

An Updated Strategy to House Homeless Families and Adults

QUARTERLY
REPORT

Issue 2
November 2006

This report keeps the community posted on Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy. Each issue, posted at csb.org and distributed to interested parties, covers significant progress since last quarter and previews the upcoming months

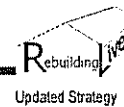
..... **REBUILDING LIVES UPDATED STRATEGY**

The Community Shelter Board's original Rebuilding Lives initiative has meant a new home and a new start for hundreds of people throughout Franklin County. The Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy (RLUS) will undertake a comprehensive research and resources inventory of the current Rebuilding Lives plan as well as the family system. Results of this assessment will be used to develop an updated strategy to address the needs of homeless families, children and adults as one comprehensive plan. This plan will help our community to connect homeless adults and families to housing and services they need to break the cycle of homelessness.

Modeled after the successful Scioto Peninsula Task Force (which created the Rebuilding Lives plan), the Updated Strategy consists of a Steering Committee composed of community leaders, CSB staff providing primary project support, along with external consultants working on research and strategy development. These three components attest to the important private and public partnership that holds this project together, with funding as well as leadership coming from private, non-profit and public sectors.



STEERING COMMITTEE



Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Steering Committee Members

- Elfi Di Bella, CSB trustee, chair
- Owen Bair, CSB Citizens Advisory Council
- Trudy Bartley, City of Columbus
- Patricia Cash, National City, CSB trustee
- Ruben Castilla Herrera, Herrera & Associates
- Denise Comett, CSB Citizens Advisory Council
- Lisa Courtice, The Columbus Foundation
- Todd Dieffenderfer, Columbus City Council
- Terri Donlin Huesman, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
- Cynthia Flaherty, Fannie Mae/Affordable Housing Trust
- Doug Garver, Ohio Housing Finance Agency/Interagency Council on Homelessness & Housing (ICHH)
- Dennis Guest, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Floyd Jones, Columbus Dispatch, United Way of Central Ohio, CSB trustee
- Susan Lewis Kaylor, ADAMH
- Mary Lou Langenhop, CSB trustee
- Douglas Lumpkin, Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Edward Menge, Columbus State Community College, Southeast, Inc.
- Timothy Miller, Crane Plastics Company, CSB trustee
- Regina Mitchell, Africentric Personal Development Shop, Huckleberry House
- E. Hiba Nasser, Muslim Family Services
- Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Ohio Department of Development/ICHH
- Debra Plousha Moore, Ohio Health, CSB trustee
- Alicia D. Smith, Health Care Compliance Solutions, Inc., Community Housing Network
- Donald Strasser, Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
- Melinda Swan, Member at Large
- Jim Sweeney, Franklinton Development Association
- Jan Wagner, CSCC, Homeless Families Foundation
- Tiffany White, St. Mary's neighborhood resident
- Kalpana Yalamanchili, Ohio State Bar Association, YWCA Columbus

Steering Committee Gains Valuable Insight

In response to discussion held at the first Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Steering Committee meeting in June 2006, a series of six discussion groups with tours were scheduled to give the members extensive insight to topics unable to be fully examined in the scheduled Steering Committee meetings. The goal is to increase members' ability to make effective decisions as it pertains to homelessness in our community.

On September 1st, the first group was given a glimpse of homelessness from the inside of an encampment. Touring the encampments provided insight to the characteristics and needs of persons experiencing street homelessness, the challenges they face, and the reasons some stay outdoors. In addition, they developed a basic understanding of the services provided, and strategies employed to engage and assist persons in encampments.

The next discussion and tour was hosted on September 14th at the Maryhaven Engagement Center. The tour and conversation offered the group a fundamental knowledge of the services the Engagement Center provides. The connection to alcoholism and its impact on homelessness was explored, as well.

The philosophy of treating long term addiction was examined during the tour at Community Housing Networks' North High. The discussion focused on the facility's philosophy and approach used in Stages of Change and the Harm Reduction Model, and some of the challenges encountered using these two models.

The fourth and fifth tours focused on the The Salvation Army Family Housing Collaborative (FHC) and the Amethyst Permanent Supportive Housing, respectively. Each of these tours highlighted detailed information of the Housing First approach as it relates to families with children.

The effects of homelessness on youth will be reviewed on November 8th at the Huckleberry House. The role of Huckleberry House in our community, the attributes of the youth served, and the challenges they face will be studied.

CSB hopes that the discussion groups and tours, will provide the Steering Committee with increased knowledge and familiarity of the system of services and housing for homeless people; and as a result ensure informed decisions.

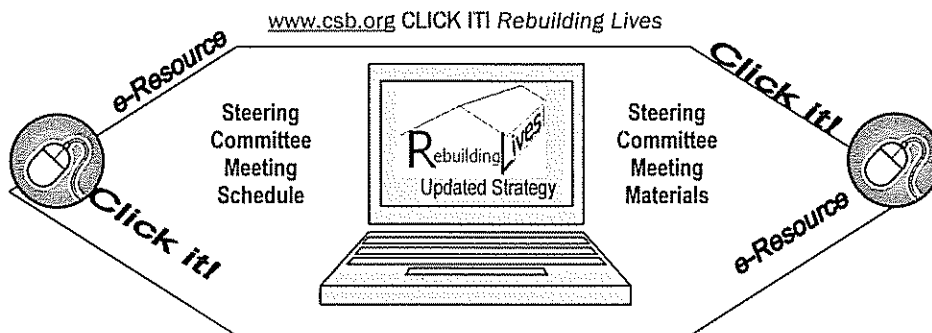
“As we embark upon this Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy, it is important for us to remain focused on making decisions that will bring us to our ultimate goal of ending homelessness. The need for this important strategy has been confirmed by the strong support of community leaders and local government officials. Moving forward, it is imperative for us to remember the advances we have made and the work that is still ahead of us.”-**Barbara Poppe, CSB Executive Director**

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Steering Committee members will meet in December to debrief about tours. A presentation on shelter data, including client, facility and program level data, will be conducted by Suzanne Wagner, Steve Metraux, and Dennis Culhane. Additionally, the committee will discuss steering committee values and principles.

The Committee has eight intensive meetings scheduled over 18 months to assure community input and guidance in all stages of the process.

Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Steering Committee Meetings are public. The next meeting will be Wed., December 6, 2006 from 10:00 AM- 2:00 P.M. Please RSVP to tjackson@csb.org. All meetings will be held at the SERS Building, 300 East Broad Street, O’Keefe Conference Center, 1st floor. Free parking is available in the adjacent garage at the rear of the building.



The City of Columbus, Franklin County Commissioners, and the United Way of Central Ohio formally designated the Community Shelter Board to lead *Rebuilding Lives: An Updated Strategy to House Homeless Families and Adults*.

The letter, which was signed by Mayor Michael Coleman, Columbus City Council President Matthew D. Habash, County Commissioners, Paula Brooks, Mary Jo Kilroy, and Dewey Stokes, and United Way President and CEO Janet Jackson, was an acknowledgement of the success of current the Rebuilding Lives project and also a charge to develop one comprehensive plan to address the needs of homeless families, children, and adults. CSB realizes the importance of all entities working together with the shared goal of creating solutions that will ultimately end homelessness in our community. As we continue to embark upon this very important journey we are proud to have the support and commitment of the steering committee members, community leaders, local officials, and the community as a whole.



Barbara Poppe observes as Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman signs the "charge letter."

Rebuilding Lives Funders: ADAMH Board of Franklin County, City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Fannie Mae, Franklin County Office on Aging, Franklin County, Job & Family Services, H C. Moores Foundation, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, The Columbus Foundation, The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, and the United Way of Central Ohio

