

WASHTENAW HOUSING ALLIANCE



annual report
2011-2012

a home for everyone: a blueprint to
end homelessness in washtneaw county

a home for everyone



Located in Washtenaw County, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA) is a unique coalition of community-based organizations and government offices that serve people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness. Founded in 2000, the WHA functions as a dynamic collaboration that harnesses the commitment, energy and resources of a major hospital system, the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, institutions of higher education, the private sector and the community at large to end homelessness in Washtenaw County. The WHA has maximized this strong commitment to develop “A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County”.





a letter from bob guenzel

Dear Friends,

Is it really possible that it has been eight years since we launched the Blueprint to End Homelessness? It has been an exhilarating time marked by many highs and great progress coupled with the worst financial situation we have faced in our country in many decades. The economic collapse had a significant impact on the lives of people who were already struggling to make a home for their family right here in Washtenaw County. More and more people need help and fewer and fewer resources are available from the funding sources we had come to rely on. However, throughout all of that, the WHA and its partners in the community have moved forward and positively influenced the lives of hundreds of people in need.

We have learned to be a leaner organization and one that makes very real collaborations between our 32 partner organizations possible so that they are more efficient and less likely to duplicate efforts. Additionally, we can now and report on community outcomes for programs and people to show where we are making progress and where we have work to do.

The citizens of Washtenaw County have a long history of coming together to challenge the status quo and create innovative solutions to social problems. We have taken the best of that history and put it to significant effect while improving our response to the needs of those most vulnerable in our community....those who experience homelessness and those imminently at risk of homelessness.

The Blueprint to End Homelessness remains our strategic plan. In the past year, we undertook a significant and comprehensive review of our work on the Blueprint and charted our course for the next three to



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five years. If you are interested in reading our Progress Report that was published in October 2011, please go to our website where you will find it. The four main pillars of the Blueprint remain: Preventing Homelessness, Developing more Housing with Supportive Services, Reforming the System of Care and Engaging the Community.

In this annual report, you will find information on our most significant recent accomplishments including:

- The development of a centralized response system that has made it much easier for families facing a housing crisis to find the help they need—Housing Access for Washtenaw County.
- Looking at ways for multiple agencies to share back office operations leading to greater efficiencies and more time for mission-related activities.
- A transformed substance abuse treatment system to make it more responsive to community needs.
- The development of 150 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance is proud to be at the center of all of this tremendous work and to have been entrusted with the audacious task of ending homelessness in Washtenaw County.

The depth and continuing support of our political leaders, our community funders, our nonprofit and faith-based communities tells us that our continued work together will bring us to our ultimate goal: A home for everyone!

Warmly,
Bob Guenzel



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a home for everyone

