



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. 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.

"As the Franklin County population grows, so does the number of people experiencing homelessness. Point-in-time counts are an important method used to better understand the extent of homelessness in our community," said Michelle Heritage, executive director of Community Shelter Board. "With this data, we can better plan and advocate for the right programs and services for people facing homelessness."

The method for yesterday's count was comprehensive and included more than 1,000 people who spent the night of Jan. 28 in one of 10 emergency shelters. Other input will be added to the count, including the number of people counted on the streets and at known encampments early this morning, and those counted at soup kitchens 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 eighty-two (382) people were counted on the streets during the 2019 count, along with 1,525 in shelter and transitional housing.

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 15,000 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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