

For immediate release
January 23, 2014

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SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS//

City of Columbus
The Columbus Foundation
Franklin County Board
of Commissioners
United Way of Central Ohio

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STAGE SET FOR ONE DAY COUNT OF LOCAL HOMELESS POPULATION
CSB anticipates largest gathering of homeless population under one roof
in the history of community

COLUMBUS, Ohio – On Thursday, January 23, the Community Shelter Board (CSB) in collaboration with a wide array of community partners and volunteers, is conducting its tenth annual point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. To improve accuracy and deliver much-needed services, CSB will use multiple strategies to assure count accuracy, once again holding an event at Veterans Memorial, where more than 50 social service agencies will gather to provide access to critical services such as housing, food, healthcare, employment and other free community resources.

Michelle Heritage, Executive Director of the Community Shelter Board, says she expects the count results will add to what we already know about the growth of poverty in Columbus. “People are turning to shelters in record numbers – more than 9,000 people filled every shelter bed last year. Over the last three years, our shelters served 65% more families and 14% more single men and women.”

To assure census accuracy, CSB collects overnight numbers from shelters, and stations volunteers at free community meal sites. Others comb the land to reach those unaware of the count. Maryhaven’s outreach team provides transportation from known camps to the Vets Memorial event, which attracts many people because of the free services.

Over the last few weeks, shelter providers, outreach providers and homeless advocates have passed out flyers in shelters, on the streets and in homeless camps urging people to come forward and be counted at the Vets Memorial event. Last year’s effort identified 244 people living on the land while another 1,228 were in emergency or transitional shelter.

Heritage urged community residents to get involved in ending homelessness. “The Day to End Homelessness campaign invites residents to become a [Housing Hero](#) by giving just \$1 a day - \$30 a month – to help people get off the streets and into housing. This costs about the same as a daily cup of coffee. That’s all it takes to shelter people and provide secure futures and stable homes”, said Heritage.

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires all communities to conduct a count of people experiencing homelessness during the last ten days of January 2014. Point-in-time counts are conducted across the nation in compliance with a HUD funding requirement.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

ACLU of Ohio
AIDS Resource Center of Ohio
Amethyst, Inc.
The Breathing Association
The Buckeye Ranch
Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care
CHOICES
Columbus City Schools
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Columbus HUD Office
Columbus Public Health
Columbus Urban League
Committed To You
Communities in Schools
Community Housing Network
Community Kitchen
Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio
Concord Counseling Services
COVA
Faith Mission/Lutheran Social Services
Faithful Forgotten Best Friends
Focus Learning Academy
Franklin County Children Services
Get Covered America
Gladden Community House
Goodwill Columbus
HandsOn Central Ohio
Holy Family Soup Kitchen
Huckleberry House
IMPACT Community Action
Infinite Wisdom of Women, Inc.
Lady Butterflies
Maryhaven
Mathew 25:35 Ministry
Mid-Ohio FoodBank
Mount Carmel Outreach
National Church Residences
NetCare Access
New Directions Career Center
Rebecca's Place/Southeast
Ohio State College of Barber Styling
Teen Start, Inc.
The Open Shelter
The Salvation Army
Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
Southeast, Inc.
St. Dominic Catholic Church
St. Lawrence Haven
St. Sophia Orthodox Cathedral
OSU Star House
Stonewall Columbus
Veterans Administration – Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
ViaQuest Home Health
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio
YMCA of Central Ohio
YWCA Columbus

Community Shelter Board, established in 1986, is a public-private partnership organization that creates collaborations, innovates solutions, and invests in quality programs to end homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. Community Shelter Board oversees an annual budget of \$13 million to support homeless programs and services. Last year, these programs served more than 9,000 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 Insurance Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and other public and private investors.

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