

# Homeless center hires new director

*Homeless 1990*  
Kenneth Cole had run Seattle program

**Sentinel staff report**

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SANTA CRUZ — A leader in getting housing for Seattle street people has been hired as executive director of the Homeless Services Center, the group announced Tuesday.

Kenneth Cole, formerly with the Archdiocesan Housing Authority in Seattle, accepted the position Monday and began working the same day, board chairwoman Donna Maurillo said.

Cole replaces Karen Gillette, founding director of the original Homeless Community Resource Center, who resigned from the top post in February.

A search produced excellent candidates from around the country, Maurillo said in a prepared statement. The decision to hire Cole was made by a panel that included center board members, other service providers and Santa Cruz City Manager Dick Wilson.

"We are delighted to have found such an outstanding executive director for our local homeless services," Maurillo said. "We have chosen the best of the best."

Cole previously served as co-director of special ministries for the housing program run by the Roman Catholic archdiocese, Seattle's largest provider of emergency services and permanent housing to the homeless in that city.

He also served as executive director for the Pike Market Senior Center/Downtown Food Bank and as manager for Pioneer Human Services, both in Seattle.

Cole said he will focus on increasing funding from private sources.

He will oversee construction of a new kitchen for the Homeless Services Center, which currently serves breakfast to about 250 needy people.

The center is an umbrella organization for several programs that together provide meals, showers, case management, transitional housing and help for homeless people re-entering the mainstream.

Gillette, 39, stamped her mark on city services to the homeless with 10 years of leadership that occasionally sparked controversy.

In 1998, she guided the Homeless Community Resource Center through a difficult merger with Citizens Committee for the Homeless. Friction over the merger prompted Gillette to resign, but she withdrew her resignation after board members from both organizations asked her to return.

In May, Gillette stepped down from the \$50,000 post directing 13 staffers and managing a \$980,000 budget. She said she plans to travel.