

A Monthly Newsletter from Community Shelter Board

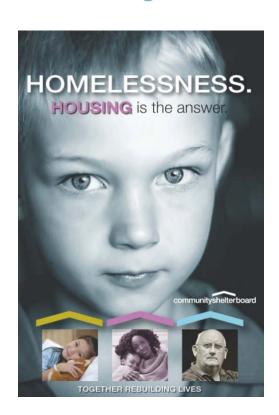
May 2012

# Join us on June 5<sup>th</sup> for Together Rebuilding Lives

Please join Community Shelter Board, along with Worthington Industries and Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Together Rebuilding Lives celebration on June 5 from noon to 1 pm at the Columbus Convention Center.

Together Rebuilding Lives is an entertaining, enlightening and engaging experience. The combination of facts, program updates, highlights of CSB partner agencies and original entertainment create a unique experience for guests at the event. The one hour luncheon gives us the opportunity to tell our story and raise awareness of the issue of homelessness. Attendees include corporate and individual donors and their guests, elected officials, community leaders, partner agency ambassadors and many more.

This year's event will feature a performance by the Harmony Project, a Columbus-based non-profit arts and service organization that embraces the mission of transforming the community through service and songs. It provides an opportunity for individuals of different racial backgrounds, religions, ages, political affiliations and sexual orientations to work toward performing at an artistic level they had never imagined and bond through the collective experience of community service. Walls are torn down and bridges are built. The result: a stronger, more inclusive community.



## **HARMONY**PROJECT

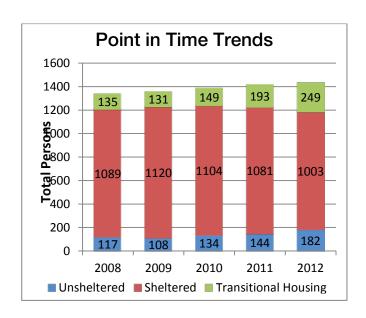
To purchase seats for the event, visit <a href="www.csb.org">www.csb.org</a>. If you have questions, please contact Laura Matney at <a href="matney@csb.org">lmatney@csb.org</a> or 614.221.9195 x113. We look forward to seeing you at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Together Rebuilding Lives event on Tuesday, June 5.

## [RESOURCE GENERATION]

#### **HUD Point in Time Count**

Annually during the last week in January, a national timeframe established by HUD, the Point-In-Time count of all people experiencing homelessness is conducted in Franklin County. This year's count occurred on January 27 in early morning hours. More than 100 volunteers and staff counted people experiencing homelessness on downtown streets, river banks, bridges and other areas.

The Point-In-Time count identified 182 people who were unsheltered and without permanent, secure housing in Franklin County, while another 1,252 were being assisted in emergency shelters and transitional housing.



# [TRANSITION]

## **HUD Announces Funding for New Homeless Programs**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a funding award of more than \$200 million in new project funding to support over 15,000 beds and supportive services in communities across the country. An amount of \$436,813 was awarded in Columbus and Franklin County to the Community Housing Network Inglewood Court program. In partnership with Maryhaven, CHN Inglewood Court will provide 60 units of permanent supportive housing for persons disabled by severe mental illness or dual diagnosed with severe mental illness and chemical dependency, including 45 units for Rebuilding Lives. The 15 non-Rebuilding Lives units will be reserved for ADAMH consumers coming from Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare or other funded ADAMH group homes. CHN will also consider high crisis care utilization including those with alcohol or drug abuse only diagnosis as an indicator for intake. HUD considered new project proposals separately from renewals that were announced in January of this year.

HUD makes the Continuum of Care funds available only to those states, local governments and organizations that apply for the funding. The HUD application involves an extensive planning and submission process, with no guarantee that funding will be awarded.

#### Tax Credits Awarded to National Church Residences

National Church Residences' expansion project for Commons at Livingston received tax credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. This will allow NCR to add 50 more units to the current 50-bed supportive housing community, doubling its size. Thirty-five of the new units will be for homeless and disabled single adult veterans meeting the Rebuilding Lives definition. NCR will also apply for the HUD bonus project later this year, for which OHFA tax credits are a pre-requisite. Results of the bonus project application will be known in Spring 2013.

## [ADVOCACY]

## **HEARTH Impacts on Governance Structure**

As part of the HEARTH legislation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued altered requirements around the Continuum of Care structure. CoCs are responsible for planning and providing a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment; emergency shelter; rapid re-housing; transitional housing; permanent housing; and prevention strategies to address various needs of homeless persons at risk of homelessness for a specific geographic area.

This role is currently held by the Continuum of Care Steering Committee and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative. These two groups have defined responsibilities with some overlapping membership. The CoC SC approves the annual funding application to HUD and required HUD reporting and the RLFC oversees the Rebuilding Lives Plan and approves funding of existing and new permanent supportive housing. Even though the groups have defined responsibilities, at times there is confusion among the members regarding their role.

HUD defined expanded roles for the CoC under HEARTH, including feedback on the community's Consolidated Plan; feedback and approval of allocation of federal dollars to emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and any other homeless programs; oversight and approval of local homeless management information system (HMIS) activities; oversight and approval of federally mandated reporting and grant application requirements; performance standards and monitoring and federal funding reallocations from non-performing programs.

CSB staff proposed to merge the two groups into one group – called the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative – that will meet HUD required membership and will implement all HUD requirements. This group will have a membership of 35, with broad representation of all key stakeholders involved in the work of ending homelessness. One smaller group, the RLFC Steering Committee will be created, with a limited membership of 10 that will have the role to approve and/or make recommendations for approval to the RLFC on HUD mandated activities. The proposal's scope is to make the process of gaining feedback and approval on all the HUD mandates more efficient, flexible and effective, within one designated entity.

CSB staff called an Ad-Hoc committee comprised of members of both the CoC SC and RLFC and asked for feedback on the new governance structure. Feedback was also sought directly from the CoC SC and the RLFC. The CSB Board of Trustees will consider the restructuring plan at its May 25 meeting.

## [GATEWAY]

### **Program Review and Certification**

Beginning next month, CSB's Program Review and Certification team will visit each CSB partner agency to ensure continued compliance with administrative and program standards. Compliance with the standards is required for agencies to continue receiving CSB funds and/or access to the Columbus ServicePoint database.

As a result of new regulations associated with implementation of the HEARTH Act, CSB revised some of the standards to align with funder requirements. CSB will host a system-wide meeting on May 21 to address these changes, along with any feedback partner agencies have regarding the 2011 process. All partner agencies are encouraged to attend and participate. For additional information about the meeting, please contact Grants Administrator Noel Welsh at 221-9195 x112 or <a href="mailto:nwelsh@csb.org">nwelsh@csb.org</a>.

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### **Gateway Update**

CSB staff has now completed all spring meetings with partner agencies. As a result, the Gateway application process is complete and all FY13 funding awards will be presented for approval by CSB's Board of Trustees at its May 25 meeting. Once approved, new partnership agreements will be issued.

We thank all our partners for their invaluable work and cooperation during the Gateway process.

# [IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

#### **Tours**

CSB provided a tour for Jonathan Welty, CSB's newest board member, from Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing. Jon visited the YWCA Family Center and Volunteers of America Rapid Rehousing program.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Check out the interactive calendar at <a href="https://www.csb.org">www.csb.org</a> under Resources for our Partners < Meetings