Since its founding in 1987, Community Housing Network has helped thousands of people challenged with mental illness, addiction disorders and histories of homelessness find a permanent place to live. CHN understands that stability and recovery are best achieved when a person puts down roots in a neighborhood surrounded with caring people and access to assistance programs.

CHN develops, owns and manages a form of housing known as supportive housing. Supportive housing offers disabled persons a home and wraps them in services. This type of housing provides a stable living environment and helps tenants find work, maintain housing, make progress toward recovery, mend broken relationships, and give back to the community.

Most people could not distinguish a CHN-managed property from a “regular” apartment building. And, that’s the point. CHN apartments blend in to the neighborhoods in which they’re located, even enhancing a neighborhood’s appearance by renovating dilapidated or abandoned real estate. More than 900 apartments are scattered throughout 28 zip codes in Franklin County, including Columbus suburbs.

By every measure, CHN helps tenants achieve success – tenants stay in housing, become connected to treatment, and increase their incomes through employment or disability benefits.
**CHN’s history**

The Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board (ADAMH) formed CHN to be its housing agency for people with long-term mental illness who are able to live independently in the community. In 1998, CHN expanded its mission to provide affordable housing for people with disabilities related to addiction, including people who are chronically homeless.

Success in housing homeless individuals resulted in CHN also becoming a partner agency of the Community Shelter Board, which coordinates local agencies’ efforts to address the needs of homeless people in Franklin County.

**What CHN does**

CHN develops and operates permanent supportive housing. On the development side, CHN acquires property, assembles financing and oversees a project through design, engineering and construction. CHN’s financing includes low-income housing tax credits and tax-exempt bonds, and government loans and grants. CHN also pursues critical private financing from corporate and foundation grants, for a blend of private and public funding.

On the operations side, CHN provides traditional property management services, obtains and administers rent subsidies, and provides a continuum of services to help individuals be successful in housing and in life. CHN provides all customary property management functions, including 24-hour, on-call maintenance and repair, tenant screening and selection, lease-up, lease enforcement, and rent collection.

**A network of partners**

“Network” is a very important part of Community Housing Network’s name. Over the years, CHN has cultivated a broad network of relationships with community groups, housing and social service providers, public officials, police and neighbors. Renting an affordable apartment to a person with disabilities is just the beginning. It is through help from this circle of partners that a person can achieve his or her potential.
One size does not fit all in the social service world.

That’s why CHN offers a variety of housing options to match our tenants’ needs. For example, tenants with long-term housing issues may need the advantage of full-time, on-site staffing. Other tenants are capable of living without on-site supports. They avail themselves of CHN’s variety of services with help from Housing Retention Specialists, who ensure that tenants maintain their housing and their opportunity for stability and recovery.

CHN operates three different housing models to combine housing and support to best match the needs of the individual. In all housing models, tenants sign a conventional lease and pay rent based on their incomes.

We present our 2005 projects in order of the most to least service-intensive. No matter what type of housing, CHN relies on a network of partners to link tenants to the services that enhance their lives.
Briggsdale
Apartments

An unusual barn-raising

The opening of Columbus' newest supportive housing development was celebrated in style with a gathering of supporters and a garden dedication.

Located on Columbus' southwest side, the development attracted nearly $4 million in financing from a dozen private and public investors, including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and state, local and private equity. At the "heavy" end of CHN's service scale, Briggsdale is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and has an on-site Service Engagement Specialist and Registered Nurse.

Briggsdale is the first place that some of our tenants have called home in a long time. It represents true independent living for tenants, many of whom are overcoming problems keeping steady employment due to complications of chronic mental illness or episodic homelessness. Tenants are working toward employment both on their own and through CHN's Employment Placement Center.

The unique structure, designed with neighborhood input and reminiscent of the former Briggsdale farm, features 35 studio apartments, a computer center and gathering space. The location was selected for its easy access to public transportation, shopping and employment opportunities. CHN formed a Community Advisory Council to assist with project planning and ensure long-term community participation. The Council entered into a Good Neighbor Agreement, which defines the community standards and operations to assure the housing's success for both the tenants and the neighborhood.

In a life challenged with severe mental illness, there have been many lows for Harry. Perhaps the most striking occurred when he was living outdoors in Columbus. "In the springtime, I would hear the helicopter overhead and they sprayed for mosquitoes." As the suffocating fog descended, he thought, "if it kills mosquitoes, what's it going to do to me?" Schizophrenia took away Harry's home and career as a computer programmer, but it never robbed him of his dignity.

Although uprooted by homelessness and illness, Harry's life is a success. He has lived in Community Housing Network apartments for 15 years, holding a CHN lease longer than any other tenant.

"CHN has been very accepting. It's wonderful to not worry what the landlord will think if they know you have schizophrenia. The other persons in the building have mental handicaps also and that gives me some comfort."

Before the illness struck, Harry earned multiple college degrees and served as a minister and Latin teacher. Now he lives quietly at home. "I attend the CHN annual picnic as a place to go to mix socially with people who won't look down on you because you have a mental illness."

Harry is occupied playing a small keyboard, using his computer, sending letters to friends and relatives, and visiting his 94-year-old father in Kentucky. Harry volunteers for CHN, helping tenants with their résumés and other support. "There's nothing I could do to prevent the illness, and I certainly didn't want it. Even though I have a strike against me, it's nice to know that you have a purpose in life."

The project was made possible with the support of the Community Shelter Board's Rebuilding Lives initiative and the ADAMH Board's matching funds for services. CHN partners with Southeast, Inc. to provide services.

Many neighbors attended the Grand Opening celebration. They understand that we are stronger as a community when everyone has an opportunity to work, to take care of their mental and physical well-being, and pursue their potential.
Making a “PACT” to help people

The power of partnerships

People who enter CHN housing with severe and chronic mental illness or history of homelessness have a better success rate with a service-enriched place to live. Providing these services is not only expensive but also mandates that numerous agencies contribute their resources and expertise to meet the unique needs of each tenant, from housing and health care to veterans benefits and employment.

Most CHN residents have been out of social networks for a long time and need professional help to prepare for the workforce or qualify for government entitlements if unable to support themselves. Since one agency cannot do it all, the Rebuilding Lives PACT Team Initiative (RLPTI) brings together an inter-disciplinary team to deliver services to clients in their homes and in the community.

Coordinated by the Community Shelter Board, the Rebuilding Lives PACT Team Initiative is part of the Collaborative Initiative to End Homelessness, a federal strategy to abolish chronic homelessness in our nation.

Along with CSB and CHN, the RLPTI partnership includes the Community Shelter Board, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, Inc., Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, Southeast, Inc., and Chalmers P. Wylie VA Outpatient Clinic. Funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides rental assistance and operational support for 80 units of permanent supportive housing at five locations.

CHN master-leases and manages 80 units of permanent supportive housing at five sites. An extra unit at each location is designated for a live-in resident manager. A CHN mobile resident manager coordinates the housing needs for an additional 28 CMHA units.
A place to call home

It’s a universal yearning. Everyone wants a place to call home – our own sanctuary within a caring community.

Most of us move easily from our parents house to a residence of our own. But for too many people in Franklin County, this progression is halted by complications from mental illness, substance addiction and long periods of unemployment that lead to homelessness.

CHN opens doors to homes … and healing.

*From life on the streets to life in community.*
*From isolation to friendships.*
*From chemical dependency to sobriety.*
*From joblessness to employment.*

Thanks to the generous spirit that lives in Columbus, nearly 1,500 Columbus-area residents are helped by Community Housing Network. By investing in people and properties, CHN helps transform lives and communities. It all begins with the vision that everyone in Franklin County deserves a place to call home.
MISSION

Community Housing Network, Inc. provides safe, affordable rental housing and linkage to supportive services for people with disabilities and other special needs such as homelessness. CHN serves as a developer, owner and property manager, and facilitates access to rent subsidies and private housing.
To our Supporters and Friends

Community Housing Network opened its doors in 1987 with a staff of two operating from an office in the Franklin County Mental Health Board, now known as the ADAMH Board. Our budget was modest, but our vision was grand.

From the beginning, CHN has been at the forefront of innovation, starting with our participation in a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program to test models of community-based care for adults with serious mental illness. Most cities around the country, including Columbus, released people from mental hospitals into communities that lacked coordinated treatment and housing services.

The Foundation project spawned social change to promote supportive housing – affordable, permanent housing combined with health and social services. As an early pioneer, CHN was part of a new, national movement.

Over the years, CHN and ADAMH have learned a great deal about the best approaches to couple permanent housing with supportive services. We are a significant partner with the Community Shelter Board’s nationally recognized Rebuilding Lives Plan to help chronically homeless people break out of the cycle of emergency shelter and into permanent housing.
CHN has grown as we respond to the increasing need for supportive housing in Franklin County. Today CHN owns and operates more than 900 supportive housing units and manages or administers rent subsidies for an additional 225 units. Thanks to our funders and collaborators, we now serve 1,500 tenants – men, women and children who now have a place to call home.

A home is more than bricks and mortar. It is a place where we find support and friendship. Especially for our tenants, a home means acceptance, healing and personal growth.

2005 highlights
One of the highlights of the year was the Grand Opening of Briggadale Apartments on Columbus’ southwest side. With the theme, “Steps of Change,” we recognized supporters and neighbors who came together to uplift 35 tenants who have made commitments to become healthy and self-sufficient.

We substantially renovated properties located throughout Franklin County, creating a place to call home for men and women who now occupy safe and secure apartments. These include renovations underway to make Maynard Apartments modern and homey, and the transformation of the historic St. Clair Hotel into housing for disabled, homeless seniors.

We also began taking a critical look at each building in our portfolio, and this process will continue through 2008. CHN has been buying properties since 1987, and in the ensuing years, resident needs, neighborhoods and service delivery models have changed. For example, we have a demand for more one-bedroom and studio apartments. In response, we sold some duplexes and purchased more one-bedroom units, ensuring no net loss in our total housing stock.

People come to us with complex needs that can only be solved by working in collaboration with other partners. This year, CHN participated in the launch of the Rebuilding Lives PACT Team Initiative. Through this program, coordinated by the Community Shelter Board, CHN master leases 80 units from five different private landlords, and the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Agency provides an additional 28 public housing units to the program. Every week, professionals in mental health, housing and employment meet to coordinate a tailored array of supports for individuals in our care.

Organizational growth
CHN pursues innovative ways to help our residents enjoy life with a renewed spirit. To address residents’ desires to be more productive, we made major changes in our Employment Center, expanding outreach with employers and tenants to connect more people with jobs.

Since our early days in the late 1980s, we have grown our net assets to more than $45 million, including assets of affiliate companies, and now have more than 100 staff dedicated to helping people end their struggling and maintain hope for the future.

Your support is vital
As a stakeholder, you make a major contribution toward improving the lives of people who come to us challenged by nearly overwhelming problems and stay with us to turn their lives around.

Sadly, more than 8,000 people with severe mental illness or chemical dependency live in inadequate housing in our county. The waiting list of eligible people for CHN’s housing approaches 2,000. Your continued support is vitally needed to ensure that every one of these men, women and children have a quality, permanent place to go home to.

The Board of Trustees, management and staff of Community Housing Network express their deep appreciation to you for enabling us to give hundreds of people a place to call home.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Wittmann
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Susan Weaver
CEO
The program “fast tracks” people into housing, since the leased apartments are in move-in condition and don’t require renovation. A typical CHN new construction development can take from 18 months to two years before it can be occupied, compared to six months from funding award to a place to live under the PACT Team initiative. This approach also saves money in land acquisition, construction and development costs.

The Rebuilding Lives PACT Team is beginning its third year in 2006. Research began in 2005 to measure local outcomes, which will be reported to the community.
Imagine a once-bustling hotel, circa 1940, abandoned as the surrounding neighborhood changed. The historic St. Clair hotel in the near-east neighborhood of Columbus was once where traveling African-American musicians rested after a long night of entertaining before journeying to the next gig.

CHN has reclaimed and rejuvenated the brick building as the home for people aged 55 and older, some of whom may well have caught the acts of the previous occupants. All of the 31 units are set aside for low-income seniors recovering from addiction or who have physical or mental health disabilities.

For recreation, the seniors enjoy the Mayme Moore Park just one block away and the nearby Sawyer Recreation center with programs designed for senior citizens.

Neighbors are excited about the beautiful investment in one of their historic streets. As neighbors recapture their heritage and pride, St. Clair’s tenants reclaim their futures.
Maynard Ave. Apartments

Building new lives

The Maynard Avenue Apartments represent CHN’s 600-plus smaller, scattered sites that offer tenants the opportunity to mainstream into the community. The eight-unit building is rented to individuals disabled by mental illness or co-occurring disorder who are capable of living without on-site staff services.

As with its other projects, CHN offers specialized property management services to Maynard residents, including the services of a Housing Retention Specialist for the site.

The Housing Specialist partners with mobile community-based case managers employed by ADAMH community mental health centers. They work with these case managers through regular meetings and other interactions to assist tenants to remain stable in their housing.

Originally built in 1948, the Maynard Apartments are located in a residential area on Columbus’s north side, just a few blocks from Cleveland Avenue in the Linden area. Maynard’s location offers many services and amenities. The buildings are almost 60 years old, and although they were substantially renovated in 1989 and have been maintained over this period, they have aged. Major systems need to be replaced and the kitchens and bathrooms need to be updated. A community meeting room will be added. CHN has applied for funding to renovate the buildings and keep the rents affordable to its tenants.

Like its residents, Maynard Apartments is undergoing transformation, opening the door to recovery for people seeking to build new lives.

When Dwanda’s husband returned home from prison, he brought his demons with him. Repeated violence against the family landed him back in prison — this time with a life sentence.

Dwanda’s dream of a happy family life was shattered. Depressed and unable to function, she lost her job. When she could no longer pay the rent, she and her three young sons were evicted from their apartment. “I never saw myself in that situation,” Dwanda said. But there she was, suddenly homeless, sick and out of work. Dwanda sought refuge in an emergency shelter. After her counselor referred her to CHN, Dwanda and her boys moved to an apartment in the Columbus suburb of Upper Arlington.

“I expected that we would be shunned away” by the suburbanites, “but it was the total opposite.” Neighbors welcomed her with open arms, helping furnish her apartment and becoming new friends. School personnel have given her sons extra aid to make sure they adjust to their new surroundings and succeed in and out of the classroom. “They are there for whatever our needs are.”

“We’re still settling, we’ve had to start from scratch, but we’re to the point where our home is becoming a home. I’m still going through a healing process, but every day I see a positive change due to CHN. The Housing Retention Specialists get me involved in a lot of programs.”

Today, Dwanda is taking classes to earn her GED and is seeking a part-time job. She’s been asked to share her inspirational story with other victims of family violence.

She reflects on her family’s relative tranquility following years of turmoil. “It’s amazing, and I thank God because he knows what we don’t expect. He comes in and overwhelms us with joy and uplifting people.”
Working toward self-sufficiency

Lowering the barriers to work

CHN’s Employment Center this year embarked on a new course to assist more tenants, more successfully.

CHN launched the job placement program in 2000, based on evidence that steady works offers tenants more than increased income. Employment helps people with disabilities maintain housing, manage and overcome addictions, and increase their independence. According to the Center of Vocational Alternatives, approximately 85 percent of persons who are disabled by mental illness, in Ohio and nationally, are unemployed and face chronic employment barriers. These include limited education or skills, lack of transportation and child care, low self-esteem, and limited social skills that are needed to find and retain a job.

CHN’s focus is to get people placed in jobs as soon as possible, providing support to help them maintain their employment. As a result of these services, the percentage of employed tenants doubled from just 11 percent in 2000 to 20 percent overall and more than tripled to 37 percent for residents in CHN’s Homeless Programs.

This year, CHN began exploring other ways to help tenants reach their employment goals. CHN conducted a review of best practices confirming that clients with severe mental illness can compete against job seekers in the mainstream job market, not only in the social service field.

Funding from United Way, secured in 2006, will allow CHN to hire a Work Force Developer and realign the positions of staff members to work with tenants to
On a typical day, Brandon is busy helping people while he works at a Community Housing Network property on North High Street. That’s quite a big change from three years ago, when he would sleep for 15 hours and not care what happened at the end of the day.

A bout of depression up-ended his life. He became restless and moved around Ohio, eventually living in a cabin on the Muskingum River near Zanesville. “I didn’t want to be around people,” Brandon says. “I would get physically ill in groups and have to leave. I had no clue what was happening. Doctors kept giving me a different diagnosis.”

“The life I was living was horrible.” Eventually, he sought help and was referred to CHN housing, where he lived for four years. “It was nice to have people around who understood, who you could call if you needed help.”

He paid attention to a CHN newsletter touting employment opportunities, and after he started feeling better, he enrolled in a training program at CHN’s Employment Center. “I didn’t make it through the first time because I was so depressed, but they never gave up on me.”

With his illness behind him and ready to tackle his first full-time job in years, why did he choose to work for CHN? “You feel really good about the giving back part. I kind of point tenants in the right direction.” Tenants can believe him because he has lived in their shoes on his journey to a better life.

Currently, CHN’s Employment Center assists 50 tenants per year to gain employment in the community. Once the initiatives are in place, CHN projects that successful placements will double from 50 to 100 per year.

People with mental illness or other disabilities are rediscovering their self-worth and healthier lives through meaningful employment, thanks to CHN and employers who see individual potential beyond limitations.
Supportive housing offers disabled and homeless individuals a stable place to live and the opportunity to receive treatment, seek employment, and lead meaningful lives. CHN measures the success of its programs based on how long people stay in their housing, increased personal income, and participation in services and treatment.

Although less quantifiable, CHN and the community witness success every time a tenant gets a job interview, is reunited with family members, or finishes their education.

**Record of results for 2005**

**Length of stay**
Average length of stay is more than three years, and 85 percent have maintained housing for at least a year.

**Accessing services**
More than 85 percent receive case management, on-site service engagement or both.

**Increased income**
Employment rates have increased from 11 percent of residents in 2000 to 20 percent overall, and more than tripled for residents in CHN’s Homeless Programs (37 percent).

**Benefits**
Close to two-thirds of residents access benefits within one year of moving into CHN apartments.
### Statements of Financial Position

**December 31, 2005**

**Assets**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Current assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted cash</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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**Liabilities**

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<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses and liabilities</td>
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<td>Notes payable</td>
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<td>Bonds payable</td>
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</table>

**Net Assets**

- Unrestricted net assets          3,666,755
-                                      24,428,388

### Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

**December 31, 2005**

**Revenues**

- Rental income                      $1,193,054
- Grants from governmental and other agencies
  - Rent subsidies                    2,279,634
  - Supportive services               4,095,614
  - Forgiveness of debt               295,255
  - Development and management fees   383,204
  - Other income                      446,234
-                                      8,692,995

**Expenses**

- Program services:
  - Service-enriched housing           3,887,492
  - Other housing models               3,356,633
  - Property management                144,236
  - Real estate development            135,649
-                                      7,524,010
- Management and general              763,396
-                                      8,287,406

**Change in net assets**

- 405,589

**Unrestricted net assets**

- Beginning of year                   3,261,166
- End of year                         $3,666,755

Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

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### Who CHN serves

CHN serves a total of 1,495 tenants:
- 883 are households with 1 person
- 176 are families with children under 18
- 339 are children

Average age of heads of households: 45
Average income is $5,221

Description of tenants:
- 55% are African American
- 43% are Caucasian
- 1% are Hispanic
- 1% are Native American, Asian or other races or combination of races
Major Supporters

Funders

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board (ADAMH) of Franklin County
Community Shelter Board

City of Columbus
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Eck Family Foundation
Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

Franklin County Board of Commissioners
Harry C. Moores Foundation
Ingram-White Castle Foundation
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing

Ohio Department of Development
Ohio Department of Mental Health
Ohio Housing Finance Agency
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Columbus Foundation
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
United Way of Central Ohio
Donations

Partners & Collaborations

Adult Parole Authority
Bureau of Vocation Rehabilitation
Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
Children’s Hospital Behavioral Health Services
Choices
Columbus AIDS Task Force
Columbus Area, Inc.
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Columbus Housing Partnership
Columbus Neighborhood Health Center
Columbus Police Department
Community Properties of Ohio (CPO)
Community Research Partners
Concord Counseling Services
Continuum of Care Steering Committee
Corporation for Supportive Housing
COVA
Dublin Counseling Center
Firstlink
Franklin County Children’s Services
Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services
Friends of the Homeless
Homeless Families Foundation
Huckleberry House
Lutheran Social Services
Maryhaven
Mental Health Association of Franklin County, Inc.

Mid-Ohio Food Bank
NAMI Franklin County
National Church Residences
Neighborhood House
Netcare Access
North Central Medical Health Services
North Community Counseling Centers
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
Partners in Active Living
Project Linden
Salvation Army
Southeast, Inc., Recovery and Mental Health Care Services
The Ohio State University
Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare
Veterans Affairs
Volunteers of America
YMCA of Columbus
YWCA of Columbus

Programs with Community Advisory Committees

1494 N. High Street Apartments
1949 Parsons Avenue Apartments
540 Cassady Avenue Apartments
88 - 96 N. 22nd Street
Brigsdale Apartments
East Fifth Avenue Apartments
Holt Avenue Apartments
Safe Havens Community Advisory Committee
Southpoint Place Apartments
St. Clair Apartments

Organizations Represented on Community Advisory Groups and Other Community Advisors

Campus Partners
Children’s Academy
Columbus City Neighborhood Liaisons
COMPASS Program
Broad Street Presbyterian Church
Council of South Side Business Organizations
East Columbus Civic Association
East Fifth Avenue Business Association
Eastfield-Westfield Blockwatch
Franklinton Area Commission
F & W Properties

Gladden Community House
Greater Hilltop Area Commission
Harmon Elementary School
King Lincoln Bronzeville Association
Krumm Recreation Center
Long Street Business Association
Mt. Vernon Avenue District
Improvement Association
Near East Area Commission
North Central Area Commission
North Linden Area Commission
Parsons Avenue Merchants Association
Parsons Baptist Church
Reeb Hosack Area Planning Committee
Save Our Southside
Scioto Community Nursing Home
Shenandoah Partnership
South Side Pride Center
South Side Settlement House
Southside Neighborhood Against Crime
Southwest Area Commission
St. Ladius Catholic Church
St. Mary of the Springs
Starr Commonwealth Hannah Neil Center
The Driving Park Area Commission
University Area Commission
University Community Business Association

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Brooke Development

John C. Vorys, Vice Chairman
Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease

James C. Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer
Collateral Mortgage Company

Rita Cohen
Community Volunteer

Alicia Smith, Health Care Compliance Solutions, Inc.

Mari Sunami, Southside Settlement House

G. Gary Tyack, Tyack & Pausch

Dean Weinert, Eaton National Bank & Trust Co.

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Susan Weaver, CEO
Anthony Penn, COO

Donald Hollembak, CFO

Tiffiny Jeffers, Director of Property Management

Christine Mitchell, Executive Assistant

Samantha Shuler, Director of Real Estate Development

Mike Tyan, Director of Housing Services

Beverly Wilkes, Director of Grants and Compliance
CHN serves all of Franklin County.

Community Housing Network apartments are scattered throughout 28 zip codes in Franklin County.
Community Housing Network
957 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH  43205
614-251-1700
www.chninc.org