![communityshelterboard — Until everyone has a place to call home]

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**TONY COLLINS & YMCA OF CENTRAL OHIO HONORED
WITH COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD'S
2021 NANCY JEFFREY ADVOCATE AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Tony Collins and YMCA of Central Ohio were recognized with the 2021 Nancy Jeffrey Advocate Award. Given by Community Shelter Board, the award honors exemplary work among its partner agencies, in honor of Nancy Jeffrey's legacy as one of its founders.

When the global pandemic began, Collins and the YMCA brought three new facilities on-line to assure social distancing in all shelters across the community. This was a herculean effort that was critical to keep the COVID-19 virus from spreading like wildfire in homeless shelters. This effort also included adding more beds in these new facilities to assure that that anyone who needed shelter was able to have immediate access. The YMCA joined with Community Shelter Board in making this public health commitment to assure that no one was left on the streets without shelter and access to hand washing, masks, and medical care.

To safely care for those who are homeless and COVID positive or exposed to COVID, the YMCA worked with Community Shelter Board to open an isolation and quarantine shelter, complete with medical personnel. This shelter allows people who are COVID-positive or symptomatic and presumed positive to safely isolate while they recover. It's a safe space for people who would be home resting on the couch if they had a home.

A breakfast reception was held today at the Boathouse at Confluence Park, where a series of Community Shelter Board's Founder Awards were presented by NBC4.

As President and CEO of the YMCA of Central Ohio, Collins works with a team of committed professionals to strengthen the spirit, mind, and body of our neighbors in Franklin, Delaware, Logan, and Pickaway

NANCY JEFFREY
ADVOCATE AWARD
2021

Tony Collins
& YMCA of Central Ohio

Counties. The YMCA of Central Ohio develops youth, promotes healthy living and fosters a sense of social responsibility through its thirteen community centers, over 50 child care sites, and providing emergency shelter and supportive housing for those most in need in our community.

As a leader in Central Ohio, Collins serves with his colleagues on the Economic Mobility Coalition, the State of Play Central Ohio Advisory group, and the Future Ready Early Childhood Advisory Council. He also serves as a council member of the Ohio Alliance of YMCA's.

Prior to joining the YMCA, Collins served as the Executive Director of Recreation & Parks for the City of Columbus and as a Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Gahanna.

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/8sRYBJQtIEE

Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home. CSB is the collective impact organization driving strategy, accountability, collaboration, and resources to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. With the support of a compassionate community, our system of care served 15,000 people last year with homelessness prevention, shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and many other public and private investors.

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