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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## COMMUNITY COUNTS HOMELESS

(Columbus, OH) – The annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County was held today. Community Shelter Board worked in collaboration with local service providers, partner agencies, and volunteers to count the area’s sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations, including adults, youth, and children.

“Point-in-time counts are an important method used to better understand the extent of homelessness in communities across the nation. With this data, we can better understand our progress on reducing homelessness and plan and advocate for the right programs and services to prevent and end homelessness,” said Michelle Heritage, executive director of Community Shelter Board.

The method for today’s count was comprehensive and included more than 1,000 people who spent the night of Jan. 30 in one of 10 emergency shelters. Other input will be added to the count before a final number is tallied, including the number of people counted on the streets and at known encampments early this morning, and those counted at soup kitchens and other service-based agencies throughout the day.

Careful review and comparison of the numbers is conducted to remove duplication and assure accuracy. Results are typically finalized and made available in April. Three hundred forty (340) people were counted on the streets during the 2017 count, along with 1,351 in shelter and transitional housing.

Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated effort to both prevent and end homelessness every day, while also assuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met. As the community’s collective impact organization for ending homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County, Community Shelter Board brings together 16 agencies across the community to work together as a cohesive system for change. With the support of a compassionate community, its system of care served more than 12,000 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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