

# An Updated Strategy to House Homeless Families and Adults

QUARTERLY  
REPORT

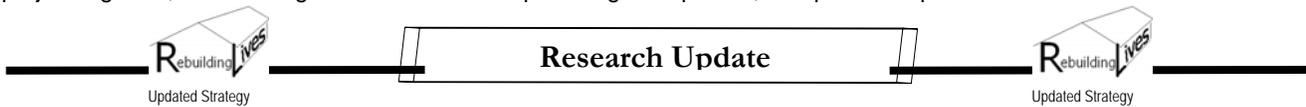
Issue 3  
January 2007

*This report keeps the community posted on the Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy. Each issue, posted at [csb.org](http://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) is undertaking 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.



The Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy (RLUS) Steering Committee convened at its third meeting on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006. During this meeting, members and guests heard presentations from the consultants regarding emergency shelter data at the client and program levels.

Suzanne Wagner of the Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) in New York presented the results from their analysis of emergency shelter inventory. CUCS conducted a comparative analysis of data from 1998, the year that the Rebuilding Lives project began, and 2006. The key findings presented were related to capacity, growth, and bed distribution. Capacity remained relatively stable and there was increase in total units of 7%. Growth in units serving families (14%) and single women (63%) outpaced growth in the system as a whole. Bed distribution by gender shifted over time, with beds designated for women increasing from 14% to 19% and those designated for men decreasing from 84% to 78% of the total number of single beds.

Steve Metraux of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia reported on findings from research he conducted along with Dennis Culhane of the University of Pennsylvania. An analysis of the emergency shelter client level data from 1996 to 2006 to understand shelter utilization (families and singles), including trends over time in shelter use, relationships between shelter exits and housing placements, and demographics,

- ✓ the longer the shelter episode, the higher the odds for a household (single adult or family) to exit to a housing placement;
- ✓ income increases the odds of receiving a housing placement upon exit,
- ✓ wages increased odds 5-fold of receiving a housing placement upon exit;
- ✓ housing placement was the strongest factor in reducing the hazards of repeat shelter stay; and
- ✓ among families, repeat shelter stays are a relatively rare event.

Final reports of all research analyses will be presented to the committee at a later date.

### 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 Cornett, CSB Citizens Advisory Council
- Lisa Courtice, The Columbus Foundation
- Mark Rutkus, 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
- 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 Management Associates, 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

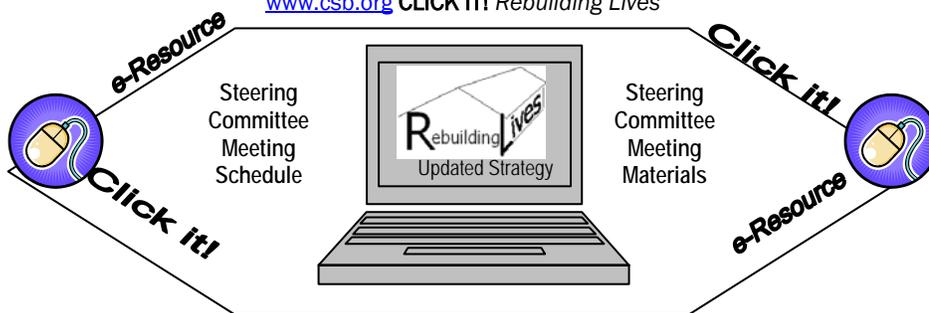
“When you’re homeless, it’s like falling into a hole. People are willing to throw food, quarters, nickels and dimes to you. But it takes a special person to lower a ladder and pull you up.”

**Bruce Garrard**, *Rebuilding Lives participant*  
*Community Housing Network’s North High Street Apartments.*

### NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Steering Committee members will meet in February. The meeting will be dedicated to developing clarity around the purpose and intent of the new RLUS system, as well as, the principles and values that guide the new strategy.

[www.csb.org](http://www.csb.org) CLICK IT! Rebuilding Lives



Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy Steering Committee Meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting will be **Tues., February 13, 2007** from 10:00 AM- 2:00 P.M. Please RSVP to [tjackson@csb.org](mailto:tjackson@csb.org). All meetings will be held at the SERS Building, 300 East Broad Street, O’Keefe Conference Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Free parking is available in the adjacent garage at the

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Point-In-Time Count

Annually, Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) brings over \$6.5 million to our community to help individuals who have experienced homelessness obtain and maintain housing and receive needed services. As part of the annual Continuum of Care application, HUD requires communities to conduct a point-in-time count of all sheltered and unsheltered individuals in the community during the last week of January.

On behalf of the Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care Steering Committee, the Community Shelter Board planned and conducted the third local count on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 from 3:30-7:00 am. Approximately 130 volunteers assisted to count unsheltered individuals on the streets, camps, or other places not meant for human habitation. All individuals encountered who desired food and/or shelter were transported to receive such services. In addition, volunteers counted persons identified at meal programs, emergency service providers, and 24/7 storefront locations. Final results of the count will be issued in a report to the Continuum of Care Steering Committee as well as be included in the annual application. The results of this year’s count, as well as, prior year counts will be shared with the RLUS Steering Committee.

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.

