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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 18, 2019**

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**COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD HONORS TRENT SMITH  
WITH 2019 BOB LAZARUS UNSUNG HERO AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board honored Trent Smith with its 2019 Bob Lazarus Unsung Hero Award. The award honors quiet and steadfast work in the trenches on behalf of people facing homelessness, in memory of Robert Lazarus’ lifetime of humble and steady leadership.

Trent Smith is a quiet force and a respected community organizer. He has led efforts to connect the power of work for people who need it with community pride for keeping Franklinton clean and safe. As head of the Franklinton Board of Trade since 2010, he works for economic revitalization and commercial development for Franklinton – a neighborhood rich with history and diversity.

Franklinton is also a neighborhood in transition and tremendous growth. “Trent demonstrates an unparalleled ability to balance the interests of new and old business owners with the needs of the community’s most vulnerable members,” said Columbus City Council President Pro-Tem, Elizabeth Brown, joined by Mary Lazarus to comment about Smith.

He developed a successful jobs program with Jordan’s Crossing and Mount Carmel Health System to employ people experiencing homelessness to clean up abandoned encampments. His no-nonsense approach, combined with his compassion for all people, makes him an effective liaison who consistently charts a path to a win-win scenario for everyone. His efforts to create a Special Improvement District among business owners in Franklinton will surely improve the quality of life for all residents.

More than seven hundred people attended an awards ceremony held at Under One Roof benefiting Community Shelter Board on June 12, 2019 at the Jo Ann Davidson Theatre at the Vern Riffe Center.

Smith previously led membership development for the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio and managed business development for WesBanco, a multi-million-dollar banking center.

Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home. CSB is the collective impact organization driving strategy, accountability, collaboration, and resources to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness in

Columbus and Franklin County. With the support of a compassionate community, our system of care served more than 12,000 people last year with homelessness prevention, shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

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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Trent Smith



Mary Lazarus, Trent Smith,  
City Council President Pro-Tem Elizabeth Brown

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