



See You at the Market!



LCCH is happy to announce that we will once again be selling coffee at the Granville Farmers Market, in downtown Granville this year. Sponsored by the Granville Area Chamber of Commerce and located on the last block of North Main Street (between Broadway and North College), the Market is open every Saturday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, May 18th through October 19th 2013.

For the second year in a row, LCCH will be brewing and selling a variety of fresh roasted coffees provided by River Road Coffeehouse, the only locally roasted coffee in Licking County. If you haven't been to the market, (or if you have!) stop by to check it out. It is a vibrant market with outstanding local vendors of fresh seasonal produce, plants, baked goods, meats, cheeses and specialty items. There is absolutely something for everyone at this market, so mark your calendar now and visit often!

Many thanks to Mark Forman and River Road Coffee House for supporting LCCH - all the profits from coffee sales benefit LCCH. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Scott at 345-1970 x229.

Save the Date!

October 12, 2013 will be the First Annual Licking County Coalition for Housing (LCCH) "Home-Run 5K Run/Walk". The 5K will be held at Rotary Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. This will be a great opportunity to get some exercise while supporting LCCH. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

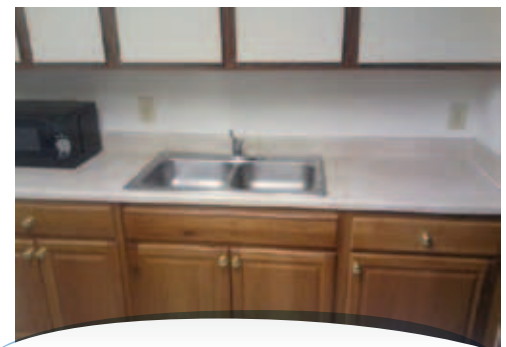
There is currently a competition open to anyone that would like to design the logo for the "Home-Run 5K run/walk." The logo will be used on printed materials, advertisements for the race and on T-shirts distributed to runners and walkers. Please contact Kathy Scott at kscott@lcchousing.org for further details on the logo competition.

Funding Needed to Continue Upgrades

By Casey Shaffer, Property Management

In an effort to improve the 14 transitional housing units owned by LCCH, Lindsay Mays replaced this original kitchen sink base cabinet & counter top. The prior cabinet was originally installed in 1986 and had

deteriorated to the point of needing to be replaced immediately. This particular base cabinet was in the worst shape of any cabinet currently in our 40th Street location. Similar kitchen or bathroom cabinet replacement needs have been identified, and will happen as funds can be secured.



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a community forum, to assess housing resources, to identify problems and to create solutions through collaboration.

Visit Our Facebook Page For More Info



Contact Us

P.O. Box 613
23 South Park Place, Suite 200
Newark, Ohio 43058-0613

Toll Free

1-877-421-LCCH (5224)

Local Phone

(740) 345-1970

Fax

(740) 345-8826

Contact

info@lcchousing.org

Rapid Rehousing - From Homeless to Housed

Hank and Debbi contacted the Licking County Coalition for Housing (LCCH) in February, 2013. They had become homeless in December, 2012 and, even though Debbi was employed full time, they had been unable to gain rental housing due to past negative rental history. They contacted LCCH in the hopes that we could assist them. They were staying in a motel, which a faith-based organization paid for, but time and funds were running out and it was beginning to look like the couple might be out on the streets. When we first met to complete their assessment, Hank seemed very agitated and depressed. He didn't seem to have much hope that LCCH would be able to do anything to help as he had repeatedly been told they did not qualify for help from other places they had contacted. Hank thought this was going to be another let down and wondered, "Why even try?"

Over the next few weeks, the couple and their LCCH case manager called 33 landlords. Out of that number, only three (3) would consider the couple for rental housing. Out of the three (3), one (1) of those landlords gave them the opportunity to start over. Harry was apprehensive at first. His experience had been that "those things always fall through and never work out!" Once the paper work was filed and the utilities were turned on, he was more responsive and was starting to trust that sometimes things do work out. With a little bit of trust, hard work, and dedication things have continued to move forward. Hank and Debbi have been in their new apartment for 2 months and have paid their utilities and rent on time since moving in. They have worked with their coordinator at LCCH not only to learn, but to practice, how to budget their money. Hank and Debbi did not have any household furnishings

and through some generous donations, LCCH was able to provide a variety of these, including pots and pans, kitchen utensils, dishes, and even a bed.

Hank and Debbi now have stable, affordable housing, and Hank has been able to get the medical help he has needed for more than 6 years through a local partner facility. He looks into the future with goals of being able to handle life's ups and downs more easily and he feels like he is on the road to recovery. Through continued treatment, Hank plans to eventually be able to work part time. By providing a hand up, this family is equipped with the tools to continue to pursue their goals.

They were so thankful that LCCH helped them, and they plan to keep LCCH updated with their progress. All of us at LCCH wish Hank and Debbi the best!

Need for Financial Assistance Grows

By Candace Elkins, Homeless Prevention Assistant

In the past 6 months of working with clients in our Project Homeline Program, I have seen more people who have not needed rental assistance in the past - clients whose rent is higher than the less than \$500 per month we normally see (we're now seeing rent requests of \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 or more per month). Most are couples who have had good paying jobs for years and didn't foresee an extended illness, or permanent job loss.

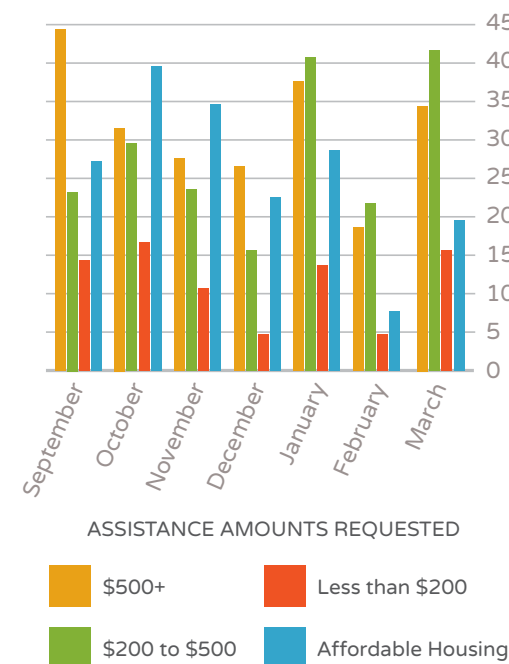
Unfortunately, most don't come in until faced with eviction, because they have never had to seek help in the past and don't know that there is help or are embarrassed to ask for it. Many have spent all their savings while still looking for employment and trying to pay what

they can. We have also seen a rise in calls for information about affordable housing and subsidized apartments. The average waiting list for a subsidized apartment is one year in Licking County.

From September 2012 to March 2013 we received a total of 689 calls for assistance. (See chart)

It would seem that more of our older neighbors are losing their housing. A woman who owned her own home for 40 years and was always self-sufficient is now in foreclosure. Due to a lengthy battle with cancer and her inability to remain employed, she is now forced to live on a small Social Security check and find alternative housing. We are assisting her with a security deposit to move into housing where her monthly rent is based on her income (no more than 30%).

Assistance Calls Received September 2012-March 2013



Transitional Housing Program Receives Key Funding

It's official!!

Our Transitional Housing grant from HUD has been renewed for one more year, starting July 1, 2013!

On March 13, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced renewed support for 7,000 local homeless housing and service programs across the U.S. Provided through HUD's Continuum of Care Program, the funding will ensure these local projects remain operating in the coming year. The \$1.5 billion in grants support a wide range of programs including street outreach, client assessment, and direct housing assistance.

While the Fiscal Year 2012 funds awarded are not impacted by the automatic across-the-board budget cuts under sequestration that began March 1st, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan cautioned that future budget

cuts may reverse significant reported declines in homelessness: "During this challenging budget climate, we must make certain that we don't balance our books on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens. When we make event modest investments in these programs, we see a measurable decline in homelessness."

LCCH has received funding under the HUD Continuum of Care program since 1995. This \$590,179 grant, in combination with funding from the Ohio Development Services Agency, Veterans Administration, United Way of Licking County, City of Newark Community Development Block Grant and local donors, will continue to provide 43 transitional housing units and serve an estimated 35 families and 47 adults without children during the 2013-2014 program year. Over 70% of the participants successfully move to permanent housing each year.

Great Granville Garage Sale The Fun Begins on May 4!

The Great Granville Garage Sale (GGGS), an event now in its fourth year, draws 2-3,000 enthusiastic customers to the Granville area, rain or shine. The sale begins at 8:00 a.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church organizes this event in order to raise funds for the Licking County Coalition for Housing's programs to help our friends and neighbors who may be facing challenges with their housing.

Sellers and Buyers can find more information at www.granvillegaragesale.com.

Sponsors committed to this year's event include Fiberglas Federal Credit Union, Abe's Body Shop, and Reese,

Pyle, Drake & Meyer, PLL. If you're interested in being a sponsor, please contact Bruce Westall at (740) 587-1995.

LCCH will have a booth on Main Street with coffee and pastries for sale. We'll also be selling cards for Mother's Day, created by some of the children in our Transitional Housing program. We look forward to seeing you there!

Can't participate but would like to help the cause?

Mail your check to St. Luke's, PO Box 82, Granville OH 43023 or call or visit the Parish House, 118 South Main Street, M-F, 9 am - 12 n. 740-587-0167. Credit cards accepted.

Thank You!

LCCH wishes to thank the many other area organizations who continue to pledge their cooperation and support necessary to make Transitional Housing a highly successful program:

- Apprisen (Consumer Credit Counseling Services)
- Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio, Inc.
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Licking & Perry Counties
- Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center
- C-TEC
- Food Pantry Network
- LEADS Community Action
- Licking County Alcoholism Prevention Program (LAPP)
- Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Licking County Department of Job and Family Services
- Licking County Family YMCA
- Licking County Health Department
- Licking County Veterans' Service Commission
- Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries
- Mental Health America of Licking County
- Ohio State Legal Services Association - Southeast Ohio Legal Services
- Pathways of Central Ohio
- The Licking County Aging Program, Inc.
- The Main Place
- The Salvation Army
- The Woodlands Serving Central Ohio, Inc.

Want to Help?

We are always searching for new volunteers. To find out more about how you can help, visit www.lcchousing.org.

In Memoriam

Marie Kerns - a fond & fierce remembrance

By Jeff Gill

When we were having the community meetings that resulted in the push for the Licking County Coalition for Housing, I wasn't sure what to make of Marie Kerns.

I was a young associate pastor in town who had been involved in the Newark Area Ministerial Association, and the CROP Walk committee, and getting the Licking County Jail Ministry up and running at the new Justice Center (aka "the jail"). I'd only been in town two years, but I felt like I'd gotten to know most of the church folk and leaders and such by 1991.

But I hadn't met Marie yet.

So here's this lady, with something called the "Licking County Needy Fund." It appeared to be housed at a church in Newark, but was largely her organization. She lived not far from the church I served, on Elmwood Ave., but I hadn't met her. So I was a little skeptical. Pastors, who have a tendency to go Lone Ranger themselves, have a well-earned nervousness about Lone Rangers.

But it turned out Marie wasn't a Lone Ranger, and she sure wasn't anyone's Tonto. She was a scout, and often

pretty far ahead of the wagon train, but she had a path and a plan and a party in mind, and that party was going to get where they needed to go.

If Marie saw a need, she saw a solution. She didn't wait for people to head on forward to cut the trail for her, she waded in herself. Brambles, briars, swampy ground, deep valleys, she just kept going.

Marie was a woman of faith, and her faith knew that the phrase in the Twenty-third Psalm was "yea, though I walk THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" because Marie was going THROUGH. She wasn't stopping to hold a pity party or to wait for stragglers, she was moving towards the goal, a one-woman exploratory party into unknown country.

So she was part of the pioneering group that said "yeah, we can make transitional housing fly, on a shoestring, and see if we can earn our way into consideration for some grants after we've been housing people for a while on our own." It was a crazy thought, and one that not many shared, though many saw the need. Marie saw the solution, too, and moved resolutely in that direction.

As a pastor, and as a friend, I can add this: Marie knew that she wasn't alone, and she wasn't the first through that valley, or into strange terrain. Jesus was always just ahead, and clearing the way. Her confidence in who Jesus is and what he was doing for her



and the people she loved is what kept her going.

At the end, her eyes dimmed, her steps few and feeble, her vision and her drive never flagged. She was on her way right up to when she left this world, and she was not worried about how soon we'd all catch up with her. She saw the goal for the Beloved Community, on earth as it is in heaven, and she heard the trumpets sounding, and she charged on ahead.

Just like always!

Esther "Marie" Kerns (1929-2013) was a founding member of the Licking County Coalition for Housing, having signed its Articles of Incorporation in September 1992 and establishing the first four transitional housing units in 1993, among many other acts of service on behalf of the Licking County community and its residents.

Angie's Story

No longer afraid to talk about her experience, Angie France has become the spokesperson for why housing and supportive services are critical to recovery. She began using drugs at age 13 and spent half of her life in and out of jail, rehab facilities, prison and seeking the next fix.

Angie participated in the Transitional Housing program for 20 months. While in the program she maintained employment for the duration of her stay. She saved over \$4000 and

purchased a reliable car. She made significant progress in paying off fines and tackling debt. Angie entered the program at age 27, following a stay at Courage House and The Salvation Army emergency shelter. She has currently been clean for over 30 months and is the proud new mother of a perfectly healthy baby girl. Angie recently moved into permanent housing and remains employed.

In describing her experience with LCCH, Angie said, "Housing Coalition

really gave me a chance to get myself together. They were amazing about providing resources to almost any problem. My coordinator, Linda Little was especially helpful even just lending an ear. I will always be indebted to them."

Angie was the keynote speaker at the LCCH 2011 Annual Meeting, as well as the United Way of Licking County's Recognition Breakfast on March 15, 2013. We wish her and her new family all the best!

Want to Help?

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to help your community, learn more about housing and homelessness in Licking County or spend time on fun and fulfilling activities? Check out the upcoming volunteer opportunities at LCCH!

Great Granville Garage Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2013

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As the name implies, this is a huge collection of Garage Sales in and around the Village of Granville. The event is organized by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, with the proceeds benefitting LCCH. We could use help staffing a table the day of the sale, and with marketing prior to the event. Interested? Contact Deb Tegtmeyer, at dt egtmeyer@lcchousing.org for more information. Shoppers also welcome!

Granville Farmers Market

May 18 thru October 19

Saturdays, 8:30 to Noon

River Road Coffeehouse generously provides the coffee and supplies at cost to operate a booth at the Granville Farmers Market in downtown Granville. We supply the labor and keep the proceeds. It is a great way to spend a Saturday morning..... making coffee, meeting your neighbors, and sampling the best homegrown and homemade products around. If you would like to help make and sell coffee, contact Kathy Scott, at kscott@lcchousing.org.

LCCH 9th Annual Golf Outing

August 2013 (Date to be determined)

Want to participate in a great golf event? Would you rather watch, or help with the marketing and set up? Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for more information about how you can help with this event.

Home-Run 5K Run/Walk

October 12, 2013

Be a part of this first annual event, even if running isn't for you! Can you sponsor prizes for our runners or advertising for the event? Would you like to help with marketing or course set up? Or just bring a friend, support our runners and walkers and have a good time at this family event? If so, contact Kathy Scott at kscott@lcchousing.org

Administrative Support

Various times throughout the year

Do you have clerical skills or experience with Microsoft Excel and Publisher? Could you offer a few hours to help produce marketing materials, or assemble mailings on an "as needed" basis? Contact Kathy Scott, at kscott@lcchousing.org to be included on our contact list for administrative support.

Product Collection/ Donation

Seasonal items

Could your service group sponsor a personal care product donation this spring for residents of our Transitional Housing program? Would your VBS like to donate school supplies to homeless children this summer? How about a blanket drive for the needy next fall? If you can coordinate a product drive or provide seasonal items for our clients, contact Kathy Scott at kscott@lcchousing.org.

Resource Room Monitor

Schedule to be determined

This multi-purpose room will include books, computers, games and movies for children and families in our Transitional Housing program. You will be assigned with another volunteer to provide basic assistance and supervision to children and adults. Background check and regular schedule will be required. Keep watching this newsletter and our website for more information about this opportunity.

Property Maintenance

Various times through the year

This is a great opportunity for a group. Tasks vary from basic yard work in the summer months, to semi-skilled painting and minor interior renovations in the fall and winter. Contact Kathy Scott, at kscott@lcchousing.org to be included on our contact list for property maintenance projects.

Tax Preparation

January through April

If you have accounting, business or tax experience and enjoy working with people, this may be a great experience for you. Classroom or on-line training is provided and IRS certification is required. A commitment of 4 hours per week throughout the tax season is requested. Contact Kathy Scott, at kscott@lcchousing.org if you are interested. Volunteer recruiting begins in the fall for the following tax season.

And thank you for all you do!

From the Executive Director

Who knew!?



Who could possibly have known way back in 1993 that the Licking County Coalition for Housing would still be going strong in 2013?

There were certainly those around the table who hoped so, who encouraged each other to “step out in faith” that we were doing the right thing in setting up a locally-based, not-for-profit whose immediate goal was to address the huge need for transitional housing for homeless families. At the time, The Salvation Army emergency shelter only had 6 beds with a maximum stay of 30 days. The waiting list for subsidized housing provided through the Licking Metropolitan Housing Authority was literally years long. Clearly, there was a big gap in housing services.

As a group of churches, human services providers, property owners and local government officials, we had already been through the process of determining that there were at least

2,500 men, women, and children who were homeless at some point during a given year in Licking County. We had met for several months to gather information, analyze the housing options, determine what the City of Newark’s resources and priorities should be concerning homelessness and affordable housing, and sent our HUD-required report off to Washington, D.C.

“So what do we do now?” said one of the community leaders around the table. “Now that we know we have such a large number of homeless, we have to do something.” And everyone nodded in agreement.

So we did.

With financial support from both the City of Newark and Licking County Commissioners, and the timely offer of four newly-renovated one-bedroom apartments by a man who was willing to take a chance on a fledgling effort – because he knew from his own experience as a collections agent

how badly some folks were suffering and needed a break – the Articles of Incorporation were drawn up on Marie Kern’s lace-covered dining room table. Rev. Jeff Gill and I drove the document over to Columbus and filed it with the Ohio Secretary of State. The application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status was completed by a friend of a friend.

The doors were now opened to four homeless families. LCCH’s mission came to life.

With the support, encouragement, energy, conviction and resources provided by many extraordinary people, LCCH’s housing and financial literacy services to residents of Licking County have grown considerably over the past 20 years. In that time, we’ve worked with thousands of people. Many have found success, but there is still work to do.

Join us, as we look forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary in November, and looking ahead to the next 20 years!

The “V” Stands for Volunteer

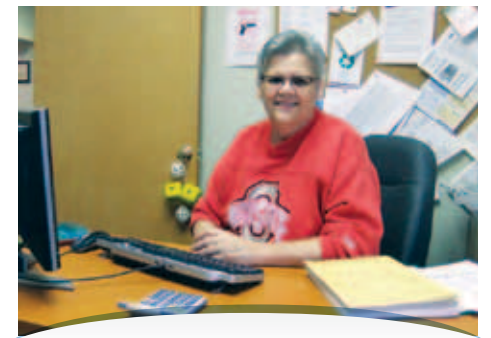
And what a great group we have! Twenty-one volunteers gave 726 hours of their time to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program this year, to help others in this community file their income tax returns for free. Of our twenty-one volunteers, eight are college students, nine are working, five are retired and seven have worked in the accounting or tax field. Collectively, their work experience includes accounting, law, social work, engineering, business, banking, education and the military. We even have one retired IRS employee who donates his time to help others with their taxes. Bill Darnell, a retired sheriff’s deputy who has been volunteering since 2011, has been preparing taxes since 1967. And when our volunteers are not preparing taxes they are volunteering for other causes, including Dawes Arboretum, Boy Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity, The Works, the Indianapolis Colts, church groups and other charities.

VITA, an IRS- sponsored program which provides free tax preparation for income-eligible taxpayers, has been in existence in 1971. When LCCH

first offered the program in 2006, it was staffed primarily by AmeriCorps members. In 2011, LCCH began using more community volunteers, with site coordination and program management provided by agency staff. Eight of our current volunteers have been with the program since that time and our volunteer retention rate remains at over 75%. Each year, the volunteers certify to higher levels, become more efficient, prepare more returns and seem to enjoy the program even more.

Customer feedback is overwhelmingly positive, with friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful being the most common adjectives on our survey cards. As one client recently wrote, “Very pleased with the kind people and great service. I appreciate all that you do. Thank You.” We couldn’t have said it better!

(Recruiting for VITA volunteers begins in October, with training in November and December. Our VITA site is open from the end of January through April 15th. Contact Kathy Scott at kscott@lcchousing.org if you are interested in volunteering)



Joe Castner and Rita Potts on the final day of the 2013 VITA filing season

Staff Profile

Sue Chen started with LCCH in August 1999 as a temp from Kelly Services. She was hired as a full time LCCH employee in February 2000. Sue has been with LCCH longer than any other current employee with the exception of its Executive Director, Deb Tegtmeier.

Sue’s position at LCCH creates a need to wear many different hats and her background allows her to do that with ease. She was part owner of a local restaurant for 15 years, but also has worked with Department of Job Family Services performing data entry duties. She has worked all of her life, starting out as a bus girl at 15 ½. Sue’s motto is “I don’t let grass grow under my feet.”

Sue’s favorite part of working at LCCH is answering the phones and talking with clients. She believes having a positive word for clients when they seem ready to give up is just part of what comes naturally to her. Knowing that we can make a difference for someone is what life is about. As for the agency, she appreciates its flexibility and family atmosphere.

For Sue, too little funding or a lack of available help, are probably the most difficult aspects of working at LCCH. She doesn’t expect to help everyone but some funds are so restrictive, we cannot help people sometimes who seem to need it most. Sue says there’s nothing she dislikes about the agency.

Something most people don’t know is that Sue joined the convent during her freshman and sophomore years of high school and had dreams of becoming a nun. Those of us who know Sue are glad that she didn’t pursue that path so that we would have the opportunity to get to know her!

Sue lives in Heath with her Siamese cat, Oodles. Some hobbies of Sue’s are playing euchre, mahjong, and hanging out with friends and family. She comes from a family which includes 2 brothers, 2 sisters, 1 daughter, 3 stepdaughters, and 5 step grandchildren. Sue grew up in Ottawa, Ohio where her parents farmed for over 50 years.

2013 VITA Volunteer

Dave Aschenbeck	3 years*+	Kate Kloster	1 year
Bolaji Azeez	1 year	Larry Miller	3 years
Steven Barber	1 year	Joshua Murphy	3 years
Ron Behlke	3 years*	Rita Potts	3 years*+
Peggy Behrman	1 year	Bill Prior	3 years*
Joe Castner	2 years+	Callie Query	2 years
Tracy Cui	1 year	Mike Schroder	2 years+
Joshua Kumi Darko	1 year	Kimone Simpson	1 year
Bill Darnell	3 years*	Yiging Tang	1 year
Michele Doran	1 year	*Advanced certification	
Petrea Fouts	3 years	+40 or more returns in 2013	
Wilma Keller	1 year		

2013 VITA Stats

Total # of Returns:	632
Total \$ Refunded:	\$691,019
Total \$ Due:	\$32,686
Avg Adj Gross Income:	\$14,662
# of EIC Returns:	252
Total \$ EIC:	\$260,065
# of Volunteers:	21
Volunteer Hours:	726

2013 Point In Time □ A Count of the Homeless in Licking County

Every year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each community receiving HUD funding to perform a Point-In-Time (PIT) count in order to capture the number of homeless individuals in each county on any given night. The Ohio Development Services Agency decided to conduct Ohio's PIT on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. In order to accomplish this year's mandatory "street count," members of the Licking County Housing Initiative (LCHI), our local HUD-required homeless Continuum of Care planning group, put together several teams to go out on that night and try to find individuals

living on the streets, in their cars, or places not meant for habitation.

Although the "street count" effort did not find anyone living in these outdoor situations, there were 191 individuals identified that met HUD's definition of "homeless." There were 88 persons living in emergency shelters (The Salvation Army and St. Vincent Haven), 98 persons living in LCCH's Transitional Housing programs, and 3 individuals, interviewed at one of the local food pantries, who stated they were living on the streets. Notably, 54 (28%) of the 191 homeless individuals were under the age of 18, 15 (8%) were

between the ages of 18 and 24 and the remaining 122 (64%) individuals were over the age of 24. There were 17 homeless veterans identified, 21 persons suffering from severe mental illness, 17 with chronic substance abuse, 1 person with HIV/AIDS, and 37 victims of domestic violence.

LCHI has determined it would be helpful to do another count this summer in order to have another opportunity to count the homeless population during the warmer months. Be on the lookout for further information about how you can help with this project.

Assistance Comes in Many Forms

By Kathy Scott,
VITA Program Coordinator

I think most people have an idea of who the typical LCCH client is. And I think most people would be surprised to find out how different our clients are from that idea. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a program that can help most taxpayers who have an income of \$51,000 or less per year, so we see a real variety of clients at our tax sites. Many come for free tax preparation and have no need for other services, and some utilize several of our programs. The majority of our tax clients are repeat customers and I look forward to seeing them each year. One client in particular has a story which I think is worth sharing.

"Jennifer" came to our tax site last year with a very limited income. She was in her early sixties and in dire financial need. Jennifer had worked at a very good job with excellent benefits and a private retirement plan for over 17 years. She was forced to leave her job at age 58 for health reasons. With no health insurance and medical bills piling up, Jennifer took some bad advice and withdrew all of the money from her retirement plan to survive. She felt

strongly that it was her responsibility to provide for herself as much as she could without seeking assistance. There was not enough to cover the bills, however, and withdrawing her private retirement meant that her Social Security benefits, when she was eligible for them, were reduced to \$200 per month. Also, Jennifer had purchased a house and been the victim of predatory lending and investment fraud. The house was entering foreclosure. She had been quoted one payment amount during negotiations, but the actual amount on closing day was significantly higher. "When you want something so badly you ignore the red flags" she said about the home purchase. She also found out after the fact that a lien against the house had not been disclosed. (Jennifer was one of many victims of this fraud, from this seller. The perpetrator has been convicted, and Jennifer receives restitution of less than \$20 per month.)

So what were we able to do for Jennifer? Not nearly as much as I wanted to. We prepared and filed her taxes for free, and were able to develop a tax strategy which reflected the changes in her life and was beneficial to both her and the daughter who supported her. We were able to provide

a referral to a bankruptcy attorney who offered to help her at no charge. Jennifer met with an LCCH homeless prevention assistant who explained the subsidized housing process and the options available to someone of her age and income.

Although we were not able to provide any direct financial assistance, I know that we were able to help Jennifer when she needed it. How? Because she called to schedule her tax appointment and to fill me in on what has happened in her life this year. The foreclosure on her house is complete and she is now living in a Senior, income-based housing complex near her daughter. Despite a long waiting list, she was able to secure an apartment the day she applied, due to perseverance, good fortune and a generous housing manager. She has filed taxes again with VITA this year, and will probably have no need to file in future years. I was so touched by Jennifer's resilience and gratitude in the face of so many misfortunes. She credits her attitude to the example set by her special needs grandson. "I have learned a great deal about life from him. And how to make the best of each day. He is truly my inspiration."

Get to Know Our Donors

Caring Children

At LCCH we appreciate each and every donation we receive. So what makes a donation especially meaningful? Read on to learn about two very special donors.

A woman walked into the office last winter with gift bags full of toiletries to donate to our clients. Her daughter had just turned eleven, and this generous child had asked her birthday party guests to bring toiletries rather than birthday presents, her Mom explained, so that she could donate them to our Transitional Housing clients. When asked what had motivated her, Mom replied that her daughter had seen several recent news stories about individuals and groups that had helped animals. Her daughter had said that she wanted to do something that would help *people*, and together they came up with the birthday party plan. Thanks to the generosity of the birthday girl and her party guests, we received many wonderful, usable items for our residents.

We try to acknowledge all gifts, even those made online without mailing information for the donor. When our Executive Director thanked a Network for Good donor by email, she received this reply: "This donation is actually from my 12 year old son 'Sam.' He had \$200.00 to donate and he researched and researched where to give his money this year. He chose Licking County Coalition for Housing! He has shared his "donation" story with several family members and friends. He was most impressed with the % of people that are able to get back on their feet with your help! He has a tender heart and has reflected a lot this Christmas Season on the people you serve. Thank you for the services that YOU and YOUR TEAM provide!"

What a wonderful way to share the holiday spirit with others.

It is good to know that there are philanthropists of all ages out there! Everyone can make a difference, no matter what their age or circumstance.

A big thanks to Mental Health America of Licking County, the Jennifer and Ben McNaughton family, and other donors. With their kind donations, we were able to supply a total of 29 Easter Baskets to the children in our transitional housing program.



Donate Now!

It's easy to make a donation to LCCH.

1. Checks can be mailed to:
Licking County Coalition for Housing
P.O. Box 613
23 South Park Place, Suite 200
Newark, OH 43058-0613
2. Credit Card donations can be made online, www.lcchousing.org
3. Or call 740-345-1970 or Toll Free at 1-877-421-5224

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Play Space Needed!

LCF and BSA Troop 65 bring us closer to our goal.

We are thrilled to announce that The Licking County Foundation has awarded LCCH a grant to assist in the construction of a play space and gathering area for children in our Transitional Housing program and their families. The funds and private donations will be used to provide toys and play equipment for toddlers and children, as well as picnic tables and benches for outdoor events, mulch and landscaping. The play area will be located between the two apartment buildings that LCCH owns on North 40th Street. This is the second consecutive year that the Licking County Foundation has supported LCCH projects.

We also have labor to erect the equipment, install the furniture,

construct a sidewalk and help with the landscaping and mulch thanks to Matt Kaercher of Granville. Matt, who is a member of Boy Scout Troop 65, has adopted the play space as his Eagle project. Eagle is the highest rank awarded by the Boy Scouts, and one requirement for achieving it is to complete a service project which benefits the community. Matt, along with parents and other scouts will commit at least 100 hours to the project.

The project cannot be started, however, until some safety issues are addressed. We need to install a fence to contain the kids and their toys, and some existing pole lights need to be replaced with surface mounted lights. We have received a discounted price for the fencing from a local vendor, however we still need to raise the funds to purchase it.

If you are interested in contributing to the play area fund, or can provide the electrical work as an in-kind donation, please contact Kathy Scott at 740-345-1970 extension 229, or kscott@lcchousing.org. **With your help, the play space will be completed by August 2013.**

Special Thanks



**LICKING COUNTY
FOUNDATION**
bridging generations.

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