

We need your help.

Community Shelter Board and YWCA Columbus need your help with families experiencing homelessness. This summer we have been serving 120 or more families at a time in a facility that was built for 50 families. Because the weekends are particularly stressful, the Brentnell Community Recreation Center has agreed to host our families during the day. This is where we need your help.

We need volunteers to provide and serve lunch or lead family-friendly activities.

Lunch, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Plan for 60 people
No kitchen or refrigerators available,
food must be ready to serve

Provide and lead activities for families (*crafts, sports, cookie decorating, games*)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
1:00 – 3:30 pm

The recreation center has a basketball court, gym, playground, and large yard for organizing activities.



Please open your heart to people who never imagined they would need your help. If you can assist in any way, please contact Jessica Wichtman-Will at 614-253-3916 or jw-will@ywcacolumbus.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Michelle Heritage".

Michelle Heritage
Executive Director
Community Shelter Board

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Elfi Di Bella".

Elfi Di Bella
President and CEO
YWCA Columbus

Did you know?

Columbus has a significantly younger homeless population in families compared to the rest of the nation.

Nationwide, 22% of parents experiencing homelessness are under the age of 30. In Columbus, it's 60%.



[FROM HOMELESS TO HOME]

Van Buren building opens for use by families and single women

Community Shelter Board began sheltering families overnight in the new building at 595 Van Buren Drive on July 23. Families are sleeping in beds initially intended for single men and women. This action addresses the urgent need for emergency shelter for families because of the explosion of homelessness over the last year. Rebecca's Place, a shelter for single adult women, moved to the new building on July 30. Additional dorms for women opened on August 18 – a front door shelter for women experiencing homelessness for the first time, and flexible capacity beds for women when all other shelters are full. Flexible capacity beds eliminate waiting lists for shelter.

Families who cannot be accommodated in the current YWCA Family Center are spending the night in the Van Buren building and are transported back to the YWCA Family Center for services each day. The number of families in homelessness grew 65% over the last three years, putting the system in crisis. The current YWCA Family Center was built for 50 families but has been over capacity for more than three years, too frequently serving more than 120 families a night. CSB has paid more than \$1 million in motel and overflow shelter costs to meet this need. By using existing facilities, CSB can provide more cost effective and safe shelter to help families get back on their feet.

The YMCA of Central Ohio is staffing and operating the front door and flexible capacity overflow sheltering programs for single adult women. They are also providing overnight staffing for families.

Beginning in mid-November, men who are experiencing homelessness for the first time and those unable to find space in an existing shelter will receive emergency shelter in the Van Buren building. Construction of the new family shelter will begin as soon funds have been raised, with anticipated completion in September 2015. Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio will operate the new family shelter and it will serve 85 families at capacity.

CSB is working toward a gradual, phased-in approach to building use and management. This will assure a smooth transition and successful introduction of new services, including on-site health care and the new navigator program. A dedication ceremony will take place later this year.

Anyone in need of shelter should continue to call the homeless hotlines:

- < Single women and men should contact the coordinated point of access: 1-888-474-3587.
- < Families should contact the YWCA Family Center: 614-253-7970.



Thanks to Ernst & Young and Safelite AutoGlass for sending these hard-working individuals to help prepare the shelter for its opening.



Volunteers from Alvis House built bunk beds and assembled furniture, demonstrating serious teamwork when lifting tables that weigh 450 pounds.

Navigator program update

An entirely new service model has been designed to move people more quickly into stable housing and stop repeat homelessness. Case managers called navigators provide intensive services focused on ending the homeless crisis quickly and stabilizing the person in housing. They also link people to services to assure housing stability, like employment and job training, medical care, mental health, substance abuse and housing resources. Navigators continue to work with people after they are housed to provide support to maintain stable housing. The navigator program is entirely new to our system and is the first of its kind in the country. Access Ohio and its partners began hiring navigators in July and will begin service delivery in October.



The Core Team has been working for many months to develop the framework of the navigator program. This work has been undertaken by direct front line shelter and outreach providers, mental health professionals, homeless advocates, formerly homeless individuals, medical professionals, housing specialists/experts, community stakeholders, funders and CSB staff. Assessments have been developed to be diversion-focused, streamlined, non-repetitive, and as participant-centric as possible. The goal is to match each person with individualized rapid rehousing interventions as quickly as possible in order to decrease the length of time homeless and to help to ensure housing stability after shelter. Population segments have also been identified to begin to chart housing pathways or service packages based on individuals' primary barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing. Segments were developed based upon natural groupings of known barriers in order to better understand the services, resource needs, viable housing options and aftercare supports to provide a standardized framework for the navigators from which individualized housing plans can be developed.

Plans are underway for a partnership with the ADAMH Board to fund two specialty mental health teams in the new system. A partnership with the Veterans Administration will help identify veterans in shelter more quickly and get them connected to VA services.

Good Neighbor Committee

Community Shelter Board worked with nearby neighbors and community stakeholders to develop a good neighbor commitment for the Van Buren building. We met with 28 different stakeholder groups on the west side and across the community. The Good Neighbor Committee will hold its first meeting on September 4 at 5:30 pm at Sullivant Elementary School, 791 Griggs Avenue. If you would like to join the committee, contact Sara Loken, scloken@csb.org 614-715-2527.

Innovative kitchen partnership

Community Shelter Board and the YMCA of Central Ohio have partnered with Freedom a la Cart to expand their workforce development program for survivors of human trafficking. Freedom a la Cart is staffing and operating a commercial kitchen for daily meals at the Van Buren building, as well as running their social enterprise catering business from this location. Mid-Ohio Foodbank is helping to stock the kitchen with fresh food.



Community support is critical to help us serve everyone in need. Additional dorms will open over the next several months, and the cost to feed everyone is substantial. This is where help by volunteer families, church groups and corporations is needed. Small groups of 4-6 volunteers are needed nightly to:

- < Assist kitchen staff with meal preparation
- < Prepare dining room
- < Help serve meals to shelter guests
- < Clean up dining room and kitchen
- < Underwrite food costs with a monetary donation (optional)

Donating your time to help serve a meal saves on labor costs. If your group is able to make a monetary donation as well, you can make an even greater impact:

\$100 = 33 meals	\$400 = 133 meals
\$250 = 83 meals	\$500 = 167 meals

Please [view the calendar and sign up here](#). Questions? Contact Charity Eilerman at ceilerman@csb.org.

[GATEWAY]

Program review and certification underway

CSB's review team is currently conducting program review and certification visits with its provider agencies. Site visits began in June and will continue into December. Special recognition goes out to Communities in Schools for achieving compliance during their initial July visit. Their work is vital to keeping families in crisis out of shelter and in their own homes. Congratulations to Communities in Schools for their hard work on behalf of our community's most vulnerable families.



Any questions about the program review and certification process should be directed to Yolande' Hall at 715-2530 or yhall@csb.org.

[STAFFING UPDATE]

Accountant

CSB is pleased to introduce Jennifer Cultice as its new Accountant. She works with the finance team to perform accounting and financial management functions.

Administrative Assistant

Michelle Trudeau is CSB's new Administrative Assistant. She staffs the front desk and provides support for payroll and direct client assistance processing.



Jennifer Cultice
Accountant



Michelle Trudeau
Administrative Assistant