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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COLUMBUS COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS HONORED
WITH COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD'S
2023 BOB LAZARUS UNSUNG HERO AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board honored Columbus Coalition for the Homeless with its 2023 Bob Lazarus Unsung Hero Award in recognition of their passionate work to advocate on behalf of people experiencing homelessness and the organizations that serve them.

An awards ceremony was held today at Columbus State Community College, attended by more than 250 people, where a series of Community Shelter Board's Founder Awards were presented.

When libraries, recreation centers, and other public spaces closed during the pandemic, the Coalition mobilized to open and operate warming centers for people experiencing homelessness, and they have continued these efforts each winter since 2020.

The Coalition hosts an annual Homeless Memorial Service, where those deceased individuals who have been homeless or formerly homeless are memorialized on the coldest day of the year.

Driven by a commitment to provide information and referral for people needing housing, emergency shelter, mental health, and chemical dependency services, the Coalition designed the Streetcard, a two-sided page of critical resources needed by those who are unfamiliar with programs which could offer support. Published twice a year, the Streetcard is used by most agencies coming into contact with the homeless population as well as faith-based organizations, libraries, and schools.

Community Shelter Board honors quiet and steadfast work in the trenches with its Unsung Hero Award. This annual award honors Robert Lazarus' lifetime of humble and steady leadership. This award highlights the efforts of community members working directly with and for people facing homelessness.



VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/MOXdvraVtz0>



Diane Donato, Donald Strasser, Marcus Salter, Jim Rose, Vanita Nevis, Gail Lowe, Dayona Turner, Kit Logsdon



Diane Donato with Columbus Coalition for the Homeless

Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. CSB was founded in 1986 on the vision that no one should be homeless in our community, for even one night. As the system leader for the prevention of and response to homelessness in Central Ohio, CSB funds and coordinates care across 17 partner agencies providing outreach, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and housing programs to help low-income families and single adults facing homelessness in Franklin County regain housing stability. Over the past 10 years alone, CSB's system of care has housed more than 35,000 people.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the State of Ohio, United Way of Central Ohio, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, and many other public and private investors.