

# Housing Opportunities Action Council

## Lead Administrator: Summary Report

Benton County and the City of Corvallis have contracted with United Way of Benton & Lincoln Counties to serve as the backbone organization, and host the position of Lead Administrator (aka, Program Manager) for HOAC from November 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Shawn Collins began serving in this role November 1, 2016.

Following is a summary report of the activities of the Program Manager, August 2017-September 2017.

### Project Updates

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**Cold Weather Shelter:** As of September 27, we have 34 days until the cold weather shelter season opens November 1, and activity has ramped up rapidly on several fronts to prepare.

*Funding:* Funding for the shelter has been approved by Benton County, and processes have been established to pay invoices through the City. Fund raising efforts have begun to fill gaps in the funding model, and the first donations have been received through Benton Community Foundation and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis (UUFC). A webpage has been established for the shelter, which includes information on donation channels and volunteer opportunities: <http://bentonhoac.com/corvallis-mens-shelter/>

*Renovation:* City of Corvallis Development Services processed permit applications very quickly, and renovation work has begun at the site. The first of many planned volunteer days, coordinated through a partnership with Benton Habitat for Humanity, took place on September 23, and was a great success. Students, staff and faculty from OSU participated, and many plan to return for more renovation work, and to volunteer at the shelter. Electrical, plumbing, and construction contractors have all made great strides, and are working hard to fit this work into their very full schedules. The flexibility and commitment of all involved supports my confidence that we'll get renovations done on time.

*Staffing:* Much of the staffing of the shelter will be done by volunteers, and coordination of that effort will be critical to successful operations. Roz Keeney and Sherrie Day have stepped forward through the UUFC housing task force to serve as volunteer coordinators, and are working hard to assemble training materials, volunteer job descriptions, and generally make sure that the volunteers have what they need to be successful. This has been a great effort, and their leadership is very much appreciated. The balance of the staffing model includes paid staff, and planning for those positions is being finalized under the leadership of Jill McAllister, senior minister at the UUFC.

*Steering Committee:* The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held September 19<sup>th</sup> at the United Way Offices, with Jill McAllister facilitating. This was a very productive meeting, which generated a number of great questions that need to be addressed before November. The engagement of this group, representing a cross-section of stakeholders across the community, will be critical as we work through issues related to operating in a new location, and extend the community partnerships which make the shelter possible. The Steering Committee will meet monthly.

**Ten-Year Plan Update:** As reported in August, interest in the workgroups that are being formed has been very high, and each of the three workgroups will have strong membership. In the past month, Andrea Myhre, leader of the SMART team, and I have met with each of the workgroup co-chairs to set the stage for first meetings, and move the process ahead. The schedule for the Housing Supply and Messaging workgroup has been set, with the first meeting scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. Meetings for Behavioral/Mental Health, and Care Coordination workgroups will be scheduled soon, and future Governing Board meetings will include updates from each of the groups as they work their charge.

In addition, the Ten Year Plan update document is being drafted by the Healthy Communities team at the Benton County Health Department, and will begin a cycle of editorial reviews over the next month.

### Perspective

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I recently attended a Permanent Supportive Housing Summit in Portland, put on by Enterprise and the Corporation

for Supportive Housing. The centerpiece of the summit was two presentations representing the experience of King County, Washington, and Los Angeles, California. One of things that struck me was the parallels between the experiences in those areas, and Benton County. While the scale of the challenges they face is vastly different (and makes me feel fortunate to work on these issues here), the roots of at least some of those challenges, and potential solutions, look very familiar. In Los Angeles, and King County, coordinated entry into the service network, and a focus on care coordination has been key to changing the way they address housing and homelessness issues. This aligns perfectly with the focus we've identified for the Coordinated Care workgroup, and validates HOAC's selection of care coordination as a keystone priority. Linking service providers together, in a way that allows stronger closed loop referrals, and shifts the focus from specific agencies, to community-wide coordinated efforts has made possible stronger service, and significant cost savings. Showing those savings clearly to the community, either direct savings, or cost-avoidance due to services being provided in more appropriate settings than jails or other crisis intervention environments, has also been key to success in both King County and LA – something that aligns well with the messaging work to be done in the Housing Supply and Messaging workgroup.

Having clear, fact-based conversations in the community about the links between health, economic development, transportation, education, law enforcement, and housing has been central to efforts in other communities to build the political will required to address the complexities of housing and homelessness. As we look forward, the work to emerge from our newly forming HOAC workgroups will add to the work going on in other groups like the Corvallis League of Women Voters, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and others, to build a base for those conversations, and draw on the expertise, and creativity of our community to build the sustainable, effective solutions we need.

For anyone interested in discussing affordable housing and homelessness, and approaches we might take going forward, I can be reached at [shawn@unitedwayblc.org](mailto:shawn@unitedwayblc.org), 541-757-7717, or through [contact@bentonhoac.com](mailto:contact@bentonhoac.com).

# CREATIVE OPTIONS HOUSING TOUR

Visit a variety of affordable housing types –  
ADU, tiny home, small cluster housing and more!



**Join us!**

**Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017  
1pm to 5pm**



**Self-Guided Tour Starts at**  
**Seavey Meadows Community Room**  
**1099 NE Sorrel Place, Corvallis**

*Sponsored by the  
Corvallis Sustainability Coalition  
Housing Action Team*  
[sustainablecorvallis.org](http://sustainablecorvallis.org)



# Homeless to Housing

## WE CAN CHANGE LIVES TOGETHER!

Today more than 1,000 people living in Benton County are experiencing homelessness. This initiative is focused on providing for the basic needs of youth, children, and families experiencing homelessness and the comprehensive services which can help them move up and out of poverty.

### BASIC NEEDS

Food  
Shelter  
Clothing  
Medical & Mental  
Health Treatment

*\$54,589 Awarded in 2017*  
*\$60,000 Annual Goal*

### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Child Care  
Case Management  
Transitional Housing  
Counseling & Addiction Support

*\$35,532 Awarded in 2017*  
*\$60,000 Annual Goal*



**BENTON  
COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION



### HOMELESS TO HOUSING RESPONSE FUND **\$2,000,000 GOAL**

You can help us meet this goal. With your support we can fund innovative solutions that address local needs while helping some of the most vulnerable members of our community...children!

Giving through the Benton Community Foundation is easy! We pair your philanthropic interests with local needs. By expanding your giving opportunities we can support the non-profits you cherish today...and for years to come.

### *You can choose how to help!*

In 2017, donor advised funds provided \$7,500 in grants that assisted local food banks and community centers. Donors are actively involved in charitable giving!

Since 2001, the Yellow Ribbon Endowment Fund has helped Veterans who are experiencing homelessness find shelter. Donors provide guidance for future gifts and entrust our Board of Directors to fulfill their philanthropic wishes.

With your financial support and our network of community partners we can grow the resources necessary to provide funding that supports the local continuum of care for people experiencing homelessness.

Since 1953, the Benton Community Foundation has assisted local programs that help children, youth, and families in Benton County achieve a brighter future. Today, we continue to build upon that legacy, and our mission of investing in our community through philanthropy.

### Homeless to Housing Initiative by Types of Funds (2017)



#### Basic Needs

- Community Grants
- Designated Funds

#### Supportive Services

- Donor Advised Funds
- Community Grants
- Designated Funds

### Total Grants by Area of Interest (2017)



- Adult Care
- Scholarship
- Arts and Culture
- Capacity Building
- Basic Needs
- Investing in Youth
- Environment, Science & Technology

## Ways BCF Impacts Our Community

- 1** We develop, protect and build permanent community resources.
- 2** We partner with you to maximize the impact of your charitable gift.
- 3** We connect great people to great organizations to change lives.
- 4** We collaborate with community leaders and identify positive solutions to emerging issues.

### Let's make a difference together.

Learn more about how you can create positive change in our community.  
 Leave a Legacy that will benefit our region today and for generations to come.  
 Ask us how.

[www.bcfgives.org](http://www.bcfgives.org)

[facebook.com/BentonCommunityFoundation](https://facebook.com/BentonCommunityFoundation)

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**BENTON  
COMMUNITY**  
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Investing in our community since 1953.