



Until everyone has a place to call home

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COMMUNITY COUNTS HOMELESS

The annual point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County was held yesterday, January 27, 2022. 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 across the nation," said Michelle Heritage, executive director of Community Shelter Board. "It's also a good opportunity to connect with people staying outside and encourage them to come to the safety of a shelter, or apply for assistance to move directly into housing. Safe housing is more important than ever during a global pandemic."

The method for yesterday's count was comprehensive and included more than 1,200 people who spent the night of Jan. 26 in one of 8 emergency shelters. Other input will be added to the count, including the number of people counted on the streets and at known encampments, and those counted at soup kitchens and warming centers 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. A comprehensive count event was not held in 2021 because of the global pandemic. Four hundred thirty-two (432) people were counted on the streets during the 2020 count, along with 1,604 in shelter and transitional housing.

Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home. We bring together 20 agencies across the community to work together as a cohesive system for change, driving effective strategy and productive collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness. With the support of a compassionate community, our system of care served 13,000 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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