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the initiative, so that the community can receive periodic progress reports. The group will also consider which Bethesda Project programs and personnel should receive support from the partnership.

Progress will necessarily be incremental and depend upon vagaries that CCRA and its partners can neither predict nor control—factors such as the economy and the extent of governmental intervention. To ensure commitment over the long term, community partners CCRA and the congregations will update their members as to advances over time.

Bethesda Project now serves nearly 2,000 individuals experiencing homelessness every year. From street outreach and

shelters, to permanent housing residences with supportive services, its locations create a Housing First continuum of care for Philadelphia's chronically homeless. Bethesda Project meets men and women where they are, providing case management to help them achieve their highest personal potential. Now, 38 years since its inception, Bethesda Project remains committed to its initial calling—to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family to those who have none.

For more information on Bethesda Project, visit them online at [bethesdaproject.org](http://bethesdaproject.org) or contact [eekstein@bethesdaproject.org](mailto:eekstein@bethesdaproject.org) for more information.

Our 12 congregation partners are Church of the Holy Trinity, Congregation



Two of Bethesda Project's shelter guests share a light moment.

Leyv Ha-Ir, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Unitarian Church, Liberti Church, Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, The Peace Islands Institute, Philadelphia Ethical Society, Shambhala Meditation Center of Philadelphia, Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, and Trinity Memorial Church.

## CCStreetwise

# Philadelphia's 2017 Rankings: Good and Bad

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Philadelphia ranks high to moderate on affordability, livability, and fashion according to recent studies. On the downside, it's not an easy place for renters, and our city has some of the worst driving in the U.S.

*SmartAsset* website's 2017 list of "The Most Undervalued Cities in America" placed Philadelphia in the number 8 spot out of 200 cities in the U.S., based on walkability, affordable housing values, and quality-of-life metrics including employment, crime, high school graduation rates, and nightlife.

*Redfin* website ranked Philadelphia as the fifth most walkable city in its 2017 list, "Top 10 Most Walkable U.S. Cities." (New York is number one.) Walk Score measures walkability based on distance from amenities, density of population, block length, and pedestrian friendliness. The study included 250 cities; 50 cities with populations of more than 300,000 are included in the annual ranking.

*U.S. News and World Report* notes that Philadelphia is number 77 on their list of "2017 Best Places to Live in the U.S." (out of 100). Based on good value, strong job market, and high quality of life, Philadelphia received 6.2 out of 10 points. Highlights include a mix of modern lifestyles; history, arts and culture; neighborhoods with character, restaurants, shops, public parks, and some neighborhood schools. On the downside, the report noted that 27 percent of residents had incomes below \$25,000 per year. The report was based on a survey of thousands of people nationwide, government data, and ranking of best schools and hospitals.

*YouGov's* ranking of "America's Most Fashionable Cities" placed Philadelphia number 9 out of 20 cities. On a scale of *very fashionable* to *not at all fashionable*, residents of each city rated how fashionable people in their city were. Two-thirds of New York residents said their people were

very or somewhat fashionable, whereas in Philadelphia less than half said that.

Financial website *WalletHub* ranked Philadelphia 128th out of 150 cities as a place for renters to live, based on rental market and affordability, security deposits, cost of living, historical rental-price changes, and quality of life. Philadelphia needs over 38,000 more units by 2030 to keep up with demand.

Allstate and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety ranked Philadelphia number 191 out of 200 cities in its "Best Drivers Report," which is based on claims data, population density, and hard-braking events per every 1,000 miles. The report found that drivers in Philadelphia get into a collision about every six years, compared to the national average of every ten years.

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