



MICHELLE HERITAGE STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

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Doug Goddard introduced our speaker, **Michelle Heritage**, Executive Director of the Community Shelter Board. Michelle has over 25 years in leadership roles in multiple community service capacities.

Michelle thanked the club for its efforts at the YWCA Family Center – and for the winter coat program the last several years. The club will be recognized with a Hero Award at the upcoming Under One Roof fundraising event for the Community Shelter Board. The event is on June 7 at the Southern Theater. Information sheets were on the tables and UA Rotarians are encouraged to attend.

We saw a slide presentation about Community Shelter Board (CSB) and homelessness in the community. The CSB was founded over 35 years ago. A major motivation for its formation was the need for a collective response to homelessness as opposed to uncoordinated efforts by different organizations. At the time this was a very progressive way of addressing the problem. CSB is now nationally recognized for this structure and serves as a model for other communities across the country.

Strategies to end homelessness are the basic focus of the Community Shelter Board.

Accountability is important. The CSB is the central data manager for the community's efforts to stop homelessness. The data tells us what is happening throughout the community. There are over 250,000 entries in the system. The data helps CSB make good decisions about how to respond the homeless situation at any given time. Reports and outcomes are generated out of this data which allows for accurate measurement of results for each of the partner organizations that operate under the Community Shelter Board umbrella.

Collaboration is also a key part of the Board's efforts. Michelle noted that "we cannot get this done alone". Individuals must work together. Partner organizations must work together. The various systems need to work together also. For example, how does the homeless system work with the mental health system? How does the workforce system integrate with these other systems? Job and Family Services is also part of the collaborative effort.

Resources are, of course, necessary. The Community Shelter Board handles all of the resources from the Federal Government, most of the resources from the State of Ohio and all of the resources from the City of Columbus, Franklin County and the United Way.

We saw a slide listing the 16 partner agencies. Last year these organizations served more than 12,000 people.

Every night in central Ohio 1,500 people are either sleeping in shelters or on the street. About 80% of those people are in shelters. Last year 9,500 households used the homeless shelters.

Michelle acknowledged that we are seeing growing instability with families in the

GREETERS

May 29

Bill Hosket
Barri Jones

June 5

Tim Kellogg
Bob Bracco

June 12

Dan Ralley
Steve Frame

REGISTRATION DESK

May 29

Jim Winfree
Kevin Brown

June 5

Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

June 12

Ted Foster
Brendan King

CALENDAR

May 29 | Raymond (Schmidt's)

Jane Grote
Reeb Avenue Center
Host: Debbie Johnson

June 5 | Scioto CC

Bill Hosket and Jim Ayers
Graduation Day
Hosts: Bill Hosket & Jim Ayers

June 12 | Scioto CC

Northwest Women of the Year
Host: Tracy Kirby Harbold

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

May 29th
Raymond

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



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community. About 111 families per night are in shelters. The average income for these families is about \$587 per month. Further, there is only about one affordable housing unit for every three renters in the community – with the average two bedroom apartment renting for about \$833 per month.

There are several things to be proud of about how central Ohio works to prevent and end homelessness. Families in central Ohio stay in shelter 39 days on average while the national average is 94 days. When our families leave they are in a stable housing situation and they do not return to the shelters.

About 210 single women are homeless every night. We generally do not have enough resources to accommodate single women and men. On a recent night over 100 homeless individuals had to be placed on a waiting list for shelter. This situation is unacceptable.

The CSB's program is a "housing first" system. Citing Maslow's hierarchy of needs she noted that food and shelter are at the foundation level of the hierarchy. Solutions to other problems cannot be found until those most basic needs are met.

Community Shelter Board pioneered the "housing first" approach to address the situation. IT is now a national best practice.

The CSB is about to roll out a plan to address the needs of veterans. Central Ohio is extremely close to being declared a community that has achieved a functional end to veterans' homelessness. This means that we are aware of every single veteran in the community who is experiencing homelessness. Each individual on the list is reviewed to see what can be done to get them into a stable housing situation.

Achieving this milestone will become a proof point which demonstrates what can be done for other constituencies in the community.

Last year 356 women who were pregnant were homeless in a shelter or on the streets. There is a significant negative impact on infant mortality and childhood development in these cases.

Nationwide is working with the Community Shelter Board to conduct a study to determine what works in preventing homelessness. Their intention is to take the results to other communities where they have a major presence.

Michelle closed with a quote from Mother Teresa... "Not everyone can do great things – but we all can do small things with great love".

Notes and Announcements



John Huneck announced the next YWCA meal service on Thursday, June 7. Signup sheets were on the tables.

Chip Knoop announced the next "Bed Brigade" opportunity on Saturday, June 16 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the church at Mill Run. We'll need volunteers to assemble 20 beds and, if the opportunity presents itself, deliver them to folks who need them.

Alan Yarletts announced that the Interact clubs had their last social event of the year. They attended a Sunday afternoon Columbus Clippers game. He thanked **Dave DeCapua** for the use of his bus again.

Bill Hosket reminded us that Parent/Grad day is Tuesday, June 5. Signups are underway. **Bill** and **Jim Ayers** will be handling the program.



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The Meeting

President **Dave Dewey** asked **Joe Valentino** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Westfall introduced visiting Rotarian **Steve Heiser**, Assistant District Governor. **Paul Germain** introduced his guest **Amanda Frasier**. **Doug Goddard** introduced **Carri Simonton** with Community Shelter Board.

Next week we will meet at Schmidt's Reception House (Raymond Memorial) where we will hear from **Jane Grote** who will talk about the Reeb Avenue Center.



Herb Gillen thanked the folks who worked hard on the just-completed fundraiser at Ohio Stadium. About 250 people attended. Final numbers are not available yet but early estimates for sponsorships, the live auction and the raffle are \$21,000, \$15,000 and \$6,500 respectively. He recognized the members of the Fundraiser Committee and asked them to stand. He also recognized **Mike O'Sullivan, Peggy Concilla, Bill Kraft, Bill Hosket, Chris Reinhardt, Allen Handlan, Jon Hellstedt, Matt Rule, Anne Croskey, Alan Yarletts, Mike Kull, Jeanine Hummer, Megan Horvath, Brett Harper** and **Bill Mielke** for their individual efforts on behalf of the event.

Dave Dewey presented **Herb** with the District social media award for the club's social media presence – a fancy megaphone.



Alan Yarletts received the District 6690 Service Above Self Award for his extensive work with youth in the Interact Clubs and the international youth exchange program. Alan thanked the many people who contributed the success of those efforts – especially the **Hall, Clark, Dewey** and **Hellstedt** families for hosting our international students.

Chris Taylor and **Andy Livingston** were recognized for joining the 125 club. **Joe Valentino** was recognized for achieving Paul Harris Fellowship +1 status.



Bill Hosket wrapped up some of the highlights of the fundraiser and noted that **Archie Griffin** reached out to him after the event to thank the club for inviting him and inquire about the success of the event. Archie noted that hearing some of the Woody Hayes tapes was very emotional for him. Bill noted that **Joe Berwanger** won the raffle. **Don Leach** was “recognized” for his Jimmy Buffet outfit at the fundraiser – it cost him a dollar.

