Laying the foundation for better futures

2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Dear friends:

We have reason to celebrate: our region is positioned to end chronic homelessness in the near future, and Community Housing Network is proud to provide homes for thousands of these residents.

Going forward, our community must apply the lessons learned in ending chronic homelessness to housing individuals and families with persistent mental health conditions and addiction disorders, as well as at-risk youth who are homeless, in foster care, or connected to family and children services. Supportive housing will help for these vulnerable populations find stability and fully recover.

CHN has grown to become an organization that houses and serves nearly 4,000 adults and children. In 2018, we will embrace a new strategic plan to guide our success on a large scale. The plan will leverage our community’s success through new opportunities to serve all vulnerable people who need permanent supportive housing.

We need your assistance to preserve and expand permanent supportive housing. Investing in affordable housing has a proven track record, yet our future success is seriously threatened by the proposed 2018 tax and spending cuts. Many major programs are at risk, from the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program to rental assistance. These reductions could potentially supersize the over $4 billion in cuts that housing providers have already absorbed since 2010 to federal programs that provide affordable homes and services for people in need.

We urge you to make policy makers aware of our community’s success in ending chronic homelessness and the importance of federal funding to continue our progress. Thank you for supporting our mission.

Sincerely,

John Royer
Board Chair
Samantha Shuler
Chief Executive Officer

Community Housing Network
provides supportive housing that creates opportunities for our residents to be successful. We expand these opportunities and impact our community by collaborating with supportive partners.
Grants promote residents’ empowerment

Once they’ve achieved stability through supportive housing, many CHN residents turn to the goals their disabilities interrupted, and seek enriching opportunities through education, physical health improvement, and employment readiness.

This year, CHN awarded 38 residents more than $50,000 through the Susan E. Weaver Development Fund. Residents used the grants for a variety of affirming pursuits, including GED courses, college-level classes, truck driving school, barber college, glass-blowing, gym memberships, a poetry seminar, equipment for nurse aide training, and culinary school.

The fund was created to honor Susan Weaver, Community Housing Network’s founding CEO.

A new option for recovery success

Construction is underway on Laurel Green, a 40-unit supportive housing development for residents experiencing mental health conditions and substance use disorders. The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County will coordinate on-site services designed to support residents’ recovery needs.

Laurel Green apartments are within walking distance to public transportation, convenience stores and restaurants. A park, library and other amenities are located within a half-mile.

CHN’s invaluable financing partners are: Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Franklin County, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, and Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Collaboration helps transform YWCA housing

Community Housing Network worked with YWCA Columbus to renovate the historic Griswold Building in downtown Columbus, which re-opened in February. The extensive makeover increased the number of residences for low-income women with histories of homelessness and disabilities from 69 to 91, and replaced communal kitchens and bathrooms and single-room occupant units with efficiency and one-bedroom apartments each with private kitchens and bathrooms.

CHN consulted with the YWCA on funding strategies and requirements, development team coordination, and construction management. Many public and private funders contributed to the project, recognizing the YWCA’s long and successful history of empowering women. CHN was proud to be a part of the renovation, which will enable women to pursue recovery in a safe and supportive environment.

Flights of fancy

Inspiration takes flight in the form of a permanent art installation on the side of a CHN apartment building that is home to residents in recovery. Called the Messenger Wall, the artwork consists of 650 hand-carved and pigmented bricks and 26 cast brick pigeons.

CHN’s building was chosen for its prominence in the Short North, a vibrant Columbus neighborhood. Artists Eric Rausch and Jen Kiko designed the work, intended as a tribute to John Angelo, the founder of the Short North Alliance, whom the community saw as a messenger for the neighborhood and its people. Funded by the Alliance and community sponsors, the art piece was dedicated in June.

CHN is proud to be the site of the area’s first permanent art installation in 10 years.

CHN expands its homeless programs

In summer 2017, CHN expanded its Community Shelter Board projects to sponsor a master lease program and negotiate with third-party landlords to preserve over 200 units committed to serving chronically homeless individuals and families. The program funds rental assistance to make the housing affordable to low-income residents. CHN also partnered with Southeast Healthcare Services to offer residents support to maintain their health and housing.

Briggsdale expansion is underway

The Briggsdale community is poised for expansion. Briggsdale Apartments II will add 40 one-bedroom units to the campus originally developed in 2004. As a result, a total of 75 residents will live in supportive housing linked to social, health, and employment services.

On track to open in fall 2018, the development adds art therapy, an activity room, and social service meeting rooms, while expanding the existing computer room to enhance the quality of life for all Briggsdale residents.

CHN is grateful to our funding and operating partners: the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Community Shelter Board, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Huntington National Bank, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On-site support services will continue through CHN’s partnership with Concord Counseling. CHN is proud that Briggsdale Apartments II will contribute to ending chronic homelessness and improving the well-being of community members struggling with disabilities.
**Rehab** preserves family housing

Families are enjoying significant upgrades following the renovation of CHN’s 8-unit apartment building in Upper Arlington. CHN added features that improve safety and durability, lower maintenance costs, and enhance quality of life.

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Park National Bank, and the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County provided the necessary funding.

Renovating apartments is a cost-effective means to protect the community’s initial investment and preserve them as a healthy shared resource.

CHN partnered with community leaders to secure grant funding, city approvals, and environmental review. The park was funded by grants from the Columbus Foundation, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Puffin Foundation West, Ltd., Scotts Miracle-Gro, and the Shackelford Family Foundation.

**Planting seeds for collaboration**

CHN hopes that a new park adjacent to its planned development on Parsons Avenue will bear fruit. LA-based artists, of the art collaborative Fallen Fruit, joined with the Wexner Center in April to create the South Side Fruit Park, at South Washington and Reeb Avenues. The park is designed to promote community collaboration and provide a healthy shared resource.

**Measures of Success**

- **Successful Housing**: Households that remain in the Permanent Support Housing (PSH) system or exit to other permanent housing
- **Housing Affordability**: Households that exited the PSH system successfully with a housing cost that doesn’t exceed 50% of their income
- **Housing Stability**: Households that maintain PSH and don’t return to emergency shelter or the streets
- **CHN Housing Occupancy**: Daily average occupancy shows high demand for housing and CHN’s skillful use of resources

CHN owns and operates more than 1,800 units of supportive housing in the City of Columbus and suburban communities throughout Franklin County.
PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio
Alvis
Amethyst, Inc.
The Arlington Bank
Ayers Staffing
Berardi + Partners
Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
Children’s Academy
CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence
City of Columbus Land Bank
Clare United Methodist Church
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Columbus Area Integrated Health Services Inc.
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Columbus Division of Police
The Columbus Foundation
Columbus South Side Area Commission
Columbus Urban League
Community Development for All People
Community Properties of Ohio
Community Research Partners
Community Support Network
COMPASS Program
Broad Street Presbyterian Church
Concord Counseling Services
Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC)
Directions for Youth and Families
Discovery District Civic Association
Equitas Health
Fallen Fruit
Fifth Third Bank
First Merchants Bank
Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services
Franklin County Land Bank
Franklin County Veterans Service Commission
Godman Guild
Goodwill Columbus
HandsOn Central Ohio
Hamilton Local School District
Homeless Families Foundation
Huckleberry House, Inc.
Huntington National Bank
IMPACT Community Action
Ingram-White Castle Foundation
KeyBank
The Kleingers Group
Leadership Columbus
Local Matters
Lower Lights Christian Health Center
Lutheran Social Services
Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.
Maryhaven
MCR Services
Melissa’s House
Mental Health America of Franklin County
Metropolitan Community Services: TOUCH Multicultural Advocates for Cultural Competence
NAMI Franklin County
NAMI Ohio
Netcare Access
New Horizons Methodist Church
North Central Mental Health Services
North Community Counseling
Ohio Housing Trust Fund
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
The Harry C. Moores Foundation
Franklin County Board of Commissioners
Big Lots Foundation
Board of Franklin County
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Columbus and Franklin County
Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus, Ohio

FUNDERS
Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County
Big Lots Foundation
City of Columbus
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Community Shelter Board
Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati
Franklin County Board of Commissioners
The Harry C. Moores Foundation
Individual Donations and Contributions
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ohio Development Services Agency
Ohio Housing Finance Agency
Osteopathic Heritage Foundations
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

PROBLEMS WITH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Briggsdale Apartments
Dogwood Glen Apartments
East Fifth Avenue Apartments
Hawthorne Grove Apartments
Holy Avenue Apartments
Inglewood Court Apartments
North 22nd Street Apartments
North High Street Apartments
Parsons Avenue Apartments
Safe Haven Apartments
Southpoint Place Apartments
St. Clair Hotel Apartments

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUPS & OTHER COMMUNITY ADVISORS
Bronzeville Neighborhood Association
Campus Partners for Community Urban Development
Children’s Academy
City of Columbus
City of Columbus City Neighborhood Liaisons Program
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Columbus Division of Police
Columbus Public Health
Columbus Urban League
COMPASS Program
Broad Street Presbyterian Church
Discovery Special Improvement District
Driving Park Area Commission
East Columbus Civic Association
East Fifth Avenue Business Association, Inc.
Eastfield-Westfield Block Watch
F&W Properties
Franklin County Pride Center
Gladden Community House
Greater Hilltop Area Commission
Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts
Krumm Park Recreation Center
The Long Street Business Association
Mt. Vernon Avenue District Improvement Association, Inc.
Near East Area Commission
Near East Pride Center
New Horizons Housing

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