

[RESOURCE GENERATION]

Together Rebuilding Lives

Presenting sponsor, Limited Brands, and co-presenting sponsors, Schottenstein Property Group and Value City Furniture, were joined by over 800 CSB supporters on June 5 for the Together Rebuilding Lives luncheon. The program focused on how the community is working toward an improved, sustainable solution that stops the cycle of homelessness for single adults.

The program included a return visit from Deborah Luke and Daniel Snow, two former clients of CSB's provider agencies who shared news about how they have reconnected with their families and rebuilt their lives. The program also included a panel of providers from the single adult system who spoke candidly about the challenges and opportunities in helping people return to stable housing. Special thanks to each panelist: Teddy Bryant of Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio, Mardi Ciriaco of Gladden Community House, Mathais Kendricks of Southeast Inc., Jim Kerr of YMCA, Loretta Kidd of Community Housing Network, Connie Pack of Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, Taylor Rose of HandsOn Central Ohio, and Nikki Warner of Maryhaven.

Great news: Match met

Limited Brands provided an incredible matching gift opportunity at the luncheon, where attendees had their individual gifts matched dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. Thanks to the 154 attendees who made gifts totaling just over \$25,000, the match challenge was met and with Limited Brands' investment, over \$50,000 was raised.



Steven Gladman & Charles Hillman



Michelle Heritage & Art Helldoerfer



Mark Russell, Pat Cash & Andrew Roberts



Janelle Simmons, Angela Pace & Michelle Heritage



Kristyn Hartman & Michelle Heritage

photo credit: Shellee Fisher

art & soul

An Intimate Portrait

Art & Soul is a collection of portraits of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus. This series of paintings and drawings was created by artist Joseph Anastasi to build awareness and raise funds. Over the past 5 years, Anastasi has completed over 40 portraits of people served in shelters in Columbus.

Opening reception and benefit

June 28, 6:00-8:30 pm

St. Joseph Cathedral, Undercroft Gallery
212 East Broad Street

*Proceeds will benefit the Community Shelter Board and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Ticket cost and other details are included on the attached flier.*

[ADVOCACY]

HUD Redefines Homelessness

In January 2012, final regulations went into effect to implement changes to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of "homeless".

HUD's new definition includes four broad categories of homelessness:

1. An individual or family who lacks an adequate nighttime residence. This includes those staying outside; those staying in shelters, motels or temporary transitional housing; or those exiting institutions after a stay of 90 days or less.
2. An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence.
3. Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who are defined as homeless under various other Acts and are facing barriers to housing or employment.
4. Any individual or family who is fleeing a violent situation and lacks other options for permanent housing.

HUD has extended the number of days an individual can be in an institution and still be considered homeless at exit, from 30 days in the prior definition to 90 days in the current definition. This will allow the homeless system to serve more people exiting mental health or substance abuse facilities in permanent supportive housing.

Resource constraints force prioritization

With the current amount of financial resources available for homelessness, the homeless system will continue to focus services and housing to those who meet eligibility for category 1 in the above definition. The growth trend in the number of people who are literally homeless under the category 1 definition in our community is significant. The number of single adults in shelter increased by 9% last year. Over a two-year period, the increase in family homelessness is a staggering 52%.

Single men and women make up about 60% of the city's homeless population. Compared to families, more single adults are returning to homelessness – more than half become homeless again. They stay in shelters longer and are less likely to find permanent housing.

Led by the Community Shelter Board, the Columbus and Franklin County community is working toward a sustainable solution that stops the cycle of homelessness for single adults. For more than a year, CSB, our partners and stakeholders have examined best practices, along with local experiences and data. A new system for single adults experiencing homelessness will be piloted in stages over the next two years.

The new system will help decrease the number of adults that are becoming homeless, decrease the length of time homeless, increase successful housing exits from shelters and reduce the rate of return to homelessness. This will be the first step in achieving a sustained decrease in homelessness.

Path narrows to chronic homelessness

HUD went on to issue a proposed revision to the definition of “chronically homeless” in March 2013. The significance of the proposed revision relates to how HUD defines, for the first time, the “occasion” or “episode” of homelessness, specifically “four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total of the four occasions is at least one year”.

Using HUD's proposed definition, a person will have to experience homelessness for at least one year, either continuously or cumulatively in the past 3 years, for the individual to be qualified as “chronically homeless”. Under the current definition used in our community, an individual can qualify as chronically homeless with as little as 28 days of documented homelessness and within 120 days of the first spell of homelessness.

CSB objects to a new HUD requirement that communities designate all new permanent supportive housing units as chronic homeless units. Columbus and Franklin County have made such significant strides in reducing chronic homelessness that not all newly developed permanent supportive housing units need to be designated for the chronic population. CSB proposed to HUD to designate 20% of the units in each new supportive housing project as chronic homeless.

CSB also proposed that HUD define a housing prioritization policy to allow communities a progressive approach to ending homelessness. Individuals that meet the chronic homeless definition for permanent supportive housing would be first to receive a permanent supportive housing option if a vacancy occurs. If no individual is available who meets the chronic homeless definition, then the permanent supportive housing unit could be offered to a disabled individual with long-term homelessness. We are proposing to have individuals who meet the chronic homeless eligibility criteria be prioritized for permanent supportive housing at all times and receive the first housing option if a vacancy occurs. The chronic homeless individuals would be assessed against the housing option's eligibility criteria. Only

if no eligible chronic homeless individuals can be located will the housing option be offered to another, non-chronic homeless individual.

Unless HUD agrees to these changes, CSB is concerned that units of very expensive permanent supportive housing will go unoccupied due to lack of people who can meet the proposed definition of chronically homeless. Developers of permanent supportive housing could stand to lose their tax credits due to low occupancy.

Under HUD's new regulations, emergency shelters may experience a significant increase in the length of time disabled individuals are homeless and the number of returns to shelter because it will be more difficult for a disabled individual to qualify for permanent supportive housing. This could also result in an increase in the utilization of hospital emergency rooms and local jails and prisons by disabled individuals who are not receiving adequate services because they cannot access permanent supportive housing.

CSB and our partner agencies have submitted detailed comments to HUD regarding our concerns about these new requirements and the negative effect they could have on our community. HUD has given no indication of the timetable for issuance of final regulations on these matters. More information is available at HUD's web site, <http://hudhre.info/>.

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Adult System Redesign: FROM HOMELESS TO HOME

CSB has worked with the community to develop a new system to better care for the growing numbers of single men and women experiencing homelessness. The current system is unsustainable given the twenty percent growth in need over the last two years. Using a multi-stakeholder changes process, CSB sought the input of hundreds of stakeholders to make a collective impact by changing the way our community tackles the complex problem of homelessness. Contributors to the newly designed model include key community stakeholders, shelter providers, the faith-based community, formerly homeless adults, local governments and other organizations whose mission includes ending homelessness.

CSB announced plans to pilot the new system during the Together Rebuilding Lives luncheon on June 5. The new system is designed to move single adults more quickly into stable housing, stop repeat homelessness, and add more capacity when overflow demands are high.

CSB has become a national model for preventing and reducing homelessness among families with children. The family system is being replicated across America because of its well-documented results. CSB will bring this same proven track record to the single adult system.

The new system relies on three elements:

- < Coordinated point of access – 24/7 hotline for single adults who may need emergency shelter
- < New front door shelter to care for adults experiencing homelessness for the first time
- < Navigators – trained case managers assigned to adults returning to homelessness and others who need immediate intensive services

The enhanced 24/7 hotline operated by HandsOn Central Ohio will first strive to prevent homelessness by finding solutions to keep people in their homes if at all possible, and then refer callers to the right shelter and services based on need. Those who have previously experienced homelessness will immediately receive an assigned navigator.

The new front door shelter will serve as the entry point for all those new to homelessness. It will also serve as the overflow shelter when need is high, so it will allow for flexible capacity year-round, not just during cold winter months.

The navigators are specially trained to find housing quickly, link single adults to existing community resources like job training and placement, health/mental health services, food and disability assistance. Their work is coordinated across all shelters and will be phased in beginning July 1.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[TRANSITION]

Unified Supportive Housing System

Inglewood Court, a Community Housing Network project, opened in May with 60 units. 45 units are reserved for adults experiencing long-term homelessness.

The Unified Supportive Housing System, managed by CSB, accepts applications for the following projects:

- < Community Housing Network: Cassady, Inglewood Court, Leasing, Southpoint Place, and St. Clair
- < Maryhaven: Commons at Chantry
- < National Church Residences: Commons at Buckingham, Commons at Livingston, and Commons at Third
- < Southeast: Scattered Sites
- < YMCA: 40 West Long Street and Sunshine Terrace
- < YWCA: WINGS and Shelter Plus Care

Those interested in permanent supportive housing must be referred by an emergency shelter or an outreach provider – Maryhaven Outreach, Veterans Administration, Open Shelter, Southeast Outreach or Capital Crossroads.

USHS hosts quarterly roundtable meetings focused on permanent supportive housing. The meetings bring together supportive housing providers to discuss how to improve the housing process.

USHS is a collaborative effort managed by CSB, the ADAMH Board of Franklin County and the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. These partners are working together with other agencies in the community including health, housing, shelter, and outreach providers to help end homelessness. For more information contact Isolde Teba at iteba@csb.org.

[GATEWAY]

Centralized Case Management Services for Single Adults

CSB released a request for proposals last month to pilot centralized case management and rapid re-housing services for single adults in Columbus and Franklin County. Several providers responded with detailed proposals, which CSB is currently reviewing.

FY14 Contracting Underway

The FY14 Gateway process is coming to an end and provider agencies have received contracts for the upcoming fiscal year. CSB thanks its providers for their assistance throughout the contracting process and their continued commitment to ending homelessness and rebuilding lives.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Help Wanted

CSB is looking for a senior accountant with knowledge of not-for-profit accounting, and a grants administrator with public and private grants experience. Both [positions have been posted](#) and resumes are being accepted.

Tiffany Nobles, Grants Administrator, will end her career at CSB after nearly 7 years of service to accept a position with Community Housing Network. Wilma D'Souza, Finance Administrator, is leaving to care for her growing family, including her newest addition born in January. We wish Tiffany and Wilma all the best and thank them both for their service.

Enclosures

- < Art & Soul: An Intimate Portrait
- < System & Program Level Indicator Report for 3rd quarter of FY13