The Washtenaw Housing Alliance is a coalition of 35 non-profits and government offices who are committed to ending homelessness in our community. WHA members joined together in 2004 with the cities of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to create “A Home for Everyone: The Blueprint to End Homelessness”. The Blueprint is our vision of what it would take to end homelessness in Washtenaw County. Through this Blueprint our members work together for four major goals: Prevention, More Housing with Services, Reforming the System of Care, and Engaging the Community. In the past 9 years much has been accomplished and much remains to be done. But throughout the years, we continue to work together to ensure that we serve those in our community who are the most vulnerable with effectiveness, efficiency and by utilizing best practices.

When people are housed, other problems can be addressed and lives are improved. As the only organization in the County committed to fulfilling this purpose, the WHA is a leader in building community support for homelessness and housing programs, providing technical assistance to providers to support innovation and best practices, advocating for the needs of people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and supporting the development of more truly affordable housing.

### Homelessness at a Glance

- **4360** individuals experienced homelessness in Washtenaw County in 2012
- 53% were individuals in families with children under the age of 18
- 47% were experiencing homelessness for the first time
- 1300+ The WISD, Education Project for Homeless Youth served more than 1300 homeless school-age youth during 2012

### Our Community’s Work

- Our member agencies provide services to many of the county’s poorest citizens – those with incomes between 0 and 30% of the Average Median Income for Washtenaw County.
- 75% of those who used shelter services left for a positive housing experience and 70% were still housed 12 months later.
- 70% who left Transitional Housing went to permanent housing and 76% were stably housed for 6 months.
- 93% of those who entered Permanent Supportive Housing remained housed for at least a year, and 72% maintained or increased their income.
The world of housing and homelessness work continues to change dramatically as our community needs continue to increase. Federal budget battles in Washington have threatened some of the most successful programs that keep people housed; funds for new affordable housing development are threatened; and our state and local funds are not likely to get back to pre-2008 funding levels. At the center of all of these changes is the Washtenaw Housing Alliance. In these challenging times, the WHA works with our member agencies and our community systems to create more effective programs, greater efficiency, and a higher level of support for our most vulnerable citizens.

This report provides you with the highlights of our work over the last twelve months. We hope you will agree that WHA provides a “value-added” proposition to our community. We appreciate your support and the caring our entire community has shown to people in the most desperate situations. Political leaders, community funders, volunteers, board members of agencies, agency staff and our faith-based communities truly make Washtenaw County a caring community. Please remember, together, we can end homelessness.

Warmly,
Bob Guenzel
President of the Board