



COHHIO 25 Years

Bill Faith

Executive Director

Homelessness wasn't even a

thing.



Cuomo and Leaders of Other States Question New Rules on Federal Funds' Use

ASHINGTION, June 11 - State of THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER







Veterans on streets

Study says nation not doing enough to help

About 500,000 United States Security pension.

Locally, there is a three- to sever, and not enough is done to help them, according to a study bett bouse, an addiction treatment.

Religious Groups Plan More Shelters for Homeless

By SARA RIMER

With another winter approaching. representatives from churches, synagogues and private assistance groups gathered yesterday to consider ways to help New York Chy's growing home less population — a group that city offi-cials have acknowledged may pose an overwheiming problem.

The Partnership for the Homeless, a nonprofit agency that coordinates the opening of emergency shelters in churches and synagogues, said it hoped to double the number of last winter's shelters from 50 to 100

The agency, which sponsored yesterday's workshop, said the goal was to provide a total of 1,000 beds for the homeless. City officials expect the number of homeless people taken into municipal and private shelters and hotels this winter to double - to 18,000 a night, from 9,000 a night last year.

Yesterday's keynote speaker, the Rev. Robert Polk, who is executive director of the New York Cosneil of Churches, applauded the efforts of private assistance groups and religious

We're not handling 50 percent or apartment but even 25 percent of the problem, but we're making a significant impact," he

Although he called for an even synagogues, he added, "This does not

rulieve the responsibility of the city."

The city's 16 shelters were near capacity Tuesday night, when the tem-perature dropped to the mid-50's. They took in 4,800 single men and 680

single women - more than on any night last winter, according to the Coalition for the Homeless. The coalition is an advocacy group that has won several suits requiring the city to pro-vide adequate shelter for the homeless.

in addition, 2,100 homeless families were accommodated Tuesday night at hotels and shelters, according to the And, he added American Red Cross.

The speakers and panel participants at the workshop emphasized that the Madison Aven homeless needed to have their sense of town," he said. dignity restored, and that they should be treated with compassion.

Mr. Polk told about a homeless man, unkempt and unbathed, whom he sees each day in the parking garage near his

workshop, Mr
other customePop notes/E-4

The man th out his beautif in the passent back seat and

than we treat t Most of the workshop yest versity's Tisc problem of the

will always be creasingly visi them on Fifth

Volunteers

groups' shelte work with the !







For Homeless, the Cheer Is Gone From Christmas







Warm Season Masks but Doesn't End Problem of the Homeless



Free to lose hope

Mentally ill ex-convicts lack housing, jobs, couns

B.C. (Before COHHIO)









B.C. (Before COHHIO)



Early Advocacy







Issue 1 – The Housing Amendment

THE HOUSING AMENDMENT

BECAUSE MORE THAN 2 MILLION OHIOANS CAN'T AFFORD DECENT HOUSING

Ohio has a housing crisis. Two million people - onefifth of all Ohioans - are struggling to find and maintain permanent, decent and affordable housing. Imagine the faces behind these housing facts:

- · 110,000 elderly Ohioans cannot support a decent place to live. Many more cannot pay for needed
- · About 400,000 young Ohio families cannot buy their first homes, and many of Ohio's 300,000 disabled heads of households cannot make their homes accessible
- 500,000 Ohio households, including many of Ohio's working poor families, pay more than 35% of their incomes for housing. One in every seven households pays too much for housing based on industry standards.
- More than 150,000 households in rural Ohio lack decent, affordable housing. And 25,000 rural homes do not have basic plumbing such as running water and indoor toilets
- · More than 140,000 Ohioans families, children, men and women - experienced homelessness last

There is no mystery to Ohio's housing crisis. It is a direct result of soaring housing costs, skyrocketing rents, drastic cuts in federal assistance and constitutional limitations on the ability of state and local governments to respond.

"Issue 1, making housing a 'public purpose' is a critical component in the state's agenda to address the housing crisis. Say yes to housing, say yes to Issue I"

Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.

Yet, with the exception of Ohio's program for first-time homebuyers and elderly rental housing development, the state's Constitution prohibits state and local governments from borrowing or loaning funds to private businesses or builders who want to produce affordable housing for those who need it.

Issue I declares that housing is a "public purpose," just like transportation, recreation and utility service. This will allow state and local governments to assist in the production and preservation of affordable housing ather directly or through private lenders - for low- and moderate-income families.

"Issue I will allow state and local governments to work with private homebuilders, developers, realitors and lending institutions to rebuild neighborhoods and pro-vide better, affordable housing for more than 2 million people. I urge all Ohioans to vote YES on Issue 1."

George V. Voinovich

Issue I will not raise taxes. It will not create a new state housing bureaucracy. But it will permit state and local governments to work with private and non-profit organi-

- · downpayment assistance:
- · loans for emergency housing repairs; · second mortgages and loan guarantees; and
- low-interest financing to build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing.

Issue 1 will allow state and local governments to establish programs like those operating in 46 other states. And it will build on Ohio's already successful, but limited, first time homebuyers program, which has helped 55,000 Ohio families buy homes during the past seven years.

Issue I will work for millions of Ohioans. It will work for Ohio communities by repairing and rehabilitating sub-standard housing units — and by improving the quality of

And Issue I will work for Ohio's economy. One in every 15 Ohio jobs is linked to housing. By injecting public and private dollars into Ohio's economy, Issue I will create jobs and make housing more affordable.

On November 6th, vote YES on Issue 1 --The Housing Amendment. It's one issue that works for Ohio.

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Housing: a greater state role

FO CHOOK LYUMOVEL

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THE PLAIN DEALER

Our 148th Year

THOMAS VAIL Publisher and Editor

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THOMAS H. GREER Executive Editor

MARY ANNE SHARKEY Director of the Editorial Page

'n invisible people, a vital vote

e issue of permanent, low-income is tackled, homelessness will fester Ohio can count on an 18% increase in ess each year, advocates say, and ren will be among those crowding ers and overwhelming rural areas. t the state claims not to have the tax ie legislature has not had the back-

ifront the overwhelming problem of affordable housing, an interim homelessness is the very least the e should take. The Senate Finance should follow the House and appromillion in the next biennial budget vide emergency shelter and longer-

ard Celeste, no shining advocate for is, was convinced the need is cruiding practical. If nothing else, the of federal matching funds should e support.

of GOP Sens. Robert Ney, Richard rles Horn and Roy Ray are key, the leaders whose decisions will er Ohio will help or continue to state's most vulnerable, voiceless , invisible residents.

approved \$8.8 million for fiscal d \$12.4 million for 1991. Receiving the first time would be a grants at would help mostly non-profit lop or restore affordable rental providing "gap financing," or lowmoney, the state can leverage priient through federal low-income redits. The program creates incene preservation and creation of ntal housing for those making the m shelters to low-income housing.



would also encourage improvements for migrant housing-a long ignored problem.

Another \$2.1 million would provide for transitional and permanent housing. It's important that Ohio fund this particular line item because without a state appropriation, Ohio loses out on matching federal funds.

The Ohio Coalition for the Homeless wants \$28.6 million for homeless projects, calling the \$21.2 million inadequate. It is inadequate. But it is also the best Ohio can hope for given budget constraints.

Some in the Senate will want to vote against this reasonable appropriation. They will point to the education budget as the reason for the state's inability to provide for other social needs. That has become a convenient excuse for insincerity and insensitivity to a host of needs, including the homeless of Ohio.

Too often, such decisions are based on myths, like those that say homeless people come from someplace else and that they are lazy. The truth is that homeless people in Ohio are mostly from Ohio. The truth is that, this morning, a homeless man living in a shelter will go to work at the City Club where he'll clean up after Cleveland's movers and shakers. They may not notice

OCH + OHC = COHHIO



OFF THE STREETS

SUMMER 1994

Newsletter of the Ohio Coalition for the Homeless 1066 North High Street • Columbus, Ohio 43201 • (614) 291-1984

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING IN OHIO

On October 1st, the Ohio Coalition for the Homeless and the Ohio Housing Coalition will become a new joint organization, known as the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. The Boards and staffs of both organizations will now be working as one. By joining forces, we will become a stronger voice for affordable housing and the needs of homeless Ohioans.

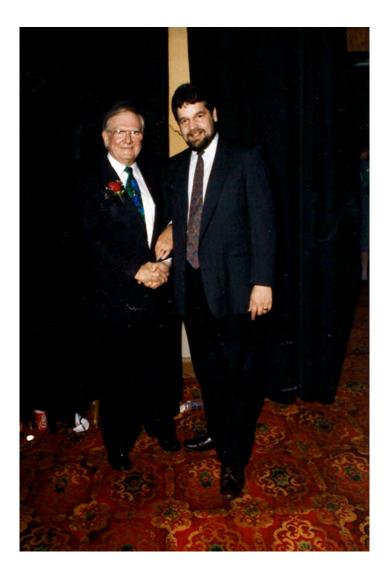
This merger could not have come at a more opportune time. The Coalitions initiated a campaign to push for funding of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund at the recommended level of \$50 million a year through the next state budget process. We have gotten off to a great start with the campaign, but we need your help to win. The newsletter is full of information on the Housing Trust Fund - articles on who has benefited, why it is needed, and who is supporting it. We need you to take the Housing Trust Fund proposal to your organization to seek their endorsement and work with us over the coming months to encourage the legislature to adopt the proposal.

OCH Receives AmeriCorps Grant

OCH has been awarded a three-year AmeriCorps project from the Corporation for National Community Service with matching funds from the Ohio Department of Development. AmeriCorps is the new national service program initiated by the Clinton Administration. The program will involve 21 full-time and 9 part-time participants in 15 identified local sponsor sites. The AmeriCorps members will serve in 23 non-profit organizations in both rural and urban Ohio in projects specifically targeted to assist homeless Ohioans to secure and maintain their own housing. The AmeriCorps members will receive a stipend of \$8,500, health insurance and child care, as well as an educational award of \$4,725 upon completion of their year of service toward college loans or tuition.

OCH is seeking a Project Coordinator to administer the project (please see job description in this newsletter).

Ohio Housing Trust Fund





McKinney – Vento Act









Funding the Trust Fund

Housing Trust Fund Campaign Builds Steam

Statewide activity in support of full funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund (HTF) built to a new level in the Fall, and activists are now poised to take the issue to the General Assembly. Over 500 organizations have now endorsed the campaign to get \$50 million annually from dedicated sources for affordable housing in the next biennial budget,

Supporters of the campaign demonstrated immense support to Governor Voinovich, sending thousands of postcards and hundreds of individuals letters urging him to include full funding of the Housing Trust Fund in his budget proposal. Although release of the Governor's budget has been delayed until the end of January, there have been strong indications from Statehouse "insiders" that his proposal will contain significant new funding for the Housing Trust Fund.

Entering the Legislative Phase
With this encouraging news, the Housing Trust Fund Campaign now shifts focus to the legislature. First the House, and then the Senate will consider and act upon the budget. Each will have the opportunity to add to, or possibly subtract from the Governor's proposal. HTF supporters will have more work to do between now and June 30, the date by which the budget must be passed. Most of this work can happen within your communities. There are several things

 Contact your Representative and Senator, and ask them to support full funding of the Housing Trust Fund at \$50 million annually from dedicated sources of revenue. One of the most effective approaches HTF supporters have used thus far is to take the legislator on a tour of his/her district's housing. Show them the problems, and show the solutions: projects that have been or could be made possible by the Housing Trust Fund. A list of HTF funded projects in your area is available by contacting the Housing Trust Fund Campaign.

Write letters to each of your legislators. Again, it is effective to describe successful projects in your area which have been funded by the Housing Trust Fund. You may also wish to describe your personal experiences with housing needs and issues.

Continue to seek endorsements of the campaign from local governments and organizations. Contact city councils, county commissions, churches, businesses and non-profits. It is important to continue to broaden support for full funding of the Housing Trust Fund.

Join Us at the Statehouse

Finally, we will come together in Columbus for two separate days of communication with our legislators, one day focusing on House members, the second on the Senate. Dates haven't been set yet, because the legislative calendar is not yet clear enough. Plan to join us, though, with as many people as you can bring from your community.

Efforts over the last several months have demonstrated both the breadth and depth of support for affordable housing. Building now on what we've already done, we can use the next few months to win a solid victory for the people of our state.

Campaign materials are available from COHHIO. Please see the order form on the back page.



Lego Lobby Day is a Huge Success!

On February 22nd Housing Trust Fund supporters from around the state converged on the Statehouse for Lego Lobby Day. More than 150 people representing 57 different Ohio counties brought houses made of Lego building blocks and filled the map room of the statehouse. It was inspiring to see the map of Ohio covered with the bright houses and surrounded by energetic advocates. The event highlighted support for the Governor's budget proposal as a good first step toward realizing the goal of \$50 million a year for the Housing Trust Fund.

Many community groups got involved in building the houses for Lego Lobby Day. Children from the Little Rascals Day Care Center helped to build the houses for Athens County. In Highland County the Community Action Organization along with local business representatives from banks, construction companies, and real estate agencies assisted in assembling their house. The houses were placed on their respective counties in the map room to represent the need for affordable housing in that

Advocates then delivered the houses to their respective legislators and had the opportunity to talk with them about the specific needs in their communities. The creative design of the houses definitely got the attention of the legislators and their staff. There was word that the legislators and their aides were comparing houses and many discussions ensued over who got the best house!

The press coverage for Lego Lobby Day was outstanding; including television, radio, and newspapers all over the state. The houses were on the front page in many local papers and lengthy stories regarding housing needs in the community often followed. We would like to express our thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in this highly successful event.







Housing Ohio Conference 1995





Breaking Ground

Winter '95

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

COHHIO Annual Conference Brings Hundreds Together

On October 30 and 31, 1995, the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) held its annual conference in Columbus. Over 350 advocates, government officials, bank officials, housing developers, homeless and low-income individuals and others gathered together to discuss issues effecting low-income and homeless persons and the organizations serving them.



The conference, entitled "Housing Ohio: Changes Ahead," consisted of keynote speakers, panel discussions and numerous workshops. Keynote speakers included Jacquie Lawing, U. S. Department of HUD; Maureen Howard, Idaho Housing Coalition; Bob Adams, National Low Income Housing Coalition; Johan Kane, McAuley Institute; and Rey Ramsey, Enterprise Foundation.

During the conference, COHHIO was presented with an award for housing excellence. (See article on page 2)

Rey Ramsey

COHHIO would like to thank the speakers, moderators and workshop panelists who took the time to share their knowledge on housing and homeless issues. COHHIO would also like to thank our cosponsors: Ohio Department of Development, Com-

io Department of le Company; U.S. an Development; of Realtors; Cleve-Housing Partner and Development

Dhio State Building & Conank Ohio; National Afforde Loan Bank; Ohio Savings Roberta F. Garber Consultat Finance Fund; Donald W. Society National Bank - A



Bill Faith, with Ekdrigde Edgecombe & Karen Dresser, ODOD



Panel Discussion

HTF RFP AmeriCorps EHCY Pg. 8 Pg. 9 Pg. 10 Fax Alert Nonprofit Survey Resources Pg. 13 Pg. 14 Pg. 15-16

Examples of COHHIO's work over the years:

- Ohio's Continua of Care
- DSA partnership on Balance of State
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Advancing Housing First
- Partnership with OHFA (PSH, preservation of affordable housing...)
- OMHAS (rental assistance, PATH, capital funding...)
- Predatory lending reform
- Nationally recognized SOAR Ohio project
- Youth homelessness advocacy
- Fair housing, tenants' rights education & advocacy
- Ohio Votes

Advocacy Agenda on the Horizon

- Housing Trust Fund Expansion
- Invest TANF into rapid rehousing for homeless families
- Vigilance to block bad Statehouse legislation (SB 36)
- Build on fresh momentum to advance national housing agenda





COHHIO 25 Years

Bill Faith

Executive Director