



2013

**Community
Benefit
Report**



**Northeast Ohio Coalition
for the Homeless**

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*Thanks to the Board
Member who had her term
end in 2013*

I Marcia Bufford



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Organizing
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2013 Organizational Highlights Advocacy

- NEOCH staff worked with other groups to push an expansion of Medicaid in Ohio attending rallies, writing letters and writing editorials to assure expanded access to health care.
- NEOCH was able to successfully settle our lawsuit over voter ID with the State of Ohio to extend it until after the 2016 Presidential election.
- NEOCH held 12 meetings of homeless people to talk about solutions to homelessness. This included meetings with the Cleveland City Council, County Council and State Representatives.
- We also held a meeting with the Cleveland Police after the shooting death of two homeless people in East Cleveland in late 2012.
- We focused some of our advocacy on shelter budget cuts and the impact of Sequestration locally on poor people.
- NEOCH worked to improve the conditions in the shelters including improved access to grievances and a posting of the rules for operating a shelter in a public venue.

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Public Education

- As part of our Homeless Memorial Day, we read the names of 54 individuals who passed away in 2013 and had some experience with homelessness.
- NEOCH brought attention to the religious community the need for overflow shelters for families because of the dramatic increase this summer in the family homelessness in Cleveland.
- The Housing Cleveland website, which NEOCH co-administers, has 27,803 apartment units (49% outside Cleveland) and 4,800 landlords listed on the site. There were and 157,000 unique users in 2013 conducting almost 773,000 searches with 4,300 units added and 75,800 units modified on the site.
- We sent staff and Street Voices speakers out to 18 presentations at churches, colleges, and schools in the region. We trained a new class of speakers including two high school students who were homeless.
- We found funding for uniforms for the vendors of the street newspaper to stabilize this program in which homeless people can write uncensored stories about their issues and sell those words on the streets of Cleveland.
- The Coalition assists with the monthly Cuyahoga Affordable Housing Alliance meetings and featured Ed Rybka, Anthony Brancatelli, CMHA, the director of the State Coalition, and federal elected officials.
- We hosted a series of affordable housing forums teaching over 150 people about HousingCleveland, Fair Housing, Landlord Tenant issues, veterans' homelessness, and permanent supportive housing.

Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance

- Lawyers operated 10 different clinics and were able to see 240 clients in 2013.
- Lawyers collaborated with Legal Aid attorneys to staff a monthly *pro se* divorce clinic.

Community Organizing

- NEOCH organizes a monthly Homeless Congress meeting allowing homeless people to meet with elected officials and work on solutions to homelessness.
- We collected and distributed over 700 toys and blankets during the winter season.
- NEOCH published four Street Newspapers, providing \$28,000 to low income individuals in Cleveland.
- NEOCH helped to organize the 2013 Homeless Stand Down at the Cleveland Convention Center serving nearly 1,200 homeless people with donations, haircuts, meals, and the important social service providers all in one location. We co-organized the Hand Up Gala.



Leslie and 220 others attend the 2013 Hand Up Gala at the Cosgrove Center.

2013 Advocate of the Year Eileen Kelly

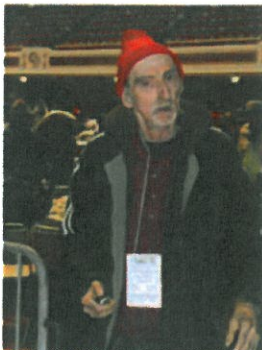
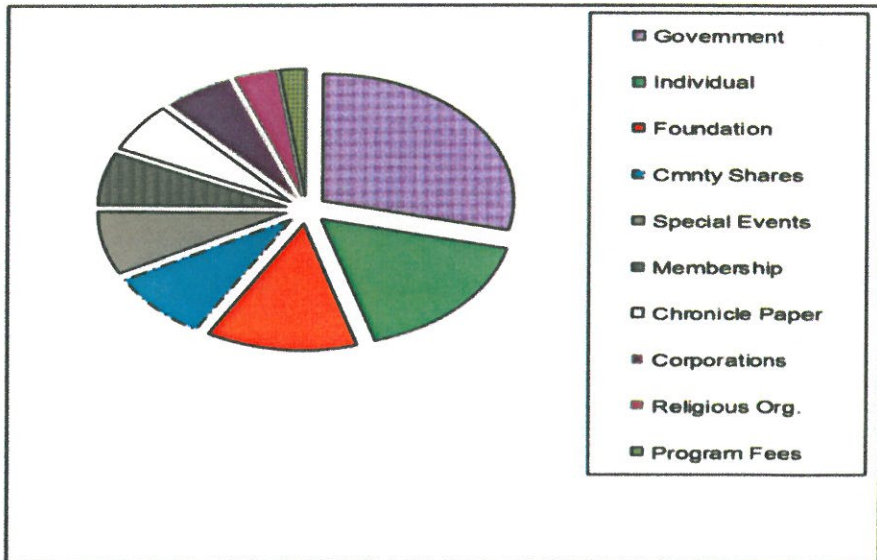


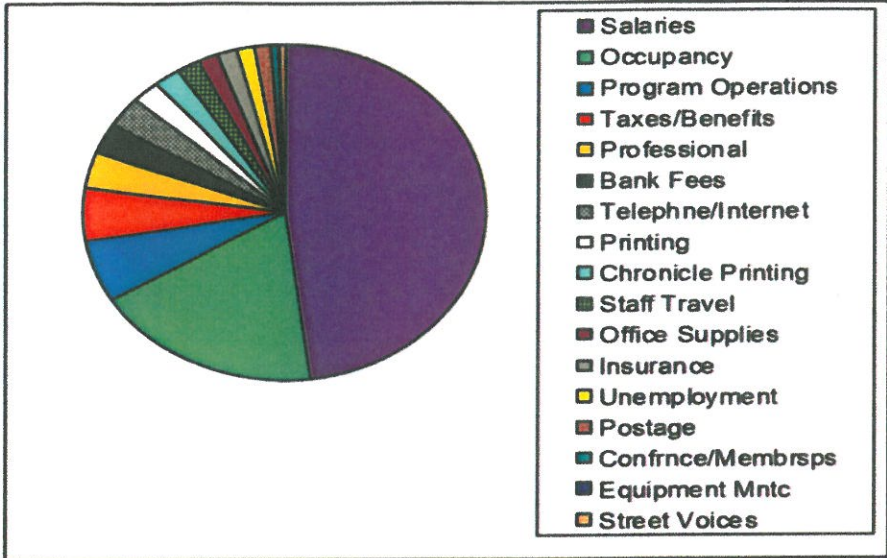
Thanks to the 22 Attorneys who staff the 10 legal clinics at the shelters and drop in centers.

Eileen Kelly is staff of St. Colman's Church and has assisted with the creation of the Identification Collaborative with NEOCH and West Side Catholic nearly 10 years ago. This unique partnerships allow thousands of dollars to be distributed to homeless and extremely low income individuals. This helps individuals and families to be able to order their own birth certificate and obtain a state identification. They also have the expertise to know the rules for obtaining birth certificates across the United States, and the program has built in advocacy as a vital component of the project. Eileen Kelly has worked over the last year to continue the funding for the project, and ease the ability for homeless people to receive their identification. She has pushed the Social Security Administration and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to reduce barriers to people obtaining identification. Kelly has pushed community leaders to recognize that without identification it is impossible to get a job, vote or find stability.

NEOCH Revenue 2013

Government	\$34,190	28.7%
Individual	\$19,877	16.7%
Foundation	\$15,386	12.9%
Cmnty Shares	\$10,520	8.8%
Special Events	\$9,640	8.1%
Membership	\$7,955	6.7%
<i>Chronicle Paper</i>	\$7,445	6.3%
Corporations	\$7,132	6.0%
Religious Org.	\$4,300	3.6%
Program Fees	\$2,580	2.2%
Total*	\$119,025	
2011 Revenue	\$100,535	
2012 Revenue	\$78,336	





2013 David Westcott Volunteer of the Year Kimberly Fischer

Kimberly Fischer is a student at Kent State University on a break with a chronic health condition and the loss of a family member. She came to NEOCH to learn

about homelessness and help the agency while she was recovering. She has a goal of becoming a social worker and displayed a great deal of compassion for the people she worked with at NEOCH. Fischer set up two Facebook pages for the Coalition and helped with our advocacy agenda. She wrote a series of articles for the Cleveland Street Chronicle and helped to update our website. Fischer really bonded with the Mature Services staff and was always willing to help. Fischer said that she was inspired by NEOCH and she certainly inspired many of our vendors and volunteers.

NEOCH Expenses 2013

Salaries	\$50,981	48.0%
Occupancy	\$19,515	19.9%
Program Operations	\$6,367	6.9%
Taxes/Benefits	\$5,402	5.1%
Professional	\$3,710	3.5%
Bank Fees	\$3,124	2.9%
Telephone/Internet	\$3,057	2.9%
Printing	\$2,365	2.2%
<i>Chronicle Printing</i>	\$2,198	2.1%
Staff Travel	\$1,980	1.9%
Office Supplies	\$1,709	1.6%
Insurance	\$1,673	1.6%
Unemployment	\$1,500	1.5%
Postage	\$1,410	1.3%
Conference/ Memberships	\$629	0.6%
Equipment Mntc	\$154	0.1%
Street Voices	\$500	
Total*	\$106,274	
2011 Expenses	\$98,236	
2012 Expenses	\$91,932	

*unaudited financial report. These will be adjusted by an independent auditor. Does not include depreciation or donated items.



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Voices for Peace & Justice
Dr. Welfel
R. Wilkinson
Daniel Wojciechowicz



Thanks to the Interns from 2013

Laura Dunson
Kimberly Fischer
Kathryn Harris
Nicole Ann Gorny

NEOCH Board members gathered in 2013 to update the Strategic Plan for the next three years. That plan is available on the NEOCH website.



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5

Thanks to all the 2013 Donors to NEOCH. Thanks to those who donated blankets and winter items. We received over 500 blankets in 2013. Thanks to all the donors to the Hand Up Gala and our membership, which are not released publicly.

Ione Biggs

One of our most loyal and visible members was Ione Biggs of East Cleveland. She had a long history of fighting for civil rights and liberty in our community and raised her voice at the City Club and on Public Square against injustice. Ms. Biggs was one of the first female police officers and spent years working on social justice issues. She supported NEOCH throughout her life by attending protests and lending her powerful voice to issues associated with homelessness. We recognize her commitment to women's equality, peace, universal health care, a strong social safety net and an end to homelessness by awarding the Ione Biggs Social Justice Award to individuals who have worked to further the unfinished work of Ms. Biggs. This award is intended to highlight the life time achievements of social justice advocates in community service, public policy, access to justice, and equality that led to change. With the downturn and tough economic times, we have not been able to give out the Ione Biggs Award. So, as a part of our 2014 Annual Meeting, we present the award for 2012 and 2013.

2012 Ione Biggs Social Justice Award: Maria Smith

Maria Smith is an attorney with the Legal Aid Society, and has a long history of working to keep people out of the shelters by fighting to prevent evictions. She has worked to open access to subsidized housing locally and is one of the main architects of the re-entry housing programs. Smith champions civil rights and bringing justice to the judicial system. Smith has publicly fought against the funding of wars and defense spending by the US government and is a big proponent of equality and forgiveness.

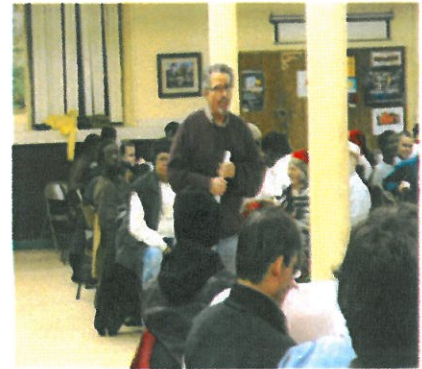


Maria Smith at right attends the 2012 Candlelight Vigil

The Ione Biggs Award

2013 Ione Biggs Social Justice Award: Jay Westbrook

Jay Westbrook is a retired City Councilman from the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood of Cleveland. He worked to create the City's first strategic plan to address the rise in family homelessness in the 1980s. Westbrook helped create the first joint City and County office to meet the needs of homeless people. He has assisted in maintaining a City commitment to not turn anyone away who requests shelter in the City of Cleveland saving thousands of lives. He has been a strong and consistent voice to preserve and expand affordable housing and resisting community opposition to shelters and social services in the neighborhoods.



www.neoch.org

HousingCleveland.org



**Cleveland
Street Chronicle**





Strategic Objectives 2013 to 2016:

- To provide strong governance in order to remain relevant, vibrant and stable.
- To improve and expand the funding sources in order to sustain and expand current operations.
- To advocate at the local, state and federal level while mobilizing people experiencing homelessness to achieve improvement in the community by preventing homelessness, reducing the time a household is without housing and ending homelessness.
- To become the premier organization in the State of Ohio working to protect, preserve, and expand the civil rights of people experiencing homelessness.
- To provide a venue for activists, social service providers and homeless people to organize and mobilize groups to support the NEOCH policy agenda, improve community understanding of homelessness, and expand the safety net services to homeless people, particularly with respect to woman with young children.

**Northeast Ohio
Coalition for the Homeless
3631 Perkins Ave. 3A-3
Cleveland, Ohio 44114**

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***Can you spare a
little social
change?***

MEMBER OF
GREATER CLEVELAND
COMMUNITY
SHARES

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.