leading the way

HOME

2014 PROGRESS REPORT ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS
CINCINNATI/HAMILTON COUNTY
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Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that we have made remarkable strides toward ending homelessness in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. As a result of our work and the hard work of our community partners, our homeless count is now at its lowest level since 2010!

Such exceptional progress did not happen overnight, and did not happen by chance. In the years since Strategies to End Homelessness was incorporated, we have improved our programs and enhanced our presence in the community. Today, our comprehensive system of care integrates a high-quality homelessness prevention program, diligent street outreach workers, an improved shelter system, and housing programs to bring an unprecedented level of coordination and effectiveness within the homeless services system.

Our extensive work with the Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative is finally coming to fruition, with the groundbreaking of three new service-enriched emergency shelters that will transform the way the homeless are cared for in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women is the city’s first emergency shelter dedicated solely to serving homeless women; the new City Gospel Mission’s faith-based shelter and the David & Rebecca Barron Center for Men will ensure homeless men get the help they need in vastly improved facilities. All three shelters will be open and operational by the end of 2015. Each will feature comprehensive case management and day services, as well as an on-site health care clinic to provide clients with holistic support as they transition back to housing.

As the lead agency for the system of care for the homeless in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Strategies to End Homelessness supports and enhances the impact of each of our city’s hard-working homeless service agencies. Together, our work is collaborative, innovative, and effective in moving people out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Our work is outcomes-focused and driven by real-time data used to track trends, identify solutions, and engage in strategic planning to lead a further reduction in homelessness.

We are preventing. We are assisting. We are solving.

We are leading the way home.

Sincerely,

John Young
Board Chair

Kevin Finn
President & CEO
Homelessness Declines in Cincinnati/Hamilton County

According to 2014 data from our community’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)*, the number of people sleeping on the streets and in homeless shelters declined by 7% from 2013, to the lowest level our community has seen since 2010.

This decrease can be attributed to several key achievements:

High-quality prevention efforts
Our Shelter Diversion Program, operated in partnership with the Freestore Foodbank, Jewish Family Service, and Mercy Health St. John, targets people at imminent risk of finding themselves on the streets and has a 90% success rate in preventing people from becoming homeless. As a result, the number of people entering emergency shelters decreased by 2.5% from 2013 to 2014, and by 7% since 2012.

Persistent street outreach workers
The number of people sleeping on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation decreased by 22%, in part due to the patience and hard work of street outreach programs operated by Downtown Cincinnati, Inc., Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, the Veterans Administration, and Lighthouse Youth Services.

Cost-effective housing programs
The number of people provided with permanent housing has increased by 35% from 2013, and by a remarkable 168% since 2010. This fact is directly attributable to our partner agencies making strategic use of the resources available, rapidly re-housing homeless people, and then supporting them in housing until they reach independence.

*Unless otherwise noted, all data presented in this report was gathered by Strategies to End Homelessness from VESTA®, our community’s Homeless Management Information System, which is operated by The Partnership Center, Ltd.
Andrea found herself homeless for the first time at the young age of 26. She came into Shelterhouse with a history of domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and no family support. After meeting with a case manager, Andrea was able to recognize the patterns of negative behavior present from substance abuse and showed a willingness to change. She began attending Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings and started seeking reconciliation with her family. Six months after entering the shelter doors, Andrea continues to attend substance abuse meetings. Her participation in job-training programs led her to full-time employment at a restaurant close to her new apartment. Through Shelterhouse’s Rapid Re-Housing Program, she makes partial rent payments allowing her to pay off her debt, and open a savings account. Among all her successes, Andrea is most proud of being able to host her mom and family members for Christmas at her new apartment last year.
Homeless to Homes Transforms Shelter System

In 2009, Strategies to End Homelessness, with participation from key stakeholders in the community, created the city’s first comprehensive plan to put an end to homelessness. Homeless to Homes calls for significant changes to the shelter system in the form of five new service-enriched facilities with improved access to housing programs for homeless individuals. With development partner Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) we created the Homeless to Homes Shelter Collaborative to guide the construction of these transformational shelters.

In 2014, several significant milestones were reached:

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<td>The Funding Advisory Committee, consisting of senior level representatives from area philanthropic institutions, adopted an Outcomes-Based Allocation Process, which simultaneously encourages shelters to focus on key measures of success, and rewards shelters for improving on their own prior year performance.</td>
<td>City Gospel Mission broke ground on its new 74-bed faith-based shelter on Dalton Ave. The facility provides day services for men and is co-located with Jobs Plus for employment services, as well as the Lord’s Gym.</td>
<td>Shelterhouse’s Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women broke ground on its 60-bed women-only facility in Mt. Auburn, offering semi-private sleeping quarters and day services tailored to meet women’s specific physical and emotional health needs.</td>
<td>Shelterhouse’s David and Rebecca Barron Center broke ground on its 150-bed shelter for men. The facility will contain a Safe and Step-Up shelter with more private sleeping quarters, day services, and an increased ratio of case managers.</td>
<td>Hamilton County voters approved the Health and Hospitalization Levy, generating a significant increase in funding for Homeless to Homes shelter facilities.</td>
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A Glimpse into the Future… 2015 and Beyond

Bring it Home Campaign is Building for the Future

All five of the improved emergency shelter facilities called for in the Homeless to Home plan are set to open by the end of 2015, marking the completion of the most comprehensive system of care for homeless individuals our city has ever seen.

MONEY RAISED FOR SHELTERS

$39.4 million invested

Follow our progress and make your contribution at bringithomecincy.org

$900,000 gap

Breauna at only 22 years of age, had been battling with psychiatric issues for much of her young life. She was recently hospitalized and began working intensely with mental health services. During this struggle, Breauna lost her housing, so she contacted Lighthouse Youth Service’s Sheakley Center for Youth for help. Working closely with their staff to improve her physical and mental health, Breauna celebrated moving into her very first apartment. Through the Permanent Supportive Housing program, Breauna also gained the necessary skills on how to apply, interview, and maintain a job. She has been employed at a steady job for nearly two years, completed her STNA training, passed her certification, and plans to enter nursing school in the fall.
Critical Connection Between Housing, Health

 Levy supports improved shelter services

Hamilton County voters overwhelmingly approved the Health and Hospitalization Levy in November 2014 and as a result, the new Homeless to Homes shelters now have increased public support for their efforts to assist homeless people back into housing. This multi-year funding will support improved case management and comprehensive day services (including medical and behavioral health care and substance abuse treatment) as called for in the Homeless to Homes Plan. With tailored services targeted to meet the needs of specific populations such as youth and women, homeless individuals will receive the care they need to achieve stability and return to housing.

Housing an important first step toward health

One of the most effective ways to reduce the public healthcare burden of the homeless population is to provide homeless people with housing. In housing, people experience significant improvements in overall health, and have a reduced need for costly ongoing medical expenses.

A study by the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council found that health centers serving low-income populations saw a significant disparity in incidences of all types of illnesses between people without a home and those with housing. Serious medical conditions can be difficult enough to manage even in the general population, but for those without housing, they can quickly worsen and become impossible to control.

![Chart showing comparison between non-homeless and homeless populations on various health conditions.](chart.png)

Source: National Healthcare for the Homeless Council study on low-income and homeless populations
Strong Community Planning Leads to Success

Cincinnati/Hamilton County is one of few areas in the country to have an inclusive process for applying for federal funding for housing programs. Each year our community gathers at a day-long event known as Large Group Scoring to hear presentations from over 30 housing programs and determine local priorities on which housing programs will be included in our collaborative Continuum of Care for the Homeless funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Through this process, Strategies to End Homelessness secured more than $15 million from HUD in 2014, and over $90 million since 2008, to provide supportive housing to people who have been living on the streets and in emergency shelters in Hamilton County. The grants fund effective housing programs, including:

- **Rapid Re-Housing** is a housing model designed to provide temporary housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness. Through short to medium term rental assistance, we can move families and individuals back into housing quickly.

- **Transitional Housing** provides temporary housing combined with supportive services. Our on-site supportive services help residents increase their income and obtain permanent housing.

- **Permanent Supportive Housing** is designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis for homeless people who have disabilities. Clients are provided with rental subsidies, comprehensive case management, and supportive services to ensure housing stability. Permanent Supportive Housing is a nationally-recognized best practice strategy for ending chronic homelessness.

In 2014, we served 2,216 people in Rapid Re-Housing programs.

Since 2011, the number of people we have served in Rapid Re-Housing has increased by 308%.

In 2014, we served 2,253 people in Permanent Supportive Housing.

Since 2011, we have increased our Permanent Supportive Housing Capacity by 15%, which is higher than the national average.

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness State of Homelessness 2015 Report

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

![Graph showing number of people in supportive housing from 2007 to 2014](image-url)
**Meeting Needs Through Program Innovation**

**Technology connects people to housing**

The Central Access Point (CAP) continues to play an integral role in connecting people who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of becoming homeless with the most appropriate services. Our CAP hotline is staffed with highly trained intake specialists who track bed availability across multiple shelter diversion and emergency shelter programs, placing callers into programs such as:

- Shelters for families: Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Salvation Army
- Shelters for individuals: Shelterhouse’s Hatton Center for Women, Catholic Worker House, Lighthouse Youth Service’s Sheakley Center for Youth, and City Gospel Mission
- Transitional Housing: Talbert House’s Parkway Center
- Shelter Diversion programs: Bethany House, Freestore Foodbank, and Jewish Family Service
- Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families: Talbert House and Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries

**Winter shelter protects from the cold**

Thanks to financial support from the City of Cincinnati, the Hamilton County’s Sheriff’s Department, local foundations, generous community members and businesses, and our collaboration with Shelterhouse (formerly the Drop Inn Center), Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, we were once again able to add emergency shelter capacity during the coldest months of the year. The Winter Shelter provided a warm place to sleep for more than 700 people in need during the winter.

In a major service improvement for the homeless, the Winter Shelter will soon have a permanent home at Shelterhouse’s David and Rebecca Barron Center for Men, which will open prior to the 2015-2016 winter season.
**Safe and Supported tackles LGBT homelessness**

Cincinnati was one of only two cities in the country chosen to participate in a national LGBTQ Youth Homeless Prevention Initiative. Through the initiative, we developed a community-wide plan for utilizing diverse federal and local resources to prevent homelessness for youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity (LGBTQ).

STEH partnered with Lighthouse Youth Services, the Human Rights Campaign, and a coalition of community leaders to develop the “Hamilton County Safe & Supported Community Plan.” The plan establishes greater collaboration among local agencies, and will inform national strategies and future federal program policy.

**Solutions for Family Homelessness plan emerges**

In 2014, 661 families entered an emergency shelter. Once a family’s housing is in jeopardy, they are forced to navigate a complex system with multiple layers of services, at a time when they are already in crisis.

To address this hardship, Strategies to End Homelessness joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Family Housing Partnership (Bethany House, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Salvation Army, and YWCA of Greater Cincinnati) to assess inadequacies of the current system. Their recommendations to address our families’ needs and streamline the system of care will be contained in the *Solutions for Family Homelessness* plan to be released in October 2015.
Thank you to all of our partners who are working together to end homelessness in our community

Direct service providers
Bethany House Services
Caracole, Inc.
Center for Independent Living Options (CILO)
Center for Respite Care
Cincinnati Union Bethel
City Gospel Mission
Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. - Block by Block
Shelterhouse (f.k.a. Drop Inn Center)
Excel Development Corp
Freestore Foodbank
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Jewish Family Service
Joseph House
Lighthouse Youth Services
Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department
Nothing Into Something Real Estate
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
Over the Rhine Community Housing
Santa Maria Community Services
St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Talbert House
Tender Mercies, Inc.
The Salvation Army
Veterans Administration
Volunteers of America
YWCA of Greater Cincinnati
Coordinating partners
Cincinnati Health Network
Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority
Cincinnati Public Schools- Project Connect
Cincinnati VA Medical Center
City of Cincinnati
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition
Hamilton County
Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
Human Rights Campaign
Our Daily Bread
The Partnership Center, Ltd.

Funding partners
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation
Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr. / U.S. Bank Foundation
Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Trusts, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee
Chemed Foundation
Christ Church Cathedral
The Farmer Family Foundation
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Hatton Foundation
Interact for Health
John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trusts, PNC Bank, Trustee
LKC Foundation
Louise Taft Semple Foundation
Mercy Health
Ohio Development Services Agency
Ohio National Foundation
The P&G Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Scripps Howard Foundation
St. Xavier Church
Union Savings Bank
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
William P. Anderson Foundation
Financial Highlights*
Year ended December 31, 2014

Condensed balance sheet

Assets
Cash and cash equivalents $676,192
Grant and contributions receivable 3,259,877
Other assets 66,800
Total assets $4,002,869

Liabilities and net assets
LIABILITIES
Accounts payable and accrued expenses $1,510,451
Grants payable 1,469,794
Deferred revenue 111,999
Total liabilities 3,092,244

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted 278,278
Temporarily restricted 632,347
Total net assets 910,625

Total liabilities and net assets $4,002,869

Activities highlights

Revenues and support
Government grants $7,790,117
Foundation grants 376,300
Contributions 338,103
Agency fees 95,774
Other 126,844
Total revenues $8,727,138

Expenses
Program** $8,155,072 **
Administrative 186,401
Development 68,395
Total expenses $8,409,868

**Program detail
Shelter/Housing $6,631,146
Prevention/Rapid Re-housing 787,149
Homeless Management Information Systems 512,413
Central Access Point 144,942
Homeless to Homes 79,422
Total program costs $8,155,072 **

*From Financial Statements Audited by Barnes, Dennig & Co., Ltd.
Board members

John Young, 
Board Chair
Scott Knox, 
Secretary
Jillian Brown, 
Treasurer
Jeff Holtmeier
Margaret Moertl
Mark Stecher
Michael Head
Fanni Johnson
Sabrina Shattles
Edward Buyinski
Mary Pater
Ron Cramer

GET INVOLVED
Learn more about how to donate or volunteer, visit us at www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org

Strategies to End Homelessness is funded in part by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, is a United Way Agency Partner and a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity.

www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org · info@end-homelessness.org · 513.263.2780

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