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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2017

For more information, contact:
Sara Loken scloken@csb.org 614-715-2527

COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD RECOGNIZED AS PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION WITH SMART WOMEN AWARD

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board received a Smart Women Award from Smart Business Columbus magazine, in the category of Progressive Organization. The award recognizes organizations that support women-based initiatives, develop advancement programs for women and create family friendly workplaces.

Community Shelter Board was recognized for its work in several areas:

- Among families, women are the face of homelessness. On average, 100 families are sheltered each night in Columbus and Franklin County's homeless system, and 95% of those families are headed by women. An average 160 more women without children are sheltered each night. CSB's network delivers safe shelter and re-housing assistance, helping women end their homeless crisis quickly by getting connected to employment and job training, support services, medical care and housing resources.
- CSB joined with Celebrate One to support the community's infant mortality reduction initiative. They launched a program that prioritizes homeless pregnant women to assure they are never turned away from shelter due to lack of space. Pregnant women are sheltered in one designated place so they can receive special care and services, including help with employment, GED attainment, and other services tailored to individual family needs to help mothers before and after delivery.
- CSB joined the *Free the Tampons* movement this year, which aims to end restroom inequality and make menstrual products free and accessible to women and girls. CSB joined with Columbus City Councilmember Elizabeth Brown, who helped secure a donation from LOLA, a feminine care company, to make free tampons available in all Columbus homeless shelters.
- Community Shelter Board's workforce is 72% women, and two-thirds of the leadership team is women. Founded in 1986, the organization has always been led by women and has a long history of employment practices and cultural norms that seek to advance women and support a family-friendly work environment.

Community Shelter Board was recognized alongside other honorees at the Smart Women Breakfast on August 15 at the Hilton at Easton, and was featured in the [August edition of Smart Business Columbus](#).

community shelter board
111 liberty street suite 150
columbus ohio 43215

614 221 9195 / main
614 221 9199 / fax
www.csb.org

Community Shelter Board is the collective impact organization leading work to prevent and end homelessness by creating collaborations, developing innovative solutions, and investing in quality programs in Columbus and Franklin County. Community Shelter Board oversees an annual budget of \$31 million to support homeless programs and services. Last year, these programs served more than 12,000 people. 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.