Children living in a Community Housing Network residential apartment spell out their visions of
Founding Community Housing Network (CHN) Executive Director and CEO Susan Weaver announced her retirement in 2014. In 1987, Susan was appointed CHN’s first executive director. Under her direction, CHN grew from a handful of supportive housing units to more than 1,800 units today, with net assets of $51 million.

Susan has been rightfully recognized by numerous organizations as a pioneer in supportive housing. Her guidance has positioned CHN as a leader in developing housing for low-income people who also live with mental illness, substance addiction and histories of homelessness. CHN’s successful housing models developed under Susan’s leadership are nationally recognized and emulated.

The staff and board wish Susan the very best and thank her for her passion and endless dedication to housing vulnerable populations, creating hope for thousands of people.

Samantha Shuler, long-time CHN director, was appointed new chief executive officer by the CHN Board of Trustees.

Hawthorn Grove Groundbreaking
Construction began on the 40-unit property on a vacant lot at 550 E. Rich St. in downtown Columbus. The $7 million, three-story project will offer 39 one-bedroom apartments for rent, and one unit is reserved for the resident manager. The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH) will offer supportive services such as recovery, wellness and employment programs on site.

Resident Employment Increased
Thanks to the efforts of CHN’s Employment Services department, resident employment was up to 6 percent, which was a 23 percent increase over the baseline. Programs such as 50 Jobs in 50 Days and ongoing efforts to link residents to training and employment programs fueled the increase.

Preservation Plan Fourth Year Completed
CHN completed the fourth year of its five-year preservation plan. Under the plan, CHN will renovate and repair over 400 apartments to ensure that properties will serve the community. Preserving homes inside and out for future generations continues to be one of CHN’s strategic priorities.

Health and Wellness Programs Added
To help residents focus on their own physical health and wellness, CHN began adding classes such as yoga on-site at some of its properties and formed partnerships with service providers so residents can access other health and wellness services.

Melissa’s House Collaboration
The Melissa’s House Foundation, a Columbus-based nonprofit organization dedicated to creating comfortable, nurturing environments for adults living with mental illness, and CHN partnered to improve the East Fifth Avenue property, updating several common spaces by making them warmer and more inviting for the residents. CHN thanks the foundation, which provided grants to CHN for the improvements.

We believe that stable housing is a platform for receiving needed supportive services that can improve the physical and mental well-being of our residents.

That’s why we link residents to the supportive services they need, either on- or off-site, provided by our exceptional community partners. By addressing supportive needs in addition to housing, CHN provides more effective and less costly alternatives to institutionalization.

By facilitating access to supportive services, we help improve the health, income, life skills and stability of our residents. Most of all, we create hope. By creating hope, we rebuild lives and strengthen communities.

We will continue our work with a singular focus on being the best supportive housing resource for our residents, our sponsors and our community partners. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Blaine Brockman
Board Chairman

Samantha Shuler
Chief Executive Officer

We believe that stable housing is a platform for receiving needed supportive services that can improve the physical and mental well-being of our residents.

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Third Year of Strategic Plan Executed
CHN continued to focus on strategic priorities to enhance efficiency, productivity and effectiveness. A number of departmental changes were made to improve our ability to service residents, respond to maintenance requests and link residents to needed supportive services. Two new directors were hired to oversee Communications and Information Technology. Other personnel adjustments were made to better align staff with CHN’s strategic priorities.

SUSAN WEAVER RETIRES

DEAR FRIENDS

The theme of this year’s annual report—hope—succinctly describes CHN’s mission. Since 1987, CHN has been creating hope for thousands of people throughout Franklin County. Hope that comes from having a stable, permanent place to live.

CHN serves residents with histories of homelessness and who live with mental illness or substance addiction.

Samantha Shuler, long-time CHN director, was appointed new chief executive officer by the CHN Board of Trustees.
William became homeless after expenses began to pile up following his injury. Although he received Workers Compensation payments, they were not enough to cover his daily living expense and rent, so he began living under a bridge. Veterans Affairs referred him to CHN.

William was the first resident to move into CHN’s Inglewood Court supportive housing community. With stable housing, he was able to obtain and maintain employment and avoid alcohol and other addictive substances. CHN also provided linkages to supportive services that helped him address issues that led to his addiction.

William has been sober since moving into CHN supportive housing two years ago. He is employed, helps maintain a community garden, regularly volunteers and hopes to purchase a home in the future.

Cynthia found herself in a physically abusive relationship. For 15 years, she used drugs and alcohol to cope, until she decided to turn her life around.

Cynthia moved into one of CHN’s 24/7 supportive housing facilities in 2007. Through stable housing and linkages to voluntary supportive services, CHN provided the tools and support Cynthia needed to maintain her sobriety and regain her independence.

Cynthia used the skills she learned in training programs offered through CHN and its service partners to eventually land full-time employment. She earned an associate’s degree in social work and hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree in social work as well. She has recently moved into non-CHN housing and has maintained her sobriety since 2007, for which she credits CHN and its service providers.
Creating new affordable housing units to meet overwhelming demand makes sense only if existing units are also preserved.

That’s why CHN embarked on a rigorous, multi-year Preservation Plan to rehabilitate 414 apartments in its buildings. These structures, most built before 1950, were in need of repairs and upgrades to make them serviceable far into the future.

In 2014, CHN rehabbed 80 apartments and closed on construction financing for 65 units throughout Franklin County, putting CHN on track to rejuvenate all units by the end of 2015.

CHN will invest $55 million in this preservation plan. Financing has come from the Ohio Preservation Compact, the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County, Columbus–Franklin County, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, ADAMH Board of Franklin County, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing.

With our sights set on the future, CHN will maintain the value of our properties and preserve homes for residents now and for years to come. Stable housing is the first step toward improving health, maintaining recovery, finding work and keeping families united.

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