

# The Musician: Ken Nelson

51ST STREET APARTMENTS | DEVELOPED BY TOWNSPEOPLE



You can help end homelessness by supporting projects such as 51st Street Apartments. Let your local leaders know that supportive housing is an effective solution that will end homelessness in our community.

**“My daughter is the light of my life.”**

Ken Nelson comes from a large family and grew up in between Los Angeles and Oregon in the 1970s. Surrounded by a culture of bikers and drugs, he had little or no positive influence or support during his formative years. He grew up thinking and feeling that the chaotic and unpredictable world that surrounded him was “normal.” As a young adult, Ken began battling both addiction and mental illness.

In his twenties, Ken left Los Angeles in search of a new start with his girlfriend. Together they had a little girl, but Ken was unable to obtain the help he needed to recover from his mental illness or deal with his addiction. He lost custody of his daughter when she was just a small child. Ken then spent seven years living on and off the streets in San Diego, longing to create a stable home for his daughter’s sake but never able to find a way to leave the streets behind.

Ken finally received rehabilitation services through the court system’s non-profit CRASH (Community Resources and Self Help) program. He found temporary shelter at Joshua House, a nationally recognized drug rehabilitation and alcoholism treatment center; and in 2007, Townspeople welcomed Ken into the 51st Street Apartments.

He has thrived within a safe, affordable environment where he receives the support and services he needs — including access to affordable medical care for his chronic illnesses. Soon after moving in, Ken successfully reached his long-term goal of stable employment; he is currently the property manager at the apartment complex. And, he recently reunited with his daughter, at last.



The Corporation for Supportive Housing is a national nonprofit organization and community development financial institution that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. CSH advances its mission by providing advocacy, expertise, leadership, and financial resources to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)



“Townspeople has allowed  
me to live again.”

#### **Townspeople and CSH**

Townspeople is a San Diego-based nonprofit organization which provides a wide variety of housing and supportive services to the local HIV/AIDS community. CSH's San Diego Program has supported Townspeople's housing development activities in a variety of ways, including provision of technical and financial assistance and \$150,000 in development loans to assist with the creation of Townspeople's projects.

[www.townspeople.org](http://www.townspeople.org)

