popular, but the feedback from people who were there gave us comfort for those kinds of performances.

CPA assisted with the creation at citydesk@unc.edu. of Front Row, a student organiza-

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NEW YEAR'S

SPECIAL



Al Green kicked off the 2007-08 season of Carolina Performing Arts after Aretha Franklin canceled her performance. CPA has offered a variety of classical and contemporary acts and saw an increase in student turnout.

tion created to promote student attendance at CPA events. Front Row hosted UNC's first Campus Arts Day in September, which organized numerous arts groups on campus in the Pit. Front Row also set up intimate discussions with artists performing in Memorial Hall.

With a focus on attempting to bring a broad spectrum of artists and groups, Kang said CPA was surprised at how the public responded to several of its more unusual and exotic offerings

We sold 1,200 tickets for Cambodian classical dance — we can't explain that," Kang said. "I think it's that people are starting to trust that what we bring is going to be distinctive and mean-

Tom Allin, Carolina Union Activities Board music chairman who attended many CPA perfor-mances in 2007, echoed Kang's sentiments about the Cambodian classical dance presentation.

"It wasn't so much that it was something they had never done before, but it was the fact that it

was nearly sold out," Allin said.
"I thought that, at least in terms of what CPA has done just by building a name for itself, they can attract people to sell-out shows like Cambodian dance, which, in the past, may have gotten half that amount of people.'

> Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

games

Level: 1 2 3 4

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Sudoku By The Mepham Group

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Fashion forward 2007 saw an influx of top-name

designers selling their clothing at discount stores. Go online for story.

The DTH remembers several

community leaders who died in 2007. Go online for story. Fresh faces

Three new Board of Trustees members were sworn in at the July

initiatives. Go online for story.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 14 Old name for a two

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