Community Benefit Report

2015

#SocksPlus

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
Advocacy

♦ NEOCH and the Homeless Congress met 12 times, filed complaints about the women’s shelter, asked County Government to reform the shelter and set up a website detailing all the problems and the recommended solutions by homeless people called “the House of Payne” on our website.

♦ NEOCH’s Board of Trustees asked Cuyahoga County to suspend all diversion activities for families with children seeking shelter and asked that Coordinated Intake be separated from a shelter operator.

♦ Successfully advocated that the Intake center move out of the shelters. Also, improved the discharge procedures from shelter—still working on oversight of the shelter rules.

♦ Worked with other advocates as a member of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

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Organizational Highlights Continued

- NEOCH working to allow every legitimate voter to have their ballot count no matter the minor technical errors in a lawsuit against the Secretary of State and the Ohio Legislature.
- Assisted those burnt out of their tents down in the Flats and assisted police.

Public Education
- Street Voices members made 24 presentations to schools, churches and faith-based organizations.
- As part of our Homeless Memorial Day and Candlelight Vigil, we read the names of 69 individuals who passed away in 2015 and had some experience with homelessness.
- NEOCH maintains a statistics and research section of our website. We have a popular blog and have posted a series of videos on outreach on the site.
- NEOCH employee was featured on WCPN program “Cleveland Tough - Homelessness”.
- NEOCH assisted with the 25th Homeless Stand Down which served over 1,500 homeless people in January.
- NEOCH hosted a series of training events for those working with homeless people which served nearly 200 people. These included mediation, de-escalation, the importance of outreach, serving the difficult to serve and three Housing 101 trainings.
- Helped put together monthly housing meetings to preserve the number of affordable housing units in Cuyahoga County.
- Assisted with the marketing of HousingCleveland.org and reached the 1 million searches mark once again with over a quarter million unique users and 5,000 landlords using the site.
- Organized an effort to get as many homeless people as possible signed up for the Housing Choice Voucher website in 2015, and the NEOCH Director received an award from Care Alliance.
- Lawyers operated 9 different clinics and were able to see 150 people over the last year. They also collaborated with Legal Aid attorneys to staff a monthly pro se divorce clinic.

Over 1 million searches done on Housing Cleveland.org in 2015 by 233,000 unique individuals
The 2016 Homeless Stand Down was the 25th in Cleveland featuring both homeless vets and non-vets and served 1,500 people in January. NEOCH has partnered on all 25.

NEOCH has failed to effectively reform the Women’s Entry Shelter in Cleveland. We have tried for a dozen years with protests, press releases, meetings with elected officials and stakeholders. We have mobilized the women, filed grievances, set up a “House of Payne” website and talked ourselves hoarse at Homeless Congress meetings.

The conditions are worse today then they were in 2015, 2005 and are about the same as when there were no beds in the basement of First Church in 1998. The staff does not follow the rules and grievances are ignored. Staff lack training and are disrespectful to the women. There are more women stuffed into the building and there is a high degree of tension. Women complain that there are no services and no one on site who can offer help or address issues.

There is a glimmer of hope in that the County is convening a work group to discuss this issue. There is a renewed interest in preventing discharges to the streets, but the women are tired of waiting for a change. The shelter beats them down and tears away their self esteem. The large majority of women are at the shelter for a short period of time and cannot believe that this is the only place for a single woman to find shelter from the storms in her life.

NEOCH Community Organizing from 2015

♦ Collected and distributed hygiene items during the winter season under the umbrella of the #SocksPlus Campaign with the support of Community West Foundation. We provided over $197,000 in tents, boots, hygiene kits, blankets and socks in 2015.

♦ Trained three outreach workers in 2015 and all took jobs serving the homeless community. They helped dozens of individuals into housing or safer locations.

♦ We updated and distributed three versions of the Street Cards. Giving out 12,500 in 2015 and allowing similar numbers of downloads from our website.
### NEOCH Revenue 2015

| Source               | Amount   | %  
|----------------------|----------|---
| Foundation           | $124,240 | 35.8% 
| Government           | $33,591  | 9.7%  
| Individual           | $11,389  | 3.3%   
| Membership           | $9,409   | 2.7%   
| Cmnty Shares         | $7,852   | 2.3%   
| Religious Org.       | $6,222   | 1.8%   
| *Chronicle Paper*    | $3,747   | 1.1%   
| Special Events       | $2,073   | 0.6%   
| Corporations         | $631     | 0.2%   
| In-Kind Asstnce      | $148,333 | 42.7%  
| **Total**            | **$347,487** | 

### NEOCH Expenses 2015

| Category              | Amount   | %  
|-----------------------|----------|---
| Salaries              | $67,432  | 20.6%  
| SocksPlus Purchase    | $54,665  | 16.7%  
| Occupancy             | $17,348  | 5.3%   
| Taxes/Benefits        | $14,783  | 4.5%   
| Professional          | $4,680   | 1.4%   
| Staff Travel          | $4,684   | 1.4%   
| Telephone/Internet    | $3,380   | 1.0%   
| Bank Fees             | $2,646   | 0.8%   
| Office Supplies       | $2,288   | 0.7%   
| Equipment/Mntc        | $2,454   | 0.7%   
| Conference/Memberships| $2,111   | 0.6%   
| Insurance             | $1,576   | 0.5%   
| Printing/Photocopy    | $1,229   | 0.4%   
| Postage               | $996     | 0.3%   
| *Chronicle Printing*  | $733     | 0.2%   
| Donations Distrib     | $146,466 | 44.7%  
| **Total**             | **$327,471** | 

2013 Revenue: $119,303  
2014 Revenue: $142,126

*unaudited financial report. These will be adjusted by an independent auditor. Does not include depreciation*
2015 Donors
Anita and Donald Ebert
Anonymous
Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple
Blanche and Jack Valancy
Brent Stowe
Chandra Law Firm
Charles Davis
Christopher & Sheri Roberge
Church of St John Neumann Youth
Church of the Resurrection
City of Cleveland
Community West Foundation
Community West Foundation (SocksPlus)
Cynthia Zawadzki
Donald and Millie Ball
Doris Belknap
Gap Foundation Cyber Grants
Gerald Schweickert Family Trust
GESU Church
Gloria McCurdy
Goodshop

Thanks to the Interns from 2015
Megan Bonem
Abby Bova
Daniel Lynch

Greater Cleveland Community Shares
Helen Brown Memorial Trust c/o Key Bank
Housing Research and Advocacy Ctr.
Janice Hornack
Jennifer Kocan
Joe & Kathy Pretlow
John Sedor and Geralyn Presti
Judith and James Saks Fund
K L Lombardy
Kretz Family Foundation
Lakewood Congregational Church
Lucy Stowe and John Stowe
Martha and David Kutik
Mary Norman Miller
Middleburg Heights Women's Club
Molly Gillivan
Nancy Evans & Kevin Evans
Pilgrim Congregational Church
PNC Foundation
Prebytery of the Western Reserve
Pretlow Family
R L Jones
R. Wilkinson
Richard and Virginia Labus
Ronald McCutcheon
Rosamond Davis
St Coleman Catholic Church
St Edward High School
Staci Santa
Susan and Cornelius Halsmer
Traci Ext
Valerie and Stewart Robinson
Wendy and Gary Fishman

www.neoch.org

Thanks to all the 2015 Donors to NEOCH. Thanks to those who donated blankets, winter items and Socks to the SocksPlus campaign. $197,000 of donations distributed in 2015 to people living outside or just in housing in Cleveland.
2015 David Westcott
Volunteer of the Year:
Abby Bova

Abby Bova is a senior at Beaumont High School in Cleveland Heights, and worked with NEOCH in 2015 to assist the newspaper vendors to tell their stories. She is an honors English student and helped with the publication of the street newspaper. She wrote her own stories and took the time to help the Chronicle vendors to document their own lives. Abby spent the summer working on improving the public perception of the Coalition including the NEOCH website. Abby helped with our social media accounts. She helped the Coalition document many of the success stories of people moving from homeless to housed. NEOCH recognizes Abby Bova as the David Westcott volunteer of 2015.

2015 Advocate of the Year:
Michelle Russell

Michelle Russell has previously won the volunteer of the year award for her work assisting to organize the women at the shelter and has served on the NEOCH Board since 2010. After her brother was killed by the Cleveland Police in 2012, Russell was the spokesperson for the family in pushing for reform. Timothy was staying at a local shelter and had befriended a women sleeping at the Women’s Shelter. Michelle regularly spoke to the media and the United States Justice Department about the out of control nature of the police that was exposed on that horrible evening of Thanksgiving weekend in East Cleveland. In 2015, a consent decree was announced with the Justice Department that is slated to make sweeping changes in the interactions between police and the mentally ill, disabled, and homeless people. There will be more oversight, independent citizen review and a fair process for investigating future police involved shootings. We recognize Michelle Russell as the 2015 Advocate of the Year for her work on police reform in the City of Cleveland.

Ohio Receives an “F” in Voters Access to the Ballot:

[Map showing accessibility of the ballot]
NEOCH’s mission is to organize and empower homeless and at risk individuals to break the cycle of poverty through public education, advocacy, and the promotion of nurturing environments.

2015 Most Valuable Partner: Peter Schindler of the Community West Foundation

Peter Schindler assisted the Coalition with the development of the Socks Plus campaign. He regularly provides advice to the collaborative members and is always willing to deliver donated items to NEOCH. He attends events and public policy discussions and supports the Homeless Stand Down as well as Homeless Memorial Day. He helps to dispel myths and educate the public about homelessness in Cleveland.

Can you spare a little social change?