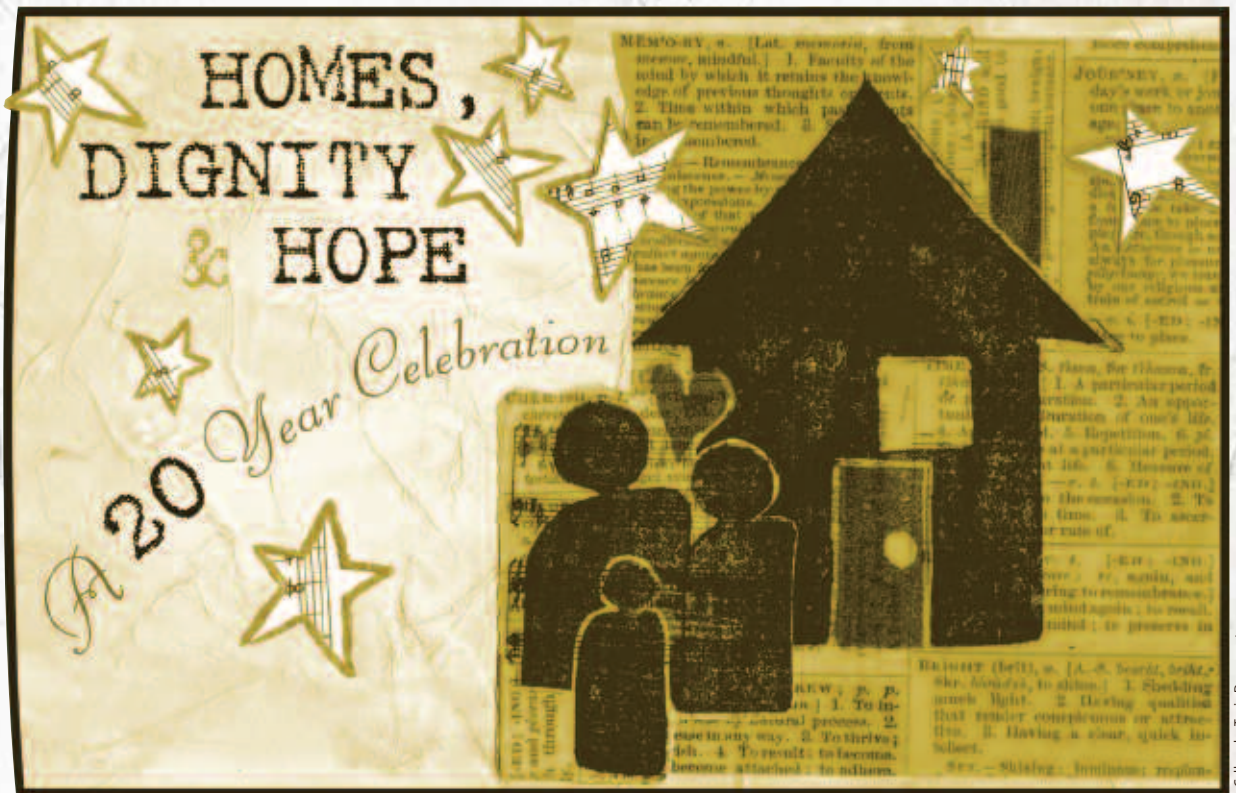


Greater
Cincinnati
Coalition For
The Homeless



Collage by Tonia Davenport

2004 Annual Report



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Our 20th Anniversary year, 2004, was a big year for the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. It was a year of growth and transition and we thank all of our individual supporters, donors, and member agencies for many of the year's successes. As in the past, our collaborations proved to be the greatest asset to the coalition. We continued to connect our quality member agencies to one another. We also expanded our educational programs into area high schools educating more youth about the topic of homelessness than ever before. Our AmeriCorps VISTAs strove to connect homeless people with city officials and the courts to protect their civil rights. In this 20th Anniversary election year, it was clear that solidarity was key in the fight to continue the Coalition's rich history of developing creative solutions to end systemic homelessness.

Continuing with this tradition, we sponsored another great Standdown event, increased past attendance at Homeless Memorial day, and advanced the Speaker's Bureau. Our nationally acclaimed street newspaper program Streetvibes celebrated it's 100th issue!

2004 was also a year for our alliances to grow. We collaborated with a dynamic assembly of housing advocates to create the newly established Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA), a group that has now merged with Cincinnatians for Affordable Housing. We are also teaming up with other homeless coalitions throughout Ohio to establish a statewide homeless advocacy coalition and strengthen the homeless civil rights organizing project. This past spring GCCH held a week long series of events for Homeless Awareness week, including a Mother's Day brunch, and Music Extravaganza.

The Coalition was fortunate to have a strong collaboration in 2004. Our members and fellow advocates bring hope and dignity as we continue the struggle to find homes for all. We depend on your continued financial support, your dedication to advocacy, and your dreams of a Cincinnati free of homelessness to sustain us and help us grow.

Sincerely,

Georgine Getty
Executive Director



Staff

Georgine Getty – Executive Director

Allison Leeuw – Administrative Coordinator

Andrew Erickson – Education Coordinator

Jimmy Heath – Streetvibes Editor

Rachel Lawson – National Homeless Civil Rights
Organizing Project 2005

Kate McManus – National Homeless Civil Rights
Organizing Project 2005

Elizabeth Linville – National Homeless Civil Rights
Organizing Project 2004

Mary Gaffney – Receptionist

Janice Faulkner – Receptionist

Board of Directors

Trish Brodrick – Board Co-Chair

Rodney Sutton – Board Co-chair

Donna Howard – Board Treasurer

Kathy Miller – Board Secretary

Steve Knight

Gregory Payton

Susan Knight

Anthony Weems

Homeless Memorial Day, December 21st in Washington Park.



Coordination of Services

Our Coordination of Services activities allow space where social service agencies, advocates, and homeless individuals alike can come together and address the problem of homelessness in our community.

It is important, as our agencies perform their day-to-day practices of helping people directly, that there is a place where they can step back and look at the whole picture of homelessness in Cincinnati.

The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless provides a forum where agencies can identify and meet the gaps in services while striving to improve existing services.



Photo by Jimmy Heath

A client receives services at the Standown 2004 Event, October 1st in Washington Park.

HOMES DIGNITY AND HOPE – The 20th Anniversary Annual Dinner of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless was held on December 9th at the Xavier University Cintas Center. It was a memorable evening as social service workers, activists, homeless individuals, and community members all joined together to recognize the hard work of our award winners. Keynote speaker Dr. Ronald Arundell gave a rousing speech, and the record attendance was inspiring. We hope all of our members and contributors felt the solidarity that came out of this evening.

2004 Award Winners

buddy gray award – Kevin Lab, Bethany House
Services Provider of the Year –

Eve Beasley, Interfaith Hospitality Network

Jimmy Render Award – Marcia Battle

Streetvibes Vendor of the Year – William Johnson

Volunteer of the Year – Susan Smith

OHIO COALITION OF HOMELESS ADVOCATES – GCCH is working to help co-found this group of over 6 Homeless Coalitions in Ohio. The group meets on a quarterly basis to share ideas, assist with advocacy needs and create joint fundraising and awareness events across the state of Ohio. GCCH is undergoing an application process with the Corporation for National and Community Service to become the host organization for a statewide AmeriCorps VISTA program that will continue to work on Homeless Civil Rights, and incorporate this group of Homeless Coalitions throughout Ohio.

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

In 2004 the Coalition continued to work closely with local advocates and agencies to develop a homeless management information system (HMIS) that will allow our shelters to better meet the needs of their clients. This system will allow us to track trends in homelessness. GCCH maintains a seat on the HMIS board to ensure that the voice of homeless individuals are represented as we move forward with HMIS and it becomes more controversial nationwide.

STANDDOWN

This national event dedicated to providing homeless veterans and other homeless individuals with a day of rest and relaxation was sponsored locally by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. In 2004 we served over 500 homeless individuals by providing them with access to and information about housing, health care, dental care, HIV/AIDS services, eye care, drug and alcohol treatment, employment, haircuts and other services.

GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

Eleven General Body Meetings were held in 2004. The heart and soul of the Coalition, General Body meetings bring together representatives from all of our member agencies in order to exchange information and vote as a community on future courses of action.

Advocacy



The Coalition works with local officials, the community and homeless people to ensure that the rights of homeless persons are preserved, that the trend of criminalization of homelessness is reversed and that just social policy is enacted to end homelessness.

NATIONAL HOMELESS CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZING PROJECT

GCCH is a regional site for the National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project, which seeks to document and end hate crimes against homeless people and to educate and organize homeless individuals about protecting their civil rights. Locally, homeless and formerly homeless individuals as well as assorted advocates meet monthly to discuss homeless civil rights and take action steps. In 2004, the primary focus of this group was on homeless individuals with felony records and the barriers they face in obtaining employment and housing.

These meetings culminated in a job fair that brought in three employment and job training agencies as well as over 30 homeless and formerly homeless individuals with felony records. The Civil Rights Group put together a list of employers and landlords who would hire and give housing to individuals with felony records. The group also facilitates the grievance process with shelters in Cincinnati.

GCCH participated in national and statewide civil rights conference calls and contributed to the national report, *Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of Homelessness in the United States*, which ranked Cincinnati as the third "meanest" city in the United States.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATES

GCCH recognizes that affordable housing is a key element in the fight to end homelessness and advocates for access to safe, affordable, and decent housing for all people in Greater Cincinnati. During 2004, the Affordable Housing Committee researched affordable housing issues and created a platform for GCCH on this issue.

As a by-product of this discussion, GCCH saw a need to organize a citywide meeting of affordable housing advocates to discuss ways all of our organizations can work together to solve Cincinnati's affordable housing crisis. This meeting led to the creation of Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA). The members of AHA meet each month to discuss current issues concerning affordable housing in Cincinnati and determine action steps to deal with these issues. In 2004 AHA sent letters and met with City Council members to work to restore \$3.95 million of funding to affordable housing, AHA restored public input into the Consolidated Plan funding process and met with numerous officials to educate and change perspectives on Affordable Housing. GCCH is continuing to work with this group to advocate for better affordable housing in Cincinnati.

HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING CUTS

For the past 20 years 1.5% of the general fund in Cincinnati had been allocated for human services. However, the suggested budget for 2005 called for cutting human services from the city budget. GCCH spoke out against these proposed cuts by mobilizing our member organizations to voice opposition at City Hall meetings, write letters of support for the services, and meet with City Council members. City Council restored approximately \$2 million to human service funding. GCCH continues to work with member agencies and community activists to ensure that this funding and the allocation process is preserved in the future.

GET OUT THE VOTE

In order to protect the voting rights of homeless and lower-income individuals, GCCH planned and participated in Election Protection 2004. Before the election on November 2, GCCH and its member agencies registered over 200 individuals at Standdown and voter registration events at the Drop Inn Center. GCCH recruited 70 volunteers to be non-partisan monitors at 9 precincts in Cincinnati. On November 2, these volunteers protected the right to vote in Over-the-Rhine, Fay Apartments, English Woods, and Winton Hills. Volunteers passed out the voters' Bill of Rights and information about transportation to the polls, provided access to legal advice, recorded and reported voting rights violations, and ensured that everyone was at the correct polling place.

Get Out the Vote project in action at the Drop Inn Center.



Photo by Jimmy Heath

Education

Through our education opportunities and resources, we provide the groundwork for understanding the complexities of homelessness so that our community can work towards sustainable solutions.

EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPANSION

In 2004, GCCH took on a major expansion of its education program. We created a teacher's guide on homelessness and piloted it at Mother of Mercy, Aiken University, and Seton high schools. The guide contains a variety of handouts and activities designed to help high school educators teach students about the complex realities of homelessness. Four main topics are addressed: the demographics of homelessness, the causes of homelessness, the rights of homeless people, and solutions to homelessness. The guide also provides suggestions for using GCCH's additional educational materials, including Streetvibes, Through Our Eyes, Voices Unheard, Homeless in Cincinnati, and a visit from our Speaker's Bureau.

All of these materials, along with a recently updated and revised version of the guide are available for purchase. We anticipate 11 schools will participate in 2005.

STREETVIBES

In November 2004, GCCH celebrated its 100th issue of Streetvibes. Streetvibes began in February 1997 as a one-page insert in Cleveland's street newspaper, The Grapevine. Since then, Streetvibes has become an award-winning alternative newspaper and GCCH's most recognized educational tool. This year, over 100 individuals participated in the Streetvibes program. The program helps provide supplemental income to homeless and low-income individuals who purchase the paper for 30 cents and sell it for a dollar donation, keeping the 70-cent profit.

HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

GCCH held a Mother's Day Luncheon and Homeless Awareness Week May 9 – 15 of this past year. Over 150 mothers, fathers and children attended. Other Homeless Awareness Week events included a movie night, a book club discussion, an advocacy day, and the Homeless Awareness Music Extravaganza, which featured performances by Christ Emmanuel Church Choir, Jake Speed, Divine Sisters, Stepp'n Out, Tribe of Levite, and Soul Mission Chorale.

SOUP BOWLS FOR THE HOMELESS

After a visit from the Speaker's Bureau, sixth-graders from Frost Elementary held a fundraiser for GCCH called "Soup Bowls for the Homeless." Guests received soup bowls made by the students in exchange for donations. The benefit helped raise nearly \$900 for GCCH. Students served soup to the guests and spoke about homelessness in an effort to raise awareness about the issue.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Speaker's Bureau had 48 engagements this year, reaching over 2500 people. Speakers were also invited to talk on local radio and television shows.



Education Coordinator Andrew Erickson awards William Johnson, Streetvibes Vendor of the Year at the 2004 Annual Dinner

Photo by Jimmy Heath

STREETVIBES VENDOR PROFILE WILLIAM JOHNSON, III

William A. Johnson III was born and raised in Cincinnati. After losing a job, he met a Streetvibes vendor named Grady Cook. Grady told William how to get started selling Streetvibes. That was three years ago. "Streetvibes got me the income to get an apartment and Streetvibes got me a job, too." William explains. "I was selling the paper outside of Chipotle in Clifton next to the DuBois bookstore parking lot. The manager of DuBois said, 'You know, you're out here every day and you see everyone who comes into my parking lot.'" William was offered a job working security for that lot. Even though William works with DuBois, he continues to sell Streetvibes. "I love selling Streetvibes. No matter what job I get, I'm going to continue selling Streetvibes. It's honest work, and I get to be my own entrepreneur." William Johnson was named Vendor of the Year in 2004.

Member Organizations

AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati provides support services, prevention education and housing assistance to homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Cincinnati. (513) 421-2437, www.avoc.org.

Alcoholism Council provides programming falls into four main categories: professional and community education, prevention, counseling and advocacy. (513) 281-7880

Bethany House Services: provides a full range of housing, education, and assistance programs to homeless and low-income women and children in the Greater Cincinnati area. (513) 921-1131, www.bethanyhouseservices.com.

Churches Active In Northside (CAIN) provides food, clothing, rental, utility and transportation assistance to homeless and low-income individuals. (513) 591-CAIN, www.cainministry.org.

Caracole provides affordable housing and supportive services for persons living with HIV/AIDS and technology solutions for non-profit organizations. Their SOPHIA program coordinates the Homeless Management Information System. (513) 761-1480, www.caracole.org.

Center for Independent Living Options provides vital resources and services to enable children and adults with disabilities, in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, to live and work independently in the community. (513) 241-2600, www.cilo.net.

Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment provides a wide range of quality treatment services for alcoholism and other chemical addictions to adults in the Greater Cincinnati area without regard to financial status. (513) 381-6672, www.ccatsobser.org.

Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority provides quality, affordable housing for low- to moderate-income families. (513) 721-4580, www.cintimha.com.

Contact Center performs community organizing of low and moderate-income individuals in Over the Rhine around issues of affordable housing, safety and economic opportunity. (513) 381-4242, www.overtherhine.org/contactcenter/.

Drop Inn Center is a homeless shelter in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. We work to provide essential services to people experiencing homelessness, and to empower people to move from homelessness to housing. (513) 721-0643, www.overtherhine.org/dropinn/

Emanuel Community Center provides technical and training programs, self-sufficiency workshops for families, adults and youth. (513) 241-2563.

Excel Development Co. working with the mental health community, provides suitable, affordable housing for independent living. (513) 632-7149.

First Step Home offers long-term drug and alcohol treatment and housing for low-income women and their children in a safe and supportive environment. (513) 961-4663, www.firststephome.org.

Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart restores dignity, self-respect and self-confidence are restored to the homeless and poor through professional hair care. (513) 651-6468, www.haircutsfromheart.org.

Franciscan JPIC Office works on supports and advocates for various social justice issues in Cincinnati. (513) 482-4500.

Friar's Club, Inc. provides comprehensive services to families in inner-city neighborhoods to promote self-sufficiency and community development. (513) 381-5432.

Goodwill Industries provides employment, training and housing assistance to homeless individuals in Cincinnati. (513) 771-4800, www.cincinnati goodwill.org

Grace Place Catholic Worker House where women - with or without children - who are in transition from homelessness can find temporary residence in an atmosphere of hospitality and hope and receive the support they need to move forward and achieve their goals and dreams. (513) 681-2365

Greater Cincinnati Oral Health Council provides or arranges for dental disease prevention and treatment services for low-income or homeless individuals and other special needs populations. (513) 621-0248.

Hamilton County Department of Community Development fosters development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. (513) 946-4888, www.hamilton-co.org/commdev.

Hamilton County TB Control is responsible for the identification, treatment and management of all TB cases in Hamilton County. (513) 946-7600

Health Resource Center provides medical services to the homeless population of Cincinnati, including operating the Center for Respite Care and outreach to homeless youth living on the streets. (513) 357-4602.

Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center addresses local, national and international concerns focusing on economic justice, women's issues, human rights, racial equality, peace and the environment. (513) 579-8547, www.ijpc-cincinnati.com.

Interfaith Hospitality Network teams homeless families with volunteers from 50 area churches, 16 host congregations and 34 support congregations to provide needed food and shelter. (513) 471-1100, www.mtauburnpresby.org/ihn.html.

Joseph House for Homeless Veterans helps men and women recover from alcoholism and drug addiction by providing outreach, treatment, counseling and housing in a safe, supportive, abstinence-based environment. (513) 241-2965, www.josephhouse.net.

Justice Watch works for the rights of prisoners and the abolition of the death penalty and operates a transitional home for men coming from the prison system. (513) 241-0490, www.justicewatchinc.org.

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati works to resolve serious legal problems of low-income people, to promote economic and family stability, and to reduce poverty through effective legal assistance. (513) 241-9400, www.lascinti.org

Lighthouse Youth Services provides comprehensive social services designed to encourage good citizenship, responsible behavior and self-reliance. (513) 961-4080, www.lys.org.

Mary Magdalen House provides showers and other services to homeless individuals. (513) 721-4811.

Mercy Franciscan at St. John improves the health of the community with emphasis on people who are poor and underserved. (513) 651-7482.

Mt. Airy Shelter provides a safe, 24-hour shelter with meals to homeless men. (513) 661-4620, www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org.

Over the Rhine Housing Network provides affordable housing in Over the Rhine and shares resources, information and experiences among the member housing organization. (513) 369-0004, www.overtherhine.org/housingnetwork.

Over the Rhine/Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen works to alleviate hunger and promote socialization among those living in poverty and homelessness and low income situations. (513) 961-1983.

Peaslee Neighborhood Center works to welcome and nurture the involvement of the neighborhood in building a stronger, healthier community. (513) 621-5514, www.overtherhine.org/peaslee.

People Working Cooperatively performs essential home repairs and services so that low-income homeowners can remain in their homes living independently in a safe, sound environment. (513) 351-7921, www.pwchomerepairs.org

Project Connect Homeless Childrens Fund keeps children experiencing homelessness connected to their education by providing supplies, transportation, uniforms, and enrichment opportunities in summer, after-school, and shelter tutoring programs. (513) 242-0008, www.pcfund.org.

Prospect House provides high quality drug and alcohol treatment in a long-term residential setting to men who are without money, insurance or other resources. (513) 921-1613, www.prospecthouse.org.

ReSTOC provides decent, safe, racially integrated, low-income housing in Over the Rhine, especially for homeless or chemically dependent persons. Its co-op structure enhances self-determination. (513) 381-1171, www.restoc.org

St. Francis/St Joseph Catholic Worker House is a community of volunteers who are dedicated to feeding the hungry and providing dignified hospitality to the poor. (513) 381-4941

Talbert House provides services in mental health, criminal justice and substance abuse in order to improve social behavior and enhance personal recovery and growth. (513) 751-7747, www.talberthouse.org.

Tender Mercies provides housing and individualized supportive services to homeless persons with histories of mental illness. (513) 721-8666, www.tendermerciesinc.org.

Tom Geiger House provides supportive housing for homeless women and their children. (513) 961-4555.

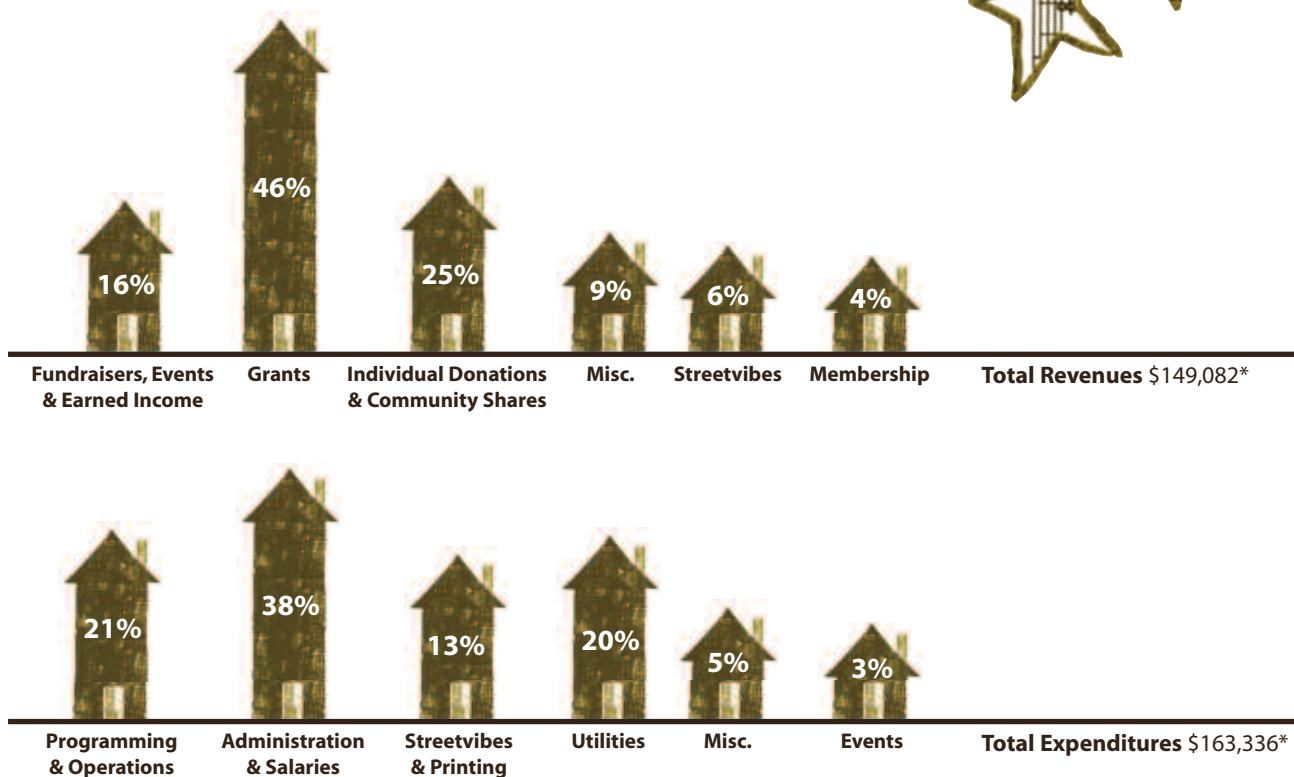
Transitions, Inc. provides a variety of services for people in Northern Kentucky to help them overcome chemical dependency and stay clean and sober. (859) 491-4435, www.transitionsky.org.

Volunteers of America provides case management and housing to formerly homeless individuals. (513) 381-1954, www.voa-orv.org.

Xavier University Peace and Justice Programs advocates and works for the liberation of the poor, oppressed and voiceless in our world. (513) 745-3046, www.xavier.edu/peace_justice.

YWCA Battered Women's Shelter provides emergency shelter and transitional housing to victims of domestic violence. (513) 241-7090, www.ywcacincinnati.org.

Financial Statement



*Unaudited figures for the year ending December 31, 2004. GCCH does not receive any City, State, or Federal Funding. With the hiring of the Education Coordinator, and the Education program expansion in 2004, expenses exceeded revenues at the close of 2004. These figures reflect some end-of-the-year donations that were not received until 2005. GCCH has several pending grant requests to assist in sustaining the Education Program long term.

Join the Effort to End Homelessness

The more support we have from the community, the further our efforts reach. GCCH's work is possible only with the help from member organizations and generous individual gifts.

Organization Members Our members may receive: voting rights at our General Body meetings, Streetvibes subscriptions, Speaker's Bureau engagements, discounted printing services, and more depending on membership type.

Individual Members (at a minimum of a \$50 donation) receive a one-year subscription to Streetvibes, and our quarterly newsletter.

If you are interested in an individual or organizational membership please contact the Coalition at 513.421.7803

Please consider making a contribution today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

YES! I want to end homelessness in Cincinnati!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ **Enclosed is my individual membership (minimum of \$50) including a one-year subscription to Streetvibes.**

I would like to receive more information about:

☐ Speaker's Bureau ☐ Action Alerts and Action Committees
☐ National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project

Please fill out and return to:
 Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless
 117 E. 12th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Thank you for giving generously!





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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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www.CinciHomeless.org



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The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

is a unified, social action agency, fully committed to its ultimate goal:
the eradication of homelessness with respect for the dignity and
diversity of its membership, the homeless and the community.
The Coalition works towards this by coordinating services, educating
the public, and doing grassroots organizing and advocacy.