



Focus On Community

MEMBER AGENCIES

- ACLU of Ohio Foundation
- Appalachian Nutrition Network
- Asian American Community Services
- BRAVO Buckeye Region Anti - Violence Organization
- Camp Fire USA Central Ohio Council
- Camp Sunrise
- Capital Area Humane Society
- CASA of Franklin County
- Cat Welfare
- Center for Humane Options in Childbirth Experience (CHOICE)
- Center for Wholeness
- Central Ohio Green Ed Fund
- City Year Columbus
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
- Columbus Landmarks Foundation
- COSI Columbus
- Deaf Services Center
- Earthtouch
- Enhanced Life Styles Training Facility
- Free Geek Columbus
- The Free Press
- Friends of the Scioto River
- Greater Linden Development Corporation
- Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus
- Heart of the City
- Hocking Athens Perry Community Action
- Inn at Broad
- Interfaith Center for Peace
- Kaleidoscope Youth Coalition
- MAP Furniture Bank
- Mercy For Animals
- MOBILE Mid Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment
- Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio
- NARAL/Pro Choice Ohio Education Foundation
- Neighborhood Services, Inc.
- Ohio Alliance for Arts Education
- Ohio Citizen Action
- Ohio Domestic Violence Network
- Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
- Ohio League for the Mentally Retarded
- Ohio Literacy Network
- Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund
- Pater Noster House
- Project Open Hand Columbus
- Simply Living
- Stonewall Columbus
- SAVE Strategies Against Violence Everywhere
- Vietnam Veterans of Ohio
- Waldorf Education Columbus
- Wright Choice Intern Program

New Non-Profit Agencies Join Community Shares

Five community based non-profits will have another fundraising option through the benefits of workplace fundraising as members of Community Shares of Mid Ohio (CoSMO). The addition of these five members brings CoSMO's total to 50 area non-profits serving central Ohio. Community Shares member agencies are working together, we will help to **defend** human and civil rights, **feed** the hungry, **build** affordable housing, **prevent** family, youth, school and neighborhood violence, **preserve** the environment, and **increase** health, safety, education, social justice and democracy in our community.

"These charities are a wonderful addition to the diverse organizations we support," said Community Shares Executive Director Melissa Magers "and will ensure funding for even more vital programs and services."

The **Appalachian Nutrition Network** provides 104,000 nutritious meals at 18 sites to low income children through USDA's Summer Food Service Program; after-school meals and snacks; improves children's



The Center for Humane Options in Childbirth Experience

provides prenatal care, education, and labor support during pregnancy and childbirth; prepares families for childbirth; post-partum support groups; and empowers families to make safe, healthy choices.

The Columbus Landmarks Foundation

promotes the preservation of central Ohio's historic and architectural resources and fosters quality new design in Columbus' urban environment through advocacy, educational programs and community actions.

Kathy Mast-Kane, the Executive Director of Columbus Landmarks Foundation, said, "We are looking forward to the

health and cognition.

networking opportunities and stream of income with Community Shares. The marketing potential gives great visibility to Columbus Landmarks."

The Greater Linden Development Corporation

revitalizes the Greater Linden community through housing, economic development, and numerous community-building initiatives, including crime prevention programs and a community newspaper.



The **Heart of the City** consists of thirteen community outreach programs that annually serve 30,000 persons affected by homelessness, poverty, HIV/AIDS, addiction, or incarceration in downtown Columbus with free supportive services.

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Our Mission:

Community Shares was established in 1993 as a coalition of locally-based non-profits for the purpose of collaboratively participating in workplace giving campaigns that provide vital financial support for member agencies.

Description:

Community-based, volunteer led agencies preventing violence, sexual assault, child abuse, homelessness and hunger, and environmental devastation; protecting civil and human rights; increasing literacy, affordable housing, and safety.



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www.communityshare.net

Letter from Executive Director

It's tough out there. I don't need to tell you – unless you've been on a desert island – you know the rising costs of basic goods like gas, food, and utilities. Doubtless you have had to make your own economic adjustments. Now think about what it must be like to be a person with a disability, or a homeless child, or a single mother starting over after escaping domestic violence, or someone recovering from a stroke. Pretty tough.

But you've helped. Your donation has had an impact on someone's life. Your workplace contribution supports a wide range of local nonprofits working on the root causes of social problems. Strategies include prevention, self help, grass-roots action, and education while emphasizing fairness and social justice for all people.

And your gift does not have to be huge to help. Maybe you've had to cut back and you wonder if you will be able to give again. Please remember that even a modest contribution is significant. When added together with the gifts of others, you give vital support to programs and services that assist folks living in central Ohio neighborhoods.

Working together, we are building sustainable healthy communities. Thank you!

Melissa Magers
Executive Director

Letter from Board President

Thank you central Ohio for your continued support of Community Shares of Mid Ohio! As President of Community Shares of Mid Ohio, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our many wonderful donors for contributing to the charities of your choice through Community Shares workplace campaigns. Your donations helped us break another record for giving in 2008 and to achieve a fourteenth straight year of growth. This would not be possible without your continued support of Community Shares and our fifty member agencies.

Community Shares of Mid Ohio is committed to providing the employees of participating workplaces with as many giving opportunities as possible. We are excited to announce the addition of five new members for 2008: Appalachian Nutrition Network, Center for Humane Options in Childbirth Experience, The Columbus Landmarks Foundation, Greater Linden Development Corporation and Heart of the City. Please be sure to read the cover article to learn more about each of these great organizations.

Perhaps the greatest strength of CoSMO, however, is the manner by which it democratizes philanthropy. CoSMO respects your wishes as a donor by distributing donations based on your pledge. You can rest assured that your CoSMO donation goes directly to the agency working on the issues and causes that concern you the most.

Take a moment to review the newsletter to see how the donations you've made have helped the various Community Shares charities. Also be sure to look at our website, www.communityshares.net, for additional information and improvements.

Thank you again for your support.

Thomas Tootle
2008 CoSMO Board President
representing Camp Sunrise

Community Shares Sets New Record with 2007 Fundraising

Community Shares of Mid Ohio (CoSMO) raised a record setting \$672,000 from workplace campaigns in 2007 – an annual increase of twenty-eight percent. Donations generated from the workplace campaigns for Community Shares non-profit member agencies allow them to continue providing support to vital services and lasting solutions in the central Ohio area.

“This is the fourteenth straight year of increases,” said CoSMO Executive Director Melissa Magers. “As we reach more donors in more workplace cam-

paings, employees have responded to the work of our members by supporting their programs and services.” Since its first campaign in 1993, CoSMO has distributed over \$2 million to its members from contributions raised in workplace campaigns.

“Community Shares greatest strength is that it lets donors decide where their dollars will go. This accounts for our record of success while other fundraising federations are facing challenges,” stated Thomas Tootle, Board President for Community Share of Mid Ohio.



Community Shares Wants to Hear from You

Have you received some help, support or services from a member charity of Community Shares? Did volunteering or donating to a member charity of Community Shares have an impact on your life? If so, Community Shares would like to hear from you.

We are currently looking for impact stories. We want to hear how a member charity has made a difference in your life whether through providing help, support or services to you. We also want to hear from

those who have donated or volunteered. We want to share your stories with our member charities, donors and potential donors. An impact story from Deaf Services Center can be found on page 5.

If you have a story to share or questions, please contact our Community Relations Director, Ryan Kovalaske, by emailing him at pr@communityshares.net or calling the office at 614-262-1176.



Giving Just Got Easier

Are you always online searching and shopping? Don't you wish that you could give back while doing it? Well now when you search and shop online you can contribute to Community Shares.

Community Shares has signed up with GoodSearch, a search engine powered by Yahoo, which donates money to non-profits when people use it to search the internet.

GoodSearch donates a penny per search to the non-profit of the user's choice. Simply go to www.goodsearch.com and when asked for which charity you support, type in Community Shares. It's that simple. Now each time you use GoodSearch, the money will be donated to CoSMO.

If you like shopping online, you can also donate to Community Shares by using GoodShop--created by GoodSearch. The shopping experience and the prices are exactly the same as going to the retailer directly. You can shop at some of the top retailers: Macy's, Best Buy, Apple, Target, etc. and have a percentage of your proceeds donated to CoSMO.

So go ahead, search and shop online with GoodSearch and when you do, remember you're doing some good too.



~NEW AGENCIES from cover

“We just thought it would be a benefit to our organization to offer an option of payroll contribution. We're just glad to be involved,” Jim Barbee, Board President for Heart of the City, stated.

Membership in CoSMO is determined based on an agencies work for progressive social change, diversity of issues and the importance of those issues to the community. Members join CoSMO by filling out applications throughout the year with a final deadline of November 1, 2008. The application is available for download on the CoSMO website. New agencies are accepted at the annual December CoSMO board meeting.



More Ways to Donate

In an effort to increase the available options for our donors, CoSMO has established a PayPal account to allow online payments to be taken through the service. Simply log on to our website at www.communityshares.net and go to the donate tab. The PayPal button will be located there as well as other ways to donate to CoSMO and your favorite non-profit member agency.



Community Shares Welcomes Campaign Partners for 2008

Community Shares (CoSMO) is excited about a new opportunity to provide vital funding for even more central Ohio non-profits. For 2008 in the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and The Ohio State University Bucks for Charity Combined Charitable Campaigns we will be partnering with these six local nonprofits:

Africentric Personal Development Workshop provides alcohol and other drug prevention programs using an Africentric model; counseling for youth, adult, and families; after-school and Rites of Passage programs. They promote the belief that healthy families are the foundation of a successful community.

Central Ohio Minority Business Association provides direct, quality business and contract procurement assistance that contributes to the growth and stability of Ohio's underutilized businesses with an emphasis on minority and small at-risk businesses. Services are provided in areas of business counseling and loan packaging for new and existing businesses.

Columbus Area Inc. is a full service/comprehensive provider with an array of mental health, alcohol and other drug services to persons, suffering with a mental illness, alcohol

and/or drug addiction. They are the first and oldest mental health organization in Franklin Co. having become incorporated in 1965.

Isabelle Ridgway Care Center provides warm, compassionate, culturally appropriate and family friendly care and service through nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, dietary services, social services, housekeeping and laundry services, maintenance, adult day services, therapeutic recreation, transportation and outreach services to the aging population of central Ohio.

Jireh Services offers programs and services that help to insure disabled adults are able to live in decent, safe, affordable and supportive living environments. They provide leadership in the community as an advocate for the individuals served, and the organization works to create a network of support within the professional, business and governmental communities.

Urban Cultural Arts Foundation is dedicated to African American arts and culture and established as a place for artists to showcase and appreciate cultural expression. Programs include on-going art workshops for children and The William H Thomas Gallery, a com-

AGENCY NEWS CORNER

munity gallery dedicated to bringing the arts into the center of urban Columbus, is itself a work of art built for and by African American and African artists.

"We have been aware for some years of the important services of these agencies and are especially excited with this opportunity to not only serve these hard-working organizations but to increase the diversity of CoSMO," said Melissa Magers, Executive Director of Community Shares of Mid Ohio.

Simply Living Brings You Simply Living Radio

WCRS 102.1 and 98.3 FM are now home to Simply Living Radio from 3-8 p.m. daily. Weekly broadcasts consist mostly of local talk and music radio along with some programming from their Pacifica affiliation. For more information and a schedule of shows head over to www.wcrsfm.org.



Habitat's Build It Again Center Becomes "ReStore"

Habitat's Build It Again Center (BIAC)--long a treasure chest for remodelers and do-it-yourselfers--is undergoing a refurbishment of its own. Beginning this spring, the Greater Columbus affiliate is adopting Habitat International's "Restore" brand name for its re-sale warehouse of new and used home improvement items. The Store is an important part of Habitat's income, usually raising enough money through the resale of donated items such as cabinets, kitchen and bath fixtures, flooring and doors to fund the affiliate's administrative costs. The store is located at 3140 Westerville Road Columbus.



Making an Impact: Deaf Services Center Helps Single Mother with Electric Bill

Jane Doe came to Deaf Services Center (DSC) at the end of April with an outstanding electricity bill and a threat for disconnection if she did not make full payment within three weeks. Jane is a deaf single mother of two young children who moved to the United States several years ago. Jane has very limited communication skills and limited reading skills

After looking over her bill statement, DSC contacted American Electric Power (AEP) to find out if Jane was a recipient of their PIPP program (Percentage of Income Payment plan). The AEP representative explained that Jane was no longer in the PIPP program and would have to reapply to get back into the PIPP. Her sister helped Jane set up her account with AEP but due to poor communication with her sister she was not aware that she was in the

DEAF SERVICES CENTER

PIPP program. She was also not aware that she would need to sign up each year at the end of March to enroll again. Jane only knew that she needed to pay the “due” amount that was printed on her bill each month.

The deadline passed to re-enroll, and DSC explained to the AEP representative of the situation and asked for options that could help assist this single mother with limited income in being able to address her outstanding electric bill. The AEP representative could only recommend contacting Emergency HEAP’s 800 telephone number. When DSC tried to contact HEAP’s 800 number using video relay service (VRS), but it was not possible because it only accepted calls from within Ohio. VRS is a service covered by the Federal Communications Commission to provide communication for deaf callers and is located

throughout the United States.

The DSC worker decided to take another approach in to reach HEAP by going online and signing Jane up for an appointment to see a caseworker at a local community center. Jane, DSC and an interpreter from DSC met with the case worker in the middle of April. DSC advocated on behalf of Jane requesting an exception to the deadline for enrollment to the PIPP. DSC was successful in getting the caseworker to sign Jane up for PIPP. Jane was no longer in threat of disconnection of her electricity. DSC took the time to help explain to Jane how PIPP works and taught her how to read her electric bill and where to look to see when her PIPP ends next year. DSC encouraged Jane to be prepared to contact AEP next March to enroll again for the PIPP.



A few dollars a paycheck can make an impact in your community! Your contributions help our agencies provide solutions that improve the lives of everyone.

\$10 a year buys a membership to the Free Press and ensures the latest news and opinion on social justice issues.

\$25 will provide 2,500 fact sheets about asthma and air pollution from the *Ohio Citizen Action Fund*

\$25 buys 140 pounds of food for Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Agency’s food bank network serving 200 food pantries and soup kitchens in 10 SE Ohio counties

\$50 will provide a low-flow toilet to install in a house built by *Habitat for Humanity*

\$200 pays for *MAP Furniture Bank* to provide 10-14 pieces of furniture to a family struggling to furnish their own home.

\$200 pays for a Peace School with volunteer help through *Interfaith Center for Peace*

\$500 allows a law clerk from the *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)* to conduct research on a pressing civil liberties violation.

\$1000 a year to recruit, screen, train and support a volunteer *CASA* guardian ad litem to advocate for an abused or neglected child in court

BRAVO Receives Benefits from Q Bar and Qualia Conference

Now you can enjoy Happy Hour and help one of our member agencies. Q Bar & Nightclub is hosting a weekly BRAVO Happy Hour every Thursday, from 5 PM to 8 PM featuring drink specials and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere to unwind a bit after work.

A portion of proceeds are donated to BRAVO. Thanks to BRAVO Board member Chris Cushing for making this happen.

BRAVO was once again the charity for the Annual Qualia Conference on LGBT Folklore. Dance

events at Axis Nightclub on May 2 and 3 contributed over \$3000 from the cover charge to BRAVO. Thanks to Mickey Weems and Kevin Mason for the continued support.





3709 N High St
Columbus, OH 43220

Upcoming Workplace Campaigns

Look for us this fall in these workplace campaigns.

Public Sector:

State of Ohio
City of Columbus
City of Dublin
Columbus Metropolitan Libraries
Columbus Public Schools
Columbus State Community College
Combined Federal Campaign Central Ohio
Combined Federal Campaign Miami Valley
Combined Federal Campaign North Central Ohio
Combined Federal Campaign 3 Rivers
Franklin County
The Ohio State University
South Western Schools
Westerville Schools
Worthington Schools

Private Sector:

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal
Employees (AFSCME)
COSI Columbus
Edison Welding Institute (EWI)
Hahn Loser Parks
Millcraft
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH)
Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA)
Ohio Historical Society
Southeast Community Mental Health
WWHO - The CW