

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS ANNUAL REPORT (JULY 1, 2014 — JUNE 30, 2015)

OUR MISSION: TO END HOMELESSNESS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND COORDINATION

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Is there a special person in your life who is a veteran? If so, I don't have to explain to you the sacrifices they have made or how much we as a nation owe each of them for their service. But too often we get busy with our lives and forget about those in need—including our veterans.

I am happy to report that can't be said for Louisville this year. An incredible group of agencies and active community leaders came together and agreed to dedicate themselves to ending veteran homelessness in 2015. I have been honored to be a part of this effort, known as Rx: Housing Veterans. Between January and December 2015, nearly 800 veterans were moved from homelessness to stability with the services and support that they need to thrive. This brought Louisville to "functional zero" for veteran homelessness.

While this is quite an achievement in itself, it has helped me to realize something even more amazing. When we work together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

So I invite you to join us in our battle against homelessness in Louisville, because no one should have to live or die on our streets. We need landlords to rent apartments to formerly homeless veterans and others; business owners to hire them; and people in our community to donate money toward "welcome home" kits as they start their lives anew.

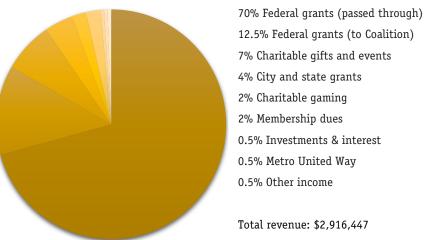
We are working to maintain an end for veteran homelessness here in Louisville, but that is just the start. We are also making great strides toward ending chronic homelessness and, with your help, we plan to expand this coordinated effort toward ending homelessness for all citizens in our community.

Wouldn't that be a truly compassionate city?

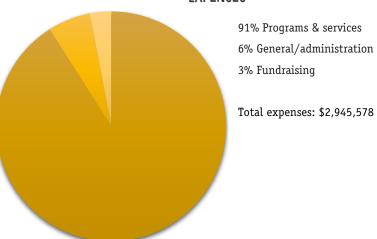
Natalie Harris

# FINANCIALS (JULY 1, 2014 — JUNE 30, 2015)





## **EXPENSES**



Ending net assets: \$450,352

Note: As is demonstrated above, the vast majority of federal grant funding that we receive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is completely passed through to member agencies. A full audit is available on our website at www.louhomeless.org.

# 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

DROP IN HOMELESSNESS. From 2013 to 2014, we reported a drop in homelessness of 14% in Louisville, down from 8,608 people to 7,380 people. Additionally, we reported greater efficiency in our shelter occupancy rates: they were up from 60% to 96% for individuals and from 85% to 100% for families.

PYRAMID AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. In the fall of 2014, the Coalition for the Homeless was awarded the Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNPE) Pyramid Award for the Art of Innovation for our Bed One-Stop program. In its first year, Bed One-Stop took calls from nearly 9,400 homeless clients, met with nearly 1,700 people, and referred over 2,200 people to local homeless prevention services. Homeless client data also improved from 60% to 96% in the first year.

STAND DOWN. Again in October 2014, thanks to nearly 300 volunteers, we served hundreds of homeless veterans, individuals, and families with over 80 services in one central location (Salvation Army). The Coalition sponsors Stand Down/Project Homeless Connect annually with Metro Louisville and the Robley Rex VA Medical Center. For the first time, we added footwashing; dozens of volunteers washed the feet of hundreds of homeless individuals that day.

#TAKEASTANDLOU. Take A Stand (#TakeAStandLou) was an awareness campaign launched in November 2014 with a goal of educating and engaging the community. Nearly 200 volunteers held up signs across the city that said things like, "I've never been a homeless child, but I'm here to take a stand for the 1,200 kids who slept in homeless shelters last year." On social media, thousands more people viewed our awareness video and posted how they would take a stand for our homeless neighbors.

RX: HOUSING VETERANS. In January 2014, the Coalition for the Homeless—under the leadership of Mayor Greg Fischer with over a dozen nonprofit and governmental partners—began to coordinate an end to veteran homelessness locally. This initiative, Rx: Housing Veterans, housed 300 veterans in the first six months and another 600 in the final six months of the year, bringing Louisville to "functional zero" for veteran homelessness.

MINIMUM WAGE. We joined many other groups to successfully advocate for an increase in Louisville's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00, which will help the nearly 60% of homeless Louisvillians who work but cannot find an affordable home.

## **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

### **BOURBON MIXER**



In August 2014, the Bourbon Brotherhood and the Whisky Chicks came together to host the first Bourbon Mixer, an annual fundraiser. In its first year, the Coalition for the Homeless was lucky to be the beneficiary and recipient of nearly \$10,000 in funds. Mark your calendars: the 2016 Bourbon Mixer is scheduled for August 13,

2016, at The Gillespie, and the Coalition is again the beneficiary!

## GIVE-A-JAM



Give-A-Jam was created in 2010 by husband and wife John Harris (former Executive Director of the Clifton Center) and Natalie Harris (Executive Director of the Coalition). The idea was that everyone could do something to end homelessness.

At the 2014 Give-A-Jam, Grammy Award winner Tim

O'Brien played in a VIP show for 75 guests. Following that show, over 400 guests enjoyed music from 10 local bands and soup from eight local restaurants. We are so grateful to hundreds of people for this successful event: donors, volunteers, musicians, chefs, artists, and many more!

Please save the date for the next Give-A-Jam: Tuesday, December 20, 2016.



Without the generosity of our funders, the Coalition would not be able to do our important work. Thank you. Please note that gifts listed were received between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

#### Partners (\$5,000+)

Anonymous Clifton Center Community Foundation of Louisville Splash Analytics Whisky Chicks & Bourbon Brotherhood Yum! Brands Foundation

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# THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE MANY WAYS YOU SUPPORT THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS.

Whether it's through a donation to the Five Bucks A Month Club to get someone off the streets during extreme weather, hosting a sweatshirt drive for Stand Down, participating in the Street Count, advocating on behalf of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, participating in educational events, working as a case manager for homeless clients, or anything else, we are so grateful for the ways you advance our mission to end homelessness in Louisville.

Learn more at louhomeless.org or www.facebook.com/louhomeless.