



# STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

A biannual publication of Strategies to End Homelessness

Spring / Summer Update - 2016

## *One-of-a-kind outreach app developed locally*

**You can now be the connection for those experiencing homelessness, to street outreach services**

A new app developed at Northern Kentucky University has technology breaking down barriers between the homeless and street outreach services.

The Street Reach app uses location based technology to allow community members like you to make electronic reports for those in need. It also allows anyone experiencing homelessness to reach out for help. The app is a result of a collaboration between NKU, the university's Center for Applied Informatics, and Strategies to End Homelessness.

"Street Reach makes it possible for community members to provide help to the homeless, and also educates the public about what resources are available in our community," said Rachael Winters, NKU Professor of Social Work. "We believe that it could become a national model."



The free app is [currently available on Google Play](#), and will arrive in the iOS App Store at the end of May 2016.



You notice someone living outside.

Open the app, enter a few brief details, and click send.

Strategies to End Homelessness receives the report and notifies a street outreach worker.



## Denise's story

When you've never had to ask for help, it can be very difficult to reach out.

When you have four little girls depending on you, you have no choice. Denise always worked to support her family, at times working two or three jobs. Then due to an error in the re-certification of housing paperwork and a change in management at her apartment complex, she became homeless.

Devastated by her situation, she reached out to our Central Access Point hotline and was referred to a family shelter, where she was offered life-skills courses that guided her back to self-sufficiency. Denise said the experience changed her life and helped her to become independent again, stating that the shelter's director of client services was her mentor and "gave me enough tools to be successful in my life".

Today, Denise is a nurse's assistant at Cincinnati Public Schools and is happily married to her husband Mike, who she met through church. Three of her girls are now in college and one is a new mom, making her a very proud grandma. Denise stays in touch with those who helped her and volunteers to help other families in shelter saying, "it's now my turn to give back".

## Designated a Unified Funding Agency

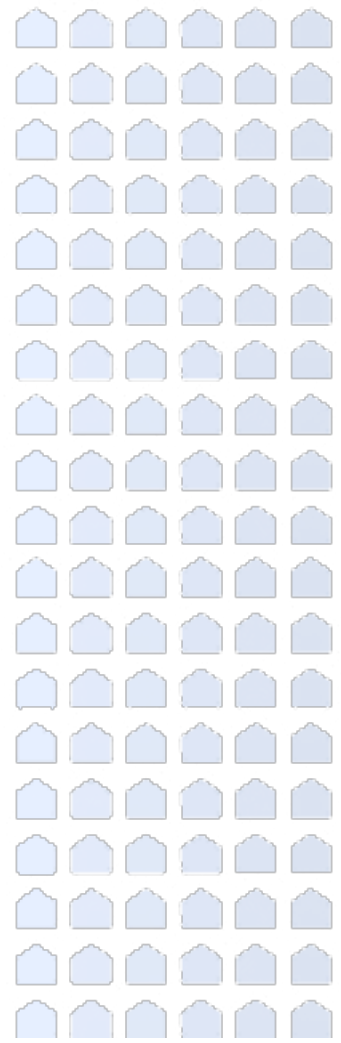
Together we are reaching significant milestones

With your support of our mission, Strategies to End Homelessness has received a very prestigious designation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We have been named a Unified Funding Agency, receiving recognition for our community's homeless services system being both high-performing and exceptionally effective. **While there are over 430 systems in the United States, we are one of only four to have been chosen by HUD to receive this top designation.**

Being a Unified Funding Agency will provide our partner agencies with greater flexibility, making it easier for resources to be given to those in greatest need.



**We are honored to receive this designation and thank you for continuing to invest in our organization. With your generosity, we are making a difference, one homeless family, veteran, youth, and person at a time.**



## Solutions for Family Homelessness: you can make a difference in the lives of families

A community-wide strategy designed to solve critical issues for homeless and at-risk families

Every day our Central Access Point takes calls from families such as Denise, the Solutions for Family Homelessness plan (released in October 2015), has the goal to make family homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. As we work towards this goal, we will measure our progress along four measures.

### Performance targets



Reduce the percentage of families who return to homelessness



Reduce the percentage of families who are turned away without services



Reduce the length of homeless episodes for families



Increase the percentage of families who become permanently housed

## Preparing for seasonal spike in family homelessness

You can keep families together and connected to critical services

Each summer, the demand for family shelter beds peaks. Parents and their children find themselves in a situation where shelters are full, and they have nowhere else to turn. To help meet this increase and prevent families from being on the streets during the summer months, family shelters temporarily place homeless families into motels until additional space in a shelter can be found.

Working with the Family Housing Partnership (Bethany House Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, The Salvation Army, and YWCA of Greater Cincinnati), Strategies to End Homelessness covers the costs of these temporary shelters and additional case management services, so more families can have immediate access to direct support.

**With summer nearly here, trends predict another influx of families in need of shelter. [Click here to donate today](#), and help our local families in need be placed into a safe place.**





# STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

*“I hope to change Cincinnati in 2016 by helping Greater Cincinnatians understand how thousands of small efforts can add up to a coordinated community effort to prevent and end homelessness.”*

- Kevin Finn, President/CEO, one of the Enquirer Media's 16 for 2016, a selection of leaders who are making a significant impact in Cincinnati this year.

We are asking you to join us **today**, in our movement to **prevent and end homelessness in Cincinnati.**

## Donate

[Be a part of the solution](#) and support our system of care.

## Volunteer

[Lend us your talents!](#) We can use your help, or we can connect you to one of our 30 partner agencies for additional opportunities.

## Educate

We welcome the opportunity to speak to companies about our work. Contact us at [info@end-homelessness.org](mailto:info@end-homelessness.org) or by calling 513-263-2785.

## Connect



[Download the new Street Reach app!](#)



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