

Converting a public housing high-rise into supportive housing



Sunshine Terrace

272 S. Gift St. , Columbus, Ohio

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and the YMCA of Central Ohio partnered together to convert Sunshine Terrace, a 180-unit public housing high-rise, into supportive housing for chronically homeless men and very low-income individuals in Columbus. The residence and unique partnership is being created in response to the *Rebuilding Lives* Initiative that has a goal of creating 800 units of permanent supportive housing over the next five years for chronically homeless men with disabilities. In 1997, with support from the City, County, philanthropic and business communities, a task force was created to address the issues of and find solutions for chronically homeless men. CSH was encouraged to open an office in Columbus to assist in the implementation of the supportive housing portion of the plan.

CSH AND REBUILDING LIVES

The *Rebuilding Lives* initiative was created in response to the community's desire to respond to the housing and service needs of chronically homeless single adult men. CSH was asked to open an office in Columbus to assist in the implementation of the initiative.

Specifically, CSH:

- coordinates the application process for providers;
- assists sponsors with development, operations, and service planning;
- prepares project summaries and funding requests for the Funder Collaborative who oversees the implementation of the *Rebuilding Lives* initiative; and
- advocates for increased and new funding and policy

CSH AND THE PROJECT

CSH has provided both sponsors with technical assistance in the development and service providers to implement the plan.

FINANCING

CAPITAL

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority \$2,000,000

OPERATING

HUD Public Housing Subsidy \$120,000

SERVICES

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative \$200,000

United Way of Central Ohio \$100,000

Ohio Housing Trust Fund \$150,000 (2 years)

THE SPONSORS

The YMCA of Central Ohio (YMCA)

The *YMCA of Central Ohio (YMCA)*, a not-for-profit service organization, provides housing, educational, social, and recreational opportunities to a broad range of populations. The YMCA's Central Branch Residence Program was established in 1924, and provides over 400 units of housing to low-income, transient, and homeless populations. The YMCA works with a variety of community-based service agencies, including physical and behavioral health providers and employers to address the needs of its residents.

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA)

The *Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA)*, a public housing authority, provides access to affordable housing and supportive services for families and individuals in the Columbus Franklin County area. Established in 1934, CMHA currently owns and manages over 4,000 units of housing and administers over 6,000 Section 8 vouchers/certificates, more than 350 Shelter plus Care vouchers, and in excess of 1,800 Section 8 Mod Rehab units. CMHA strives to reduce homelessness and to improve the self-sufficiency of housing residents by developing partnerships with other agencies to address employment, training, and educational needs.

CSH AND THE SPONSORS

The YMCA was awarded a \$4,000 grant to conduct an evaluation of its service program at the Central Branch Residence Program.

The YMCA will also participate in CSH's national *Closer to Home* initiative funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The six-city program seeks to pioneer new models and expand existing ones that serve the hardest-to-reach homeless people who suffer from serious and persistent mental illness.

In July 1999, CSH National staff prepared a report for the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board, in partnership with CMHA and the Community Shelter Board, which made recommendations for a housing-based service model for homeless single adult men with histories of substance abuse that would operate in underutilized public housing. Sunshine Terrace was featured in the report as one site to be considered for implementing this housing model. WHAT HAPPENED AND THEN, rehabilitation of Sunshine Terrace has begun.



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