

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Surge in Demand Continues for Emergency Shelters

Families with children are continuing to present for shelter in alarming numbers. In October the average was 23 families in motel overflow nightly. Based on current usage, we will spend \$200,000 for overflow compared to \$5,000 spent last year. We have asked some of our providers to expand their programs and serve more families to ease the pressure on the YWCA Family Center.

Single adults are still in need as well. In October we averaged 20 men waitlisted per night. That means 20 men were not able to access a shelter bed. The average number of women waitlisted in October was 11. Since 2008, our shelter system has had a severe weather policy in effect to assure that everyone is sheltered when weather conditions are dangerous – below 25 degrees – so even people who were previously turned away for any reason are offered shelter.

We are extremely concerned that shelters will face unsustainable demand as cold weather approaches. Currently shelters are expanding their capacity by up to approximately 150 beds. We are working closely with Lutheran Social Services to ready an alternate overflow location that will allow for expanded capacity in the event that our fixed shelters become overwhelmed. There will be room for up to 50 more men each night at this alternate site.

CSB's solution to this surge is focus on prevention and rapid re-housing as a humane and effective response to homelessness. CSB's Board of Trustees has allocated \$863,000 towards additional prevention and rapid re-housing programs, and additional shelter overflow. To support these efforts we are asking all our public and private funders to step up their investments in basic needs.

We will continue to invest in prevention and rapid re-housing programs, because that's the only thing that will truly address the demand and stabilize our neighbors. We will also work to increase the number of outreach workers and direct housing options to prevent an increase in street homelessness.

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

Columbus Foundation Match – Great Needs Challenge

The Columbus Foundation has announced the *Great Needs Challenge Fund* to benefit seven organizations focusing on basic human needs. The Community Shelter Board is honored to be one of these. We are glad to see a strong community response toward basic needs. The attached podcast was created by The Columbus Foundation as part of the campaign.

The match began November 15 for Columbus Foundation donors and it opens to the public December 1 at 2:00 pm. It will end when funds are exhausted or by December 15. Visit PowerPhilanthropy at www.columbusfoundation.org for more information.

2010 HUD CoC application

CSB submitted the consolidated Continuum of Care Application to HUD on November 18. This year's application included 28 renewal applications from Amethyst, Inc. (3 projects), Columbus AIDS Task Force (1 project), Community Housing Network (14 projects), Community Shelter Board (1 project), Huckleberry House (1 project), Maryhaven (2 projects), National Church Residences (1 project), Southeast, Inc. (1 project), Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio (1 project) and YWCA Columbus (3 projects).

An application for the 2010 Permanent Housing Bonus from National Church Residences for Commons at Third was also included. NCR Commons at Third is a 100-unit efficiency apartment community to be developed in the near Northwest side adjacent to Grandview Heights. Sixty (60) of the units are designated as Rebuilding Lives, and the remaining 40 units as affordable housing for disabled adults that qualify for Section 8. HUD anticipates announcing awards for renewal funding in late December 2010/early January 2011, while new project awards will not be announced until the spring of 2011.

[GATEWAY]

Fall Gateway Meetings

CSB conducted its semi-annual round of meetings with partner agencies during November to hear feedback and quality improvement suggestions from them, and to touch base on current programs. Nine out of 15 invited agencies participated in these voluntary meetings.

[INNOVATION]

Rapid Re-housing for Single Adults

Volunteers of America's new rapid re-housing program for single adults began implementation November 1. This project will place homeless individuals into permanent housing directly from emergency shelters. The goal of the program is to assist clients in obtaining and sustaining housing. The project is a collaboration between Volunteers of America and the Community Housing Network. It is designed to be a holistic approach that combines case management with rapid re-housing and rental assistance.

To be eligible for the program, individuals must be homeless according to the HUD definition and have an income at or below 50% of the area median income. Housing evictions, criminal history, work experience and income potential will be taken into account during the assessment process. The project will offer case management services for up to 6 months, housing locator services, rent and utility assistance, budgeting skills, job searching and referrals to other community resources. This program is funded with Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing stimulus funds.

Family System Improvement

Collaborative planning efforts to improve the family system continue. Nine agencies involved in family homeless and domestic violence issues have continued their work to address the need for rapid re-housing for families in the CHOICES domestic violence shelter. A pilot project is being planned to rapidly re-house 25 families directly from CHOICES. Catholic Social Services will join the CSB network of partner agencies to lead the pilot, providing housing advocates and case management. They will also provide much of the funding for the pilot program from the Bonner Family Fund. CSB will contribute funds for the financial assistance of the families in the pilot. The pilot is expected to start in late January or the beginning of February 2011.

A Prevention Centered Approach

There is emerging national research about the effectiveness of prevention and rapid re-housing programs. Our Board of Trustees had an opportunity to hear a compelling approach by Dr. Dennis Culhane from the University of Pennsylvania. His paper, *A Prevention Centered Approach to Homelessness Assistance*, proposes an alternative response to homelessness where housing stabilization is at the center of the system and emergency shelter is just one resource, used only as necessary. The idea is to use more effective and efficient interventions before someone even becomes homeless. This research will continue to drive our planning around the best response to homelessness. The paper is attached.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Recognition for Greta Russell

The YMCA will honor Greta Russell, a member of CSB's Board of Trustees, at the 4th Annual Eldon & Elsie Ward YMCA Legacy Celebration on Thursday, February 10, 2011; 6pm to 8pm at the King Arts Complex.

Governor Ted Strickland recently appointed Greta to the Ohio Casino Control Commission.

Tours

In October, CSB provided a tour for Peter Loscocco of Momentive (Hexion). He toured the Commons at Buckingham and Volunteers of America Rolling Stock family program. We also provided a tour in November for Stacey Smith from Alliance Data of the YWCA Family Center and the Commons at Chantry.

CSB's distinguished Advisory Council held its annual meeting on November 4. They toured the new Commons at Buckingham and engaged with us about the HEARTH Act and the new federal plan to end homelessness, *Opening Doors*.



Rev. Leon Troy, Floyd Jones, Nancy Jeffrey, Pat Cash, Stephen Rish, Michelle Heritage Ward, Gail Gregory Thomas, Matthew Habash, Robert Lazarus Jr., Thomas Ridgley and Mark Huddy.

[STAFF UPDATE]

New Grants Administrator

Noel Welsh joined the CSB team on October 18 as the new Grants Administrator. In this role he is responsible for managing the administration of program funds to ensure financial and legal accountability. He will administer the partner agency Gateway contract activities and will manage the program review and certification process. Noel earned his Master of Public Administration from the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University. While in school, he completed projects with The Columbus Foundation and the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. He also interned with the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. Prior to the Glenn School, Noel worked for Ohio Dominican University and the Service Employees International Union.

United Way Campaign

We met and exceeded our United Way staff giving campaign goal. 100% of us gave to the campaign, and we dug deep, giving 63% more than last year. Thank you to our awesome campaign chair, Tina Rowe. We also took time out to support other campaigns whenever possible. Michelle Heritage Ward spoke at campaign kick-off events for PNC and Express, and Melissa Kempf spoke at a campaign kick-off for New Albany Country Club.



Woodrum Wins 4th annual Chili Cook-off

Congratulations to Melanie Woodrum, winner of the 2010 CSB Chili Cook-off. Her 'Ma & Pa Kettle' chili really stole the show. Isolde Teba took home the creative award for 'Chi Chi Chi! Li Li Li!'.

Holiday office closings

CSB will be closed on Nov. 25 and 26. While some staff will work over the December holidays, we will close to the public Dec. 27-31. We will re-open on Monday, Jan. 3.

Upcoming Meetings

- ⟨ Check out the interactive calendar at www.csb.org under Resources for our Partners < Meetings.

Enclosures

- ⟨ Podcast about surge in homelessness
- ⟨ *A Prevention Centered Approach to Homelessness Assistance*