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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD NAMES MEL SCHOTTENSTEIN  
LEADERSHIP AWARD and HERO AWARD HONOREES**

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board recognized community leaders with awards during its Under One Roof event at the Southern Theatre on June 7.

**Mel Schottenstein Leadership Award**  
Mary Lazarus, Tom Feeney and Steve Steinour



Mary Lazarus, Tom Feeney and Steve Steinour share a powerful common bond. They care deeply about Columbus and the people who live here. And they care about the problems we face, both big and small. They joined together to lead a comprehensive campaign to raise an incredible amount of funding to change lives.

Mary Lazarus' husband Bob was one of the founding members of Community Shelter Board. Mary continues the tradition of families helping families. She did remarkable work to lead giving among Columbus families. Tom Feeney – President and CEO of Safelite AutoGlass, knows that businesses are an important element in the well-being of this community. He believes in giving back to a city that has shaped Safelite's values and been part of its success. And he took this case to other business leaders with passion and enthusiasm. Ending homelessness is a cause that is deeply personal to Stephen Steinour – Chairman, President and CEO of Huntington Bank. He and Huntington associates went ALL IN with Huntington's resources and pushed Community Shelter Board

This powerful trio made a case for giving that was both potent and compelling. They joined together in a comprehensive campaign to raise more than \$30 million to change the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors, setting them on a path from homeless to home. They didn't

flinch at what sounded impossible. They know that the heart of the people who live here is large and generous.

Thanks to their leadership, renovated shelters offer safe, dignified environments that bring security and hope to hundreds of people every day. They are off the street and connected to services. A team of navigators work in every shelter across the community to rapidly place people who are homeless in permanent housing while connecting them with employment and job training, medical care and behavioral health care to help them remain stable.

Mary, Tom and Steve are continuing Melvin Schottenstein's legacy of deep and far-reaching commitment, caring, leadership, and vision in the battle against homelessness.

*Community Shelter Board honors change makers with its annual Mel Schottenstein Leadership Award to recognize those who have done something quite remarkable to make a significant difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness.*

## Hero Award

Homeless Service Providers Committee on Racism



**James Alexander**

Maryhaven

**Angelic Arana Varela**

Community Shelter Board

**Cantrell Butler**

Access Ohio

**Sue Darby**

YMCA of Central Ohio

**Taylor Keating**

Maryhaven

**Mathais Kendricks**

Friends of the Homeless/Southeast, Inc.

**Michele Mitchell**

Maryhaven

**Danielle Otte**

YWCA Columbus

**Steven Skovensky**

YMCA of Central Ohio

**Shameikia Smith**

YMCA of Central Ohio

Among the population of Franklin County, 22% are African American and among those living in poverty, 40% are African American. Yet 65% of people served in homeless shelters in Franklin County are African American. The lasting legacies of housing discrimination and mass

incarceration have led to deep levels of poverty, specifically for African Americans, in this community.

Community Shelter Board, in partnership with United Way of Central Ohio and Columbus Urban League, is leading research and discussion across our community about this troubling phenomenon. We have joined the Center for Social Innovation's national anti-racism initiative, SPARC. This initiative includes data analysis, training and focused conversations in 10 communities across the United States. The result will be a plan for anti-racist strategies and initiatives for our community with a focus on decreasing homelessness.

As part of this initiative, a group of caring and dedicated professionals undertook a courageous effort to deepen this important conversation at the grassroots level among their colleagues in the homeless system. They formed a committee on racism and homelessness to host ongoing conversations, and they were met with a powerful response. Their self-organized and facilitated sessions consistently pack the house with service-providing agencies that want to learn how to undertake anti-racism work.

These caring professionals are working hard to spread the truth that we need to address racism in our community if we have any hope of ending homelessness.

*Community Shelter Board's Hero Award is given annually to those who have made significant contributions in ending the suffering of homelessness.*

Community Shelter Board is the collective impact organization leading work to prevent and end 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.