

[RESOURCE GENERATION]

One Day to End Homelessness Campaign Going Strong

The One Day to End Homelessness campaign kicked off with a very successful 10TV telethon on January 31. The campaign is raising money to house homeless adults and families who are swelling Franklin County shelters beyond capacity. The campaign urges Columbus and Franklin County residents to contribute the equivalent of just one day's rent or mortgage payment.



With the help of WBNS-10TV, the Dispatch Media Group, Nationwide and the United Methodist Church, CSB has so far raised \$146,000. Donors can continue to contribute at www.onedaytoendhomelessness.org.

Congregations across Columbus and Franklin County are holding campaigns among their members through the end of February. A comprehensive toolkit of materials is available for any congregation that wishes to support the campaign.

Funds raised through the campaign will support CSB's nationally recognized programs, including prevention and rapid re-housing.

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Winter Overflow

Winter overflow continues to be consistently at or above capacity due to continuing bad weather conditions and the lingering impacts of the recession. So far, shelters have provided assistance to an average of 178 men and 38 women each night in the overflow units during the month of February. The alternate single overflow site at the old Mid-Ohio Foodbank facility has been fully utilized since it became available in January and appears to be working as planned. Unfortunately, the family system has also experienced a resurgence in overflow usage and has averaged 12 families in overflow for the same period. The YWCA Family Center has noted that a number of these families are headed by young single women who have exhausted all other resources.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Collaborative Outreach Strategy

Recommendations for the Rebuilding Lives collaborative outreach strategy were presented to the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) at its February meeting. Based on a series of meetings convened by the City of Columbus, a Collaborative Outreach Working Group has proposed a collaborative outreach model that utilizes a coordinated approach to rapid response, engagement, assessment, intake, case planning and referral to housing and support services that will be sustainable. The model will include: shared outcomes among outreach providers, standardized assessment, financial support for operations, development of a specific protocol to engage City/County services and ongoing evaluation of activity, placements, follow-up and retention. CSB has been asked by the City of Columbus to issue a competitive request for proposals in March, seeking the organization to implement the new model. The City of Columbus is the convener and funder of this Rebuilding Lives strategy.

USHS Vacancy Management and Lease Up

The Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS) will begin lease up in March 2011 for the Community Housing Network (CHN)/Southeast (SE) Leased Supportive Housing Program. The projected lease-up time is 3 months, ending in May 2011.

CHN, in partnership with Southeast's Phoenix Community Treatment Team, will offer 25 permanent supportive housing units in a clustered apartment setting at Abbey Lane, Cambridge, and Eastland on the Lake Apartments. The units will house 25 Rebuilding Lives eligible, single adults. Of the 25 units, 18 are targeted to individuals who are chronically homeless. Individuals with the most severe and persistent barriers to housing will be prioritized, including those experiencing street homelessness and/or ineligible for other subsidy sources. USHS encourages providers to submit Indication of Interest (IOI) forms for this new project as soon as possible.

In addition, there are several openings available in the YWCA Wings program for women meeting HUD chronic homeless eligibility criteria.

USHS accepts and processes IOI forms for the following projects: Commons at Buckingham, Southeast Scattered Sites, Southpoint Place, YMCA 40 West Long Street, YMCA Sunshine Terrace, and YWCA WINGS. Clients interested in obtaining housing must be referred either by a shelter or by one of the outreach providers: Maryhaven Outreach, Veterans Administration, Open Shelter, Southeast Outreach or Capital Crossroads.

USHS is a collaborative effort managed by ADAMH, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and CSB. These partners are working together with other agencies in the community including health, housing, shelter, and outreach providers. This work is sponsored by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, Fannie Mae, and Battelle.

For more information please contact Isolde Teba at 614-221-9195.

Funder Collaborative Workgroup on Rebuilding Lives Strategies

On February 3, a subcommittee of the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative met to discuss the progress of the strategies from the Rebuilding Lives Plan. Workgroup participants included RLFC members Emily Savors, Jeff Pattison, Kim Stands, John Glacken and Michelle Heritage Ward, special guest Don Strasser and CSB staffers Lianna Barbu and Tiffany Nobles. In 2008, the RL Plan produced 11 new strategies for our community with specific conveners identified to lead the planning, implementation and evaluation of each strategy. Strategy number 11 was divided into three sub-strategies with specific focus populations, thus increasing the total number of new strategies to 13. The current status of each strategy was compared to the original timeline presented in the RL Plan. The recommendations of the workgroup around strategies that are currently stalled were presented to the full RLFC meeting on February 17.

Ohio Supportive Housing for the Homeless Alliance Holds Statewide Webinar

The Ohio Supportive Housing for the Homeless Alliance (OSHHA) Steering Committee convened a webinar for supportive housing developers and providers throughout the state on February 2. The purpose of the webinar was to provide updates on several strategic items impacting supportive housing developments. One topic was the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's FY2012 Qualified Allocation Plan, which includes a special pool of tax credits for new permanent supportive housing projects. The new Medicaid Toolkit was briefly presented and is available online at www.pshmedicaidtoolkit.ohio.gov. The group also discussed advocacy efforts around the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, which may face cuts under the new state administration. The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio is leading the advocacy efforts for OHTF and has been reaching out to supporters statewide. Governor Kasich's budget is not expected to be released until March 2011, so not much is known regarding impacts on supportive housing going forward. The OSHHA Steering Committee will continue to meet monthly to keep up-to-date on issues affecting supportive housing.

[CONTINUUM OF CARE]

Point-in-Time Count

On January 25, CSB conducted its seventh annual "Point-In-Time" count of area homeless persons. In the early morning hours, more than 100 volunteers and staff counted homeless people on downtown streets, river banks, bridges and other areas. Although the final, official count won't be certified for some time, observers reported that the number of street homeless may be lower than last year. Though the street count looks lower at first glance, homelessness is increasing overall, which is shown by the increase in the number of homeless families in emergency shelters.

We are grateful to the volunteers who made the count possible, and to Valor Christian College, whose students cooked and served breakfast for all the volunteers. Count results are being reviewed by the Homeless Count Workgroup, and a comparison with Columbus ServicePoint is also underway to ensure that there is no count duplication. Final results are expected to be approved by the Continuum of Care Steering Committee in April.

[GATEWAY]

Gateway Application Materials Released Soon

On February 25, CSB’s Board of Trustees will review the proposed FY12 distribution of funding among our Rebuilding Lives strategies of Access, Crisis Response, and Transition. After the Board reviews the preliminary funding allocation, Gateway materials will be released via the CSB website later that day.

CSB will award funds with the goal of maintaining a community system of services, shelter, and housing. Progress will continue on the strategies contained in the Rebuilding Lives plan and endorsed by the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative. Funding will continue to be linked to results that demonstrate effectiveness and efficiency.

Gateway materials from all agencies are due to CSB by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 17, 2011. Please refer to the timeline below for a list of key dates involved in the Gateway process.

Key Dates	Activities
2/25/11	CSB board review and approval of the FY12 financial plan
2/25/11	Application materials released to agencies
2/25/11	Recommended POPs and FY12 funding awards forwarded to agencies
3/17/11	Completed proposals due to CSB by 5 pm.
4/4 – 4/29/11	One-on-One meetings between CSB & Partner Agencies
5/13/11	All appeals resolved
5/24/11	CSB Board approval of funding decisions
Early June	Partnership agreements issued to Partner Agencies

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

National Conference on Ending Family Homelessness

Michelle Heritage Ward and Lianna Barbu attended the National Conference on Ending Family Homelessness in Oakland February 9-11. Lianna presented at a workshop about systems and program level performance measurement. Michelle presented at a workshop about point of entry systems, highlighting the YWCA Family Center.

Michelle also attended a meeting of the Leadership Council of the National Alliance to End Homelessness while in Oakland. This meeting focused on permanent supportive housing, youth homelessness, and improving accessibility to both affordable housing and homeless services.

Spotlight on Veterans

Michelle Heritage Ward attended the **National Forum on Homelessness Among Veterans**. The February 2 conference was hosted by the Veterans Administration. Key community, city and state leadership were invited to attend. Homeless veterans gave testimonials and the forum provided an overview of *Opening Doors*, the federal plan to end homelessness, and the Veterans Administration's 5-year plan. Focus groups discussed ways that organizations can work together and the next steps that need to be taken in the fight against homelessness among veterans.

The **first in-depth study of homelessness among veterans** shows that military veterans are much more likely to be homeless than other Americans. A new report called [Veteran Homelessness](#) was published last week by the U.S. Department of HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. As more soldiers return from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, veteran homelessness continues to increase. The report showed that veterans tend to stay in shelter longer than non-veterans. According to the report, 136,334 veterans stayed in a homeless shelter in 2009. This count did not include those living on the streets.

Fortunately in Columbus, veteran homelessness does not appear to be increasing. 12% of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County are veterans. In Columbus, veterans exit shelter more quickly than the general population, and they are more likely to be working than receiving VA benefits.

Students Lend a Hand

Through a partnership with The Ohio State University, CSB is hosting a student intern during Winter quarter. Julie Eisenhauer is working on various writing projects for the Development and Communications team. A junior at OSU, Julie is working to earn a bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in publishing.

Stimulus funds from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program are allowing us to prevent homelessness and move people out of shelter quickly through our direct client assistance programs. In order to handle the additional direct client assistance processing, it has become necessary to add a part-time, temporary position. The [internship position](#) is posted and college students are encouraged to apply. The position is temporarily filled by Molly Osman. A student at OSU, Molly is working on a bachelor's degree in strategic communications.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Enclosure

< DCA intern position