

Michelle Heritage Executive Director

Michelle Heritage has extensive non-profit and public sector experience including more than 30 years in leadership roles in the homeless system, mental health, child welfare, and the alcohol and drug systems. Michelle has a bachelor's degree in criminology from The Ohio State University, a master's degree in counseling from the University of Dayton, and has been a licensed social worker and a certified chemical dependency counselor in the State of Ohio.

Michelle has served on national, statewide, and local boards and committees for human services, diversity, homelessness, and community research. She currently serves as a board member for the Legal Aid Society of Columbus.

Michelle is co-founder of United Way's Pride Council, the first United Way LGBT giving group in the country. She is a founding member of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, an organization mobilizing to protect and expand affordable housing options that transform our community.

Michelle is a founding member of Thrive, a group of private, elected, and public sector leaders developing a community wide framework to provide pathways out of poverty. She is also a founding member of the Prevent Family Homelessness Collaborative focused on addressing the upstream causes of homelessness among families.

Michelle was honored with a *Pillar Award for Community Service as Nonprofit Executive Director of the Year* in 2015. She received both Business First's *C-Suite Award* and SmartBusiness Columbus' *Smart 50 Award* in 2014. She was named *Woman of the Year* by the Niagara Foundation in 2014, and she was named among the *2013 Class of Power Players in Columbus* by SmartBusiness Columbus. Community Shelter Board was named *One of Five Nonprofits to Watch* in 2014 by The Columbus Foundation. Michelle was recognized with the *2010 Levy Champion Award* from Franklin County Children Services and was featured in the 2010 WELD calendar as one of *12 Women You Should Know*. In 2009, Michelle received the *Barry Mastrine Award* from the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board for her work in promoting system collaboration. In 2008, Michelle was recognized by the Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers as the *Contributor of the Year*. Under her leadership, Community Shelter Board has received the *Smart Women Award* from Smart Business Columbus, *Better Business Bureau Torch Award* for ethics in business, *United Way's Richard V. Carrick Leadership Award*, *United Way's Award of Excellence* for Employee Volunteerism, and the Mid-Ohio Foodbank's *Award of Excellence* for Operation Feed.

In her role at Community Shelter Board, Michelle facilitates and leads work with our community to make sure everyone in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio has a place to call home. She brings together diverse organizations to work together as an efficient system, rather than as a fragmented set of resources. She uses an outcome-based funding model that measures performance, monitors providers' success, and assures the system's effectiveness as a whole. She also combines innovative solutions and best practices with time-tested strategies to implement programs that quickly and stably house people in crisis. Michelle served as President/CEO of St. Vincent Family Center from 2001 to 2010.

