

TOGETHER REBUILDING LIVES

Thank you for joining Community Shelter Board along with presenting sponsor Huntington Bank and co-presenting sponsor Safelite AutoGlass for the Together Rebuilding Lives celebration on June 8.



Michelle Heritage with Barbara Benham of Huntington Bank



Doug Herron & Tom Feeney of Safelite AutoGlass



Columbus City Council President Pro-Tem Priscilla Tyson, Barbara Benham of Huntington Bank and Columbus City Councilmember Jaiza Page



Mike Bell of Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio. All 19 of CSB's provider agencies were recognized for their impact in rebuilding the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

L BRANDS HONORED

Community Shelter Board was pleased to honor L Brands with its 2016 Mel Schottenstein Leadership Award on June 8.

L Brands doesn't sell products. They sell experiences. And they don't take social responsibility lightly. It's woven into the fiber of a corporation that supports community programs reflecting the values of its associates and customers. L Brands began with one apparel store in Columbus and grew into a \$12 billion company with multiple brands. Under Les Wexner's leadership over more than 50 years, L Brands never lost sight of the needs of those most vulnerable in Columbus. L Brands' growth and success have had a commensurate impact on the prosperity of our community. Community Shelter Board is one of many causes touched by one of the retail industry's most generous philanthropists.



Bruce Soll & Stephen Smith of L Brands, Michelle Heritage & Barbara Benham

HARMONY PROJECT HONORED

Community Shelter Board was pleased to honor the Harmony Project with its 2016 Hero Award on June 8.

Harmony Project's works to transform the community through service and song has had a tremendous impact on Community Shelter Board and people experiencing homelessness.

Harmony Project held a special concert to benefit Community Shelter Board, and has since mobilized its 200+ member choir to work side-by-side in collective service across the community. A great deal of their work has focused on homelessness. They underwrote and installed a peaceful meditation garden and a beautiful mural at Van Buren Center. Harmony Project has provided hundreds of volunteers for meal servings and continues this practice every season.



David Brown & Michelle Heritage

ACCESS

STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM PREVENTS HOMELESSNESS

Nicole is a single mother of four teenagers. When Nicole's mother became ill recently, she had to leave her job to care for her mother. Her mother recovered, but Nicole was unable to pay her rent and lost her apartment. She and her four children stayed with family for a short time while Nicole sought help from the Stable Families program.

With the assistance of the Stable Families program, Nicole found a new job and enrolled in an online program to earn her high school diploma. Nicole is determined to graduate and set a good example for her children. She hopes that continuing her education will lead to a new and better employment opportunity so she can better provide for her family. Nicole's Stable Families worker helped her locate new housing in a safe neighborhood, near her children's schools to assure the children did not have to change schools. The case worker also guided Nicole through budgeting and goal setting to determine her financial priorities.

Now that Nicole's housing is stable and she has a plan for her future, she can focus on nurturing her family in other ways, focusing on health and extracurricular activities. She recently encouraged her son to try out for the soccer team. Nicole's neighbor donated used sports equipment and supplies to make it possible for her son to join the team, and he is thriving.

The Stable Families program is part of a national, integrated, comprehensive model to prevent family homelessness and reduce school mobility. The Stable Families program creates long-lasting change by addressing and resolving the issues that push families to the brink of homelessness. This program is funded by the Siemer Institute for Family Stability through United Way of Central Ohio.



PILOTING DIVERSION EFFORTS

Community Shelter Board is supporting HandsOn Central Ohio to pilot some new strategies with families calling the homeless hotline in need of shelter. Diversion efforts help a family avoid the experience of homelessness.

Diversion specialists at the homeless hotline are conducting three levels of diversion:

1. They are working with families over the phone to help them find a better option than a shelter bed, to help families avoid the experience of homelessness.
2. They are meeting with families face-to-face to build an action plan to avoid homelessness.

3. If a family has no other option than to enter shelter, diversion specialists can re-visit a family's circumstances and attempt to interrupt the experience of homelessness.

This pilot program is being developed with technical assistance and training from the Cleveland Mediation Center and leaders in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

TASK FORCE TO PREVENT FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

The Task Force to Prevent Family Homelessness is exploring solutions to prevent the growing problem of family homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. The task force is currently focused on four targeted activities: 1) processes to identify family instability and link families to appropriate resources, 2) workforce development, 3) affordable housing, and 4) racism and its effect on homelessness.

The 24-member task force was developed after Community Shelter Board and The Columbus Foundation commissioned a study of family homelessness, conducted by Abt Associates, a national research firm. Community Shelter Board is very grateful to Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown for her leadership of the public-private task force that is developing a comprehensive, upstream community-based response focused on stabilizing families and preventing homelessness. The group's progress is being shared online at www.preventfamilyhomelessness.org.

FEDERAL FUNDING

HUD APPLICATION FOR FY2016 FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has released its notice of funding availability for FY2016. The continuum of care funding program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; and

- to provide funding for efforts by non-profit providers, State, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness;
- to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and
- to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.



Community Shelter Board is designated as the collaborative applicant to submit a consolidated application for funding on behalf of the Columbus and Franklin County continuum of care. [Information about how projects are ranked for funding can be found here.](#) Community Shelter Board will apply for \$11.5M in funding for existing programs and \$570K for a new permanent supportive housing program.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RETIRING LEADERS

Adrienne Corbett, executive director of the Homeless Families Foundation, and Paul Coleman, president & CEO of Maryhaven, have announced their retirement plans. Michelle Heritage took time to recognize their leadership before the Together Rebuilding Lives event on June 8.

“Adrienne – you’ve done an incredible job leading the Homeless Families Foundation in its work to help families re-establish themselves in housing. You’ve been a fierce protector and advocate for children and have touched the lives of thousands of families – helping set them on a path for success. It’s been an honor to work alongside you.”

“Paul – I have admired your leadership for decades and have been honored and privileged to call you a colleague and friend. Your life’s work has literally saved lives. Thank you for giving so generously of yourself so that others suffering the pain of addiction can find hope. You will be greatly missed.”



Adrienne Corbett & Michelle Heritage



Michelle Heritage & Paul Coleman



Alexandra Fraser, YMCA of Central Ohio and Lianna Barbu, Community Shelter Board

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Alexandra Fraser from YMCA of Central Ohio was honored with CSB’s Columbus ServicePoint Administrator of the Year Award. Alex was recognized for her dedication and hard work in taking over client data for the family shelter at Van Buren Center.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Several volunteer groups have been hard at work at Community Shelter Board's Van Buren Center.



We were thrilled to be joined by football players from the Ohio State University, who served dinner to hundreds of people experiencing homelessness.



IGS Energy worked in the garden and assembled hygiene kits.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated collected an incredible 625 pairs of socks during their first annual Joy of Giving collection drive.

Are you a CSB provider agency who wants to highlight the incredible work of a volunteer? Send a photo and caption to scloken@csb.org.

RESOURCES ARE SCARE FOR MANY VETERANS WITH LESS THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGES

"Veterans without access to the VA are seven times as likely to end up homeless, six times as likely to end up in jail and 30% more likely to die by suicide." [The Columbus Dispatch, 6/20/16](#)

OPERATION FEED

Community Shelter Board's Operation Feed campaign to benefit Mid-Ohio Foodbank raised 6,600 meals for our neighbors in need. Thanks to Heather Notter for her campaign leadership.

