

ANNUAL REPORT

2005



WASHTENAW HOUSING ALLIANCE





Dear Friends,

Homelessness and a severe lack of affordable housing are two major crises facing our nation. It has been estimated that nearly three million persons will experience homelessness within the year. Washtenaw County is not exempt from this epidemic. Data collected in 2004 revealed that 2,756 persons in Washtenaw County alone experienced homelessness within the year. Twenty-six percent of those people were in families, which means many were children.



We cannot and will not allow homelessness to continue and so in response to the increasing needs of the community, providers of services to the homeless in Washtenaw County formed a coalition. This collaboration, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA), began in 1998 with its main function to combine efforts of multiple entities to best serve persons experiencing homelessness in the county.

You are aware, I am sure, that in the past several years, the WHA has accomplished a number of things. Interfaith Hospitality Network was able to renovate its family shelter in March of 2001. Prior to the renovation, local churches provided space for families on a weekly rotating schedule. The WHA also ran a capital campaign to generate funds for the construction of a new homeless shelter. In November of 2003, the four-story Robert J. Delonis Center was erected in downtown Ann Arbor. Over sixty programs are held at the center under the governance of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. Food Gatherers and its diligent volunteers prepare and serve three meals each day.

The most ambitious effort of the WHA has been the creation of A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County. The implementation of this ten-year plan required the WHA to expand its staff. I am proud to announce the hiring of Mitch Steils who now serves as the executive director of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and his administrative assistant Becky Stirling. Diane Davidson acts as the development director and numerous interns from the University of Michigan assist with the efforts of the Alliance.

Without the generosity and continuing support of the community of Washtenaw County, the WHA would be hard pressed to reach its goal of ending homelessness. Such an illustrious goal requires the courageous participation of leaders from all sectors including government, corporate, private, financial, religious, and non-profits. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions of time, talent and support as well as their commitment to a shared mission.

Sincerely,

Richard Soble  
Board President  
Washtenaw Housing Alliance



Our community has demonstrated a heartfelt commitment to successfully end homelessness. The idea of working collaboratively with a cross section of the community on this goal is nothing less than inspiring. The question is, "How do we define success?"



Over the past year the Housing Alliance has witnessed evidence of success in a variety of ways. On September 21, 2004, we came together to participate in a forum which launched the Blueprint to End Homelessness. Over 350 people attended this event and demonstrated their support of what we are attempting to do.

There have been 17 community based workgroups created, each focusing on one piece of the overall Blueprint. Group members have come from all sectors of our community, including housing agencies, service providers, interested community members, visionaries, academic leaders, government officials, business leaders, and more. The common thread binding us together has been the shared desire to end homelessness in our community. One thing has become clear: ending homelessness will not occur as the result of one overarching achievement. Rather, it will be the culmination of a series of many smaller successes from within each workgroup.

We've worked toward establishing a centralized prevention and response strategy for those at risk of losing housing (workgroups #1 and #2). A very complex mapping of our existing system of services is nearing completion. In 2006, we anticipate identifying where the biggest areas of need are, and the development of a plan that will "plug those gaps".

WHA has continued to successfully raise much needed funding to help pay for essential supportive services in the community. These services are designed to meet the unique needs of formerly homeless tenants, with the goal of helping them to successfully enjoy a permanent and affordable home, following a "Housing First" model. For some, this may be the first time in many years that they have not had to worry about where they will sleep at night.

It was a day for making history when the very first session of the 15th District Court's Homeless Outreach Court takes place in the fall of 2005. This innovative and forward thinking initiative is part of workgroup #6, focusing on those who suffer from addictions. The concept of the court is to reach out to individuals in the legal system who are prepared to take the next steps along the continuum that moves them out of homelessness. The goal is to help them resolve minor legal obstacles which otherwise could impede their attempts to obtain housing. Outreach Court is a national best practice, and a concept that has had very positive outcomes in other cities across the country. I am excited and proud to see it implemented here.

Other successes are evidenced by workgroups that have taken the lead in the development of a common set of service standards, the implementation of a culinary arts training and placement program, ongoing progress with implementing of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), progress toward the development of an integrated planning and funding structure, and rolling out an evaluative research study which will objectively measure our progress into the future. We haven't eliminated homelessness yet, but the evidence that we are moving forward is all around us in the successes we can see.

I offer my sincerest thanks to everyone who has helped to make this year a success. There have been some spirited and valuable debates: evidence that we all want to successfully eliminate homelessness. Changing an entire system is hard work, but as we look ahead, I am encouraged by the wisdom of the following quote: "If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always gotten."

Blessings,

Mitchell J. Steils, CSW, LISW  
Executive Director  
Washtenaw Housing Alliance



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***Secretary***

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Eileen Spring – *Executive Director, Food Gatherers*

Jerry Walden – *Administrator, Packard Community Clinic*





### Avalon Housing

Avalon Housing develops, owns and manages permanent affordable housing, with emphasis on enhanced management for persons with special needs and disabilities. Avalon has a staff of 13 full-time people and was founded in 1992.

**Web site:** [www.avalonhousing.org](http://www.avalonhousing.org)

### Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County provides counseling and support services to individuals and families including: family counseling, emergency food, adoption support services, and senior support programs. Through Father Patrick Jackson House Program, CSS provides shelter and comprehensive support and advocacy services to pregnant and parenting teens and their children. Established in 1984, Fr. Pat's has two full-time and eight part-time staff. Founded in 1969, CSS has 40 full-time and 40 part-time employees.

**Web site:** [www.csswashtenaw.org](http://www.csswashtenaw.org)

### Food Gatherers

Founded in 1988, Food Gatherers is the food rescue program and food bank serving Washtenaw County. Food Gatherers provides food for more than 4,500 meals a day to over 180 community programs. Since 1988, the program has distributed 17 million pounds of food throughout Washtenaw County. In 1996, they were the first recipients of NEW's Non Profit Excellence Management Award. Food Gatherers employs 10 staff and relies on the help of more than 1,200 volunteers.

**Web site:** [www.foodgatherers.org](http://www.foodgatherers.org)

### Interfaith Hospitality Network

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washtenaw County (IHN) is an emergency shelter for families. The mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washtenaw County at ALPHA HOUSE is to provide homeless families with temporary shelter, food and support services in a caring atmosphere of dignity and safety. More than providing just a bed and a roof, our goal is to support families in securing and maintaining their own home. IHN offers professional intensive support services to each family following individualized plans created with the family by the wraparound facilitator who assists the families with securing child care, employment, medical treatment, planning and budgeting in preparation to moving into permanent housing.

**Web site:** [www.alphahouse-ihn.org](http://www.alphahouse-ihn.org)

### Ozone House

Ozone House provides intensive prevention and intervention services to youth and their families, which includes sheltering, counseling, advocacy and community education. Founded in 1969, Ozone House has 16 full-time and 10 part-time staff.

**Web site:** [www.ozonehouse.org](http://www.ozonehouse.org)



## **SafeHouse Center (formerly Domestic Violence Project/SAFE House)**

SafeHouse Center provides free and confidential services for any survivor of domestic violence and/or sexual assault that lives, works or was assaulted in Washtenaw County. Our extensive array of services include our 24 hour HelpLine, counseling, court accompaniment, information and referrals to resources in the community, emergency shelter, personal advocacy, and crisis intervention immediately after a domestic violence or sexual assault. These services are provided to all survivors, even those not staying in our shelter. Services are also available for the children of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

SafeHouse Center is a private, 501(c)(3) non profit corporation. It was established in April of 1975 with the purpose of reducing the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence within southeastern Michigan. There are currently more than 60 staff and hundreds of volunteers working to assist survivors at SafeHouse Center.

**Web site:** [www.safehousecenter.org](http://www.safehousecenter.org)

## **Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS)**

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) is a health care network serving Washtenaw, Livingston, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, western Wayne and southwestern Oakland counties. It includes St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJMHS) in Ann Arbor, Saint Joseph Mercy Saline Hospital and Saint Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Howell. SJMHS provides a full spectrum of health services including community based health improvement initiatives focused on health status improvement of people in the communities served, with a special commitment to women, children and the poor and under-served. SJMHS employs over 6,000 people and has an annual budget over \$500 million. SJMHS is a member organization of Trinity Health, the country's fourth largest Catholic health system.

**Web site:** [www.sjmh.com](http://www.sjmh.com)

## **The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County**

The Shelter Association's mission is to provide temporary shelter and supportive services in a safe and caring environment and to work with the community to allocate the necessary resources to meet the needs of individual adults who are homeless.

The Robert J. Delonis Center is the first step in our community's Blue Print to End Homelessness and was built as the new home of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. Our goal is to serve our clients by developing action plans that are suited to each individual and their unique set of circumstances.

Our model of combining shelter with other services which already exist within our community is cost effective and efficient; it does not duplicate any existing operations and it brings the services our clients need under a single roof. Any community with reasonable resources can replicate this model and build upon the foundation we have created.

**Web site:** <http://annarborshelter.org>



## SOS Community Services

SOS offers Housing Crisis Services, Homeless Family Services, and Homeless Children's Services at no cost to homeless families in Washtenaw County. The Housing Crisis program assists at-risk families and individuals to maintain housing stability and helps homeless families to obtain shelter or permanent housing. It also distributes emergency food and basic needs assistance. Homeless Family Services include the Prospect Place Family Shelter program, Transitional Housing program, and Employability Support services. Homeless Children's Services include developmental assessments, parenting education, after-school and summer programs, and the Time for Tots therapeutic day care program. SOS was founded in 1970, has approximately 50 staff members, and is the lead agency of the Family Support Network.

**Website:** [www.soscs.org](http://www.soscs.org)

## Synod Residential Services

Synod Residential Services provides services to mental health consumers and other persons who need support to maintain community living situations. Founded in 1973, Synod has 202 full-time and 102 part-time staff.

**Web site:** [www.synres.org](http://www.synres.org)



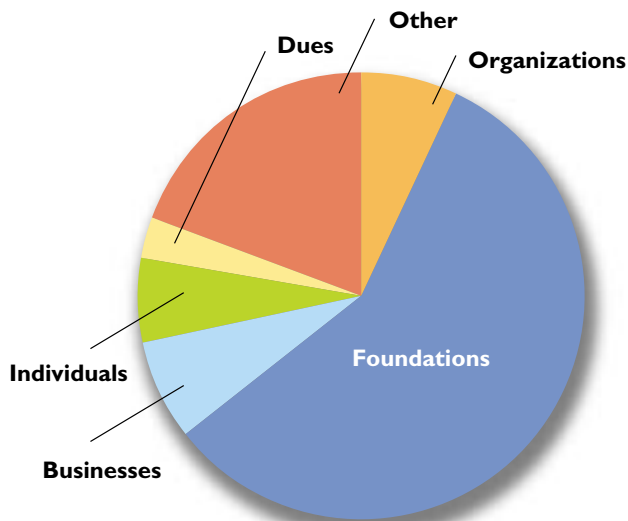


This year, as in all past years, our auditors, Plante Moran, found no material issues with our financial accounting practices. I want to assure the community that we are maintaining the highest financial standards in all of our work.

Joseph Fitzsimmons  
Treasurer

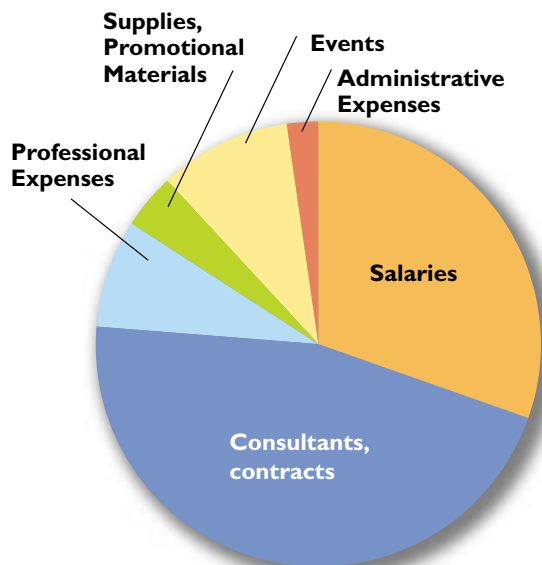


## Financial Summary 2004-2005 Operations



### Revenues

Businesses	\$10,572.00
Foundations	87,000.00
Organizations	11,000.00
Individuals	9,230.73
Dues	4,500.00
Other	29,255.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$151,558.30</b>



### Expenses

Salaries	\$46,060.80
Consultants, contracts	69,511.41
Professional Expenses	11,919.00
Supplies, Promotional Materials	6,068.75
Events	14,541.99
Administrative expenses	3,456.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$151,558.30</b>





## Principal Benefactors

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation  
Anonymous  
Care Choices  
Washtenaw County

## Key Supporters

Joe & Beth Fitzsimmons

## Significant Donors

Douglas Crary  
Ann A. Edwards  
Washtenaw United Way  
Ari Weinzweig

## Vital Friends

Sandra Brody  
Diana Bucciarelli  
Community Bank of Dearborn  
Jonathon Dean  
Janette Ferrantino  
Michael (Elph) Morgan  
Margot J. Nichols  
Reinhart Realty  
Donna & Dennis Roth



The Washtenaw Housing Alliance wants to recognize Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) for its ongoing and unflagging support. SJMHS continues to provide all employee benefits for WHA full time staff.



We also want to recognize Washtenaw County for its generous in-kind support of office space, telephone and computer equipment and service and technical support.

*Grateful thanks to these community organizations who helped to make our September 21, 2004 Community Forum such a success.*



For good. For ever.™



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