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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2020

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**COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD HONORS
BOBBIE GARBER & HAL KELLER
WITH 2020 BOB LAZARUS UNSUNG HERO AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board honored Bobbie Garber and Hal Keller with its 2020 Bob Lazarus Unsung Hero Award, in recognition of their lifelong efforts to bring affordable housing to the central Ohio community. The award honors quiet and steadfast work in the trenches on behalf of people facing homelessness, in memory of Robert Lazarus’ lifetime of humble and steady leadership.

Bobbie Garber served as the first executive director of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, an organization that mobilized in 2016 to protect and expand affordable housing options. During Bobbie’s tenure, the organization was successful in partnering with Huntington National Bank and several other businesses to announce a \$100 million Housing Action Fund for affordable housing.

Bobbie influenced policy and resources for housing throughout her career, holding leadership positions at Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Community Research Partners, and the Ohio Department of Development.

“She was a quiet force, always armed with data and research to support the fact that housing is a basic human need that influences health, education, and employment,” said Michelle Heritage, executive director for Community Shelter Board.

Hal Keller served Ohio Capital Corporation for a quarter century, initially as its director of development and then as president. Under Hal’s leadership, OCCH raised more than \$4.25 billion in corporate equity investments for low-income housing tax credit developments, involving 46,500 units of affordable housing in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Hal’s out-of-the-box thinking and in the trenches leadership style spearheaded the inception of three service-oriented affiliates for OCCH: a property management and supportive services organization, Community Properties of Ohio Management Services; a lending subsidiary, Ohio Capital Finance Corporation, a certified Community Development Finance Institution and a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati; and a philanthropic affiliate, Ohio Capital Impact Corporation.

Hal served long tenures on the board of trustees for both Community Shelter Board and YMCA of Central Ohio. Under Hal's leadership, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing provided significant gifts of time, talent, and treasure to both organizations.

"Hal's passion for stewardship and his business acumen have resulted in a safe, affordable place to call home for thousands of families," said Michelle Heritage. "The legacies of Bobbie and Hal have changed lives, put roofs over people's heads, empowered families to thrive, and inspired the rest of us to keep going until everyone has a place to call home."

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.



VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/7qivjKcHBec>

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