

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Shelter Board announces Tom Albanese as Associate Director

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board announced Tom Albanese, principal associate at Abt Associates, Inc., as its new associate director today. The associate director role is a newly created position at the collective impact organization leading the community's response to homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County.

“Tom brings an incredible breadth of experience in designing homeless crisis response systems and helping communities build their capacity to achieve better outcomes,” said Michelle Heritage, executive director of Community Shelter Board. “He is a sought-after and well respected expert in the field who has published and presented across the U.S. Tom has incredibly deep passion for this work, highly regarded experience in the field and clinical expertise to support our homeless services partners and guide our community to even better results for people experiencing homelessness.”

Since 2008, Albanese has worked for Abt Associates, a leading research and technical assistance firm for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other federal agencies. He served as Community Shelter Board's director of programs and planning for six years prior to joining Abt Associates. His work prior to that involved leadership roles in family and homeless service agencies in Kent, Ohio.

While at Abt Associates, Albanese served as the lead technical assistance provider for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Veterans Administration in supporting efforts to reduce homelessness among Veterans nationwide by 47% between 2010 and 2016. As a lead technical assistance provider for New York City, he also supported efforts to reduce homelessness among Veterans in New York City by 66% between 2014 and 2016. He served in a senior advisory and support role for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, U.S. Department of HUD, Veterans Administration and other federal partners to develop criteria, benchmarks and guidance for communities around ending Veterans and chronic homelessness. Albanese also served as chair of the national technical assistance team for HUD's now concluded \$1.5B Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, supporting effective administration and adherence to best practices in over 500 jurisdictions nationwide.

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Albanese's role at Abt Associates also positively impacted local efforts in Columbus and Franklin County. He was the lead researcher during Community Shelter Board's work to redesign its crisis response system for single adults. He also conducted research into the community's explosion of homelessness among families that has occurred since 2011. Albanese's findings led to the development of Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown's Task Force to Prevent Family Homelessness.

In accepting the new position, Albanese said, "While it's difficult to leave Abt and step away from the national work, I'm honored to return to Community Shelter Board. It's exciting to re-join community-level work and help lead local efforts to further improve the Columbus/Franklin County homeless crisis response system. I fully expect CSB to be part of the national movement and a leading voice in our collective effort to prevent and end homelessness."

In his new role, Albanese will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for all program areas. The position will be part of the senior management team that drives strategy for the organization and represents Community Shelter Board on a local, regional, and national basis. With a program budget of \$31 million and a staff of 24, Albanese will focus on program leadership and management, external relationships and knowledge management.

Albanese will fulfill current commitments to other projects across the country before joining Community Shelter Board full-time at the end of January 2017.

Albanese lives in Clintonville with his family.

Community Shelter Board, established in 1986, is a collective impact organization leading our community's response to homelessness by creating collaborations, developing innovative solutions, and investing in quality programs in Columbus and Franklin County. Community Shelter Board oversees an annual budget of \$31 million to support homeless programs and services. Last year, these programs served more than 12,000 people. Community Shelter Board is funded by the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and many other public and private investors.

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Tom Albanese, LSW **Associate Director**

Tom Albanese has significant experience in designing homeless crisis response systems and helping communities build their capacity to achieve better outcomes. His career in the homeless services field spans 25 years. Tom has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Kent State University and completed post-graduate coursework in social work at the University of Akron. He is a licensed social worker and earned a certificate in non-profit management from Kent State University.



Tom worked as a principal associate for Abt Associates, a leading research and technical assistance firm for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other federal agencies, from 2008 to 2016. He served as the lead technical assistance provider for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Veterans Administration in supporting efforts to reduce homelessness among Veterans nationwide by 47% between 2010 and 2016. As a lead technical assistance provider for New York City, Tom supported efforts to reduce homelessness among Veterans in New York City by 66% between 2014 and 2016. Tom also served as chair of the national technical assistance team for HUD's now concluded \$1.5B Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, supporting effective administration and adherence to best practices in over 500 jurisdictions nationwide.

In his role at Community Shelter Board, Tom has overall strategic and operational responsibility for all program areas. He drives system and program strategy for the organization and represents Community Shelter Board on a local, regional, and national basis. With a program budget of \$31 million and a staff of 24, Tom focuses on program leadership and management, external relationships, and knowledge management.

Community Shelter Board, established in 1986, is a collective impact organization leading our community's response to homelessness by creating collaborations, developing innovative solutions, and investing in quality programs in Columbus and Franklin County. Last year, Community Shelter Board's network of programs served more than 12,000 people. Community Shelter Board is funded by the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and many other public and private investors.