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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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For more information, contact:  
**Sara Loken** [scloken@csb.org](mailto:scloken@csb.org)  
614-715-2527

**MAYOR GINTHER HONORED  
WITH COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD'S  
2018 MEL SCHOTTENSTEIN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Mayor Andrew J. Ginther was recognized with the 2018 Mel Schottenstein Leadership Award. Given by Community Shelter Board, the award honors deep and far-reaching commitment to people facing homelessness, in memory of Melvin Schottenstein’s legacy as a founder of Community Shelter Board.

Mayor Ginther has a long track record of significant leadership in addressing issues that contribute to homelessness, including during his tenure on Columbus City Council. Already champions as Community Shelter Board’s largest local funder, Mayor Ginther and Columbus City Council made a special, additional investment in homeless services for pregnant women. When a woman experiences homelessness during pregnancy, her baby is at significantly greater risk of serious health consequences. The link between infant mortality and homelessness is strong, but thanks to Mayor Ginther’s leadership, Columbus is celebrating more first birthdays and brighter futures for all children in our community.

“Mayor Ginther has been a steadfast champion and leader to address homelessness among some of the most vulnerable populations of our community,” said Michelle Heritage, executive director of Community Shelter Board. He and Columbus City Council invested in achieving and sustaining an effective end to homelessness among veterans. A new framework for a systematic response ensures that homelessness among veterans is prevented whenever possible – and if it does occur, it’s a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

His 2018 tax incentive plan is a dynamic move to encourage mixed-income housing development and living wages – key ingredients to address poverty in our community. Mayor Ginther created the Columbus Women’s Commission to dismantle barriers and reduce gender-based inequities to improve the economic position of all women in our community. The commission is tackling eviction, a cause of poverty and homelessness, especially among women.

More than seven hundred people attended an awards ceremony held at Under One Roof benefiting Community Shelter Board on June 7, 2018 at the Southern Theatre.

**community shelter board**  
111 liberty street suite 150  
columbus ohio 43215

614 221 9195 / main  
614 221 9199 / fax  
[www.csb.org](http://www.csb.org)

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 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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