



NEOCH
NORTHEAST OHIO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
2019
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VOICES ARE POWERFUL

2019 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MISSION INITIATIVES

- We **hosted 22 Outreach Collaborative meetings** to coordinate outreach services to approximately 200 unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in our community.
- With the help of SocksPlus, we **distributed 120 pairs of boots, 130 pairs of tennis shoes, 50 tents, 14,700 pairs of socks, and thousands of hygiene products.**
- We **provided housing assistance and/or prevented evictions for 155 people.**
- Our Outreach Collaborative **reached over 27,160 people** and individually supported an estimated 4,500 individuals.
- During the Polar Vortex, we advocated for 24-hour drop-in centers, hosted 4 emergency conference calls to identify and scheduled multiple outreach visits to people at risk of freezing to death.
- We expanded our Street Outreach Team to provide services to the growing number of people sleeping on the streets.
- We developed a by-name list of all people sleeping unsheltered in Cleveland to provide person-centered accompaniment.
- We responded to the threat of eviction in the Metroparks for 10 residents in a homeless encampment by safely relocating them and advocating publicly for their rights.
- We hosted our **Annual Homeless Memorial for 84 people**, who died this year in the homeless community. We also hosted public vigils for the 2 people who died on the streets in 2019.
- We **registered 250 people to vote from homeless shelters on National Voter Registration Day.**
- We hosted students for in-depth week-long immersion experience for college students to learn about poverty, homelessness, and Cleveland.
- We published and **distributed 10,000 street cards throughout Cuyahoga County.**
- We published **4 issues of Cleveland's street newspaper, *The Cleveland Street Chronicle***, which is written, purchased and sold by 12 vendors with lived experience of homelessness.
- We published a special #WrapUpHomelessness holiday issue featuring wrapping paper designed by people with lived experienced. 8 stores in our community offered the wrapping paper for sale during the holidays.
- We **hosted 10 trainings for over 200 individuals** through monthly educational workshops for service providers, social workers, outreach workers, and community activists with a focus on the LGBTQ community and ending structural racism.
- We hosted a summer internship cohort with 4 students who developed skills in advocacy, social action and justice.
- We hosted **11 Cuyahoga Alliance on Affordable Housing meetings** to study and track trends in affordable housing in our community.
- We hosted **22 Homeless Congress meetings** to center the voices of people living in shelters and those who are unsheltered. Homeless Congress successfully advocated for the men's shelter to open an hour earlier, arranged for transportation coordination for prescription pick-up, and got someone with lived experience to be featured on a family homelessness panel at the City Club.
- **NEOCH Street Voices speakers spoke at 23 different locations** to educate the community on homelessness and to dispel stereotypes.



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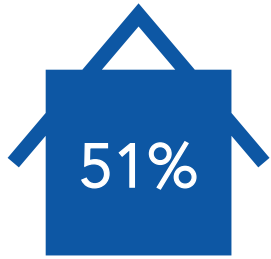
VOLUNTEERS

Paula Miller, Freeman Jackson Jr., Mike Mickey,
Rebecca Huntington, Lena Chapin, Natalie Ziegler,
Brenda Horth, Charlotte Thompson

NEOCH's mission is to organize and empower homeless and at-risk individuals and families with the goal of ending homelessness through public education, advocacy and the creation of nurturing environments.



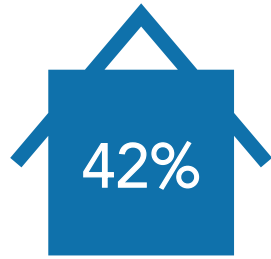
The federal poverty threshold for a single individual is \$12,760 and \$26,200 for a family of four



51% of children in Cleveland are living below the federal poverty line



In Cleveland, there were 130,548 people living below the poverty level, approximately 35% of the people



42% of African Americans live below the poverty level in Cleveland, compared to 24% of white people



In Cuyahoga County, approximately 36% of people spend more than 30% of their total income on housing costs



Family homelessness is at a crisis level in Cuyahoga County, with 2,396 individuals in families in shelter



Cleveland Public Schools had 2,832 homeless students in 2019



According to the Office of Homeless Services, around 6,400 people enter through our shelter system (22% are white and 78% are people of color)



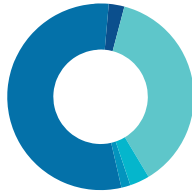
There were 1,703 chronically homeless in 2019. Based on the available Permanent Supportive Housing units, our community only has enough units to meet 45% of the need



894 people reported staying in a dangerous place not suitable for human habitation in 2019 before entering the shelter system

EXPENSES

\$251,106



53% Outreach \$132,702

3% Street Voices \$8,302

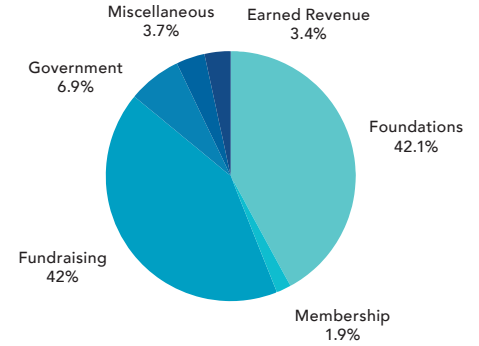
4% Management \$11,173

\$3,930 Fundraising 2%

\$94,999 Advocacy 38%

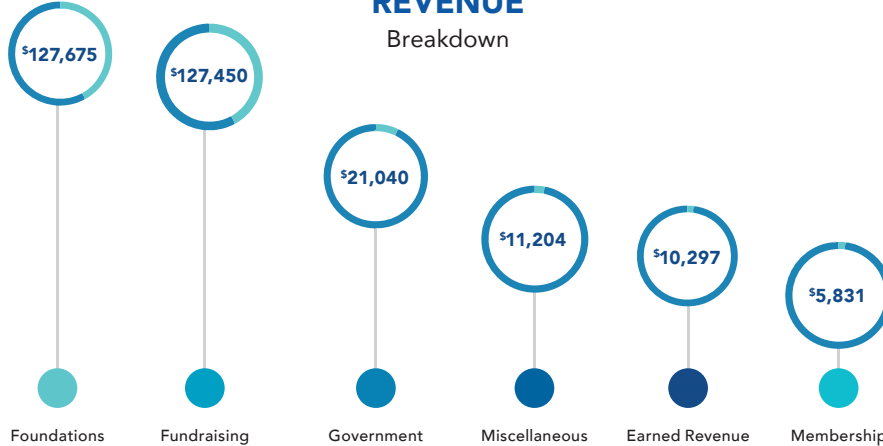
REVENUE

\$303,297



REVENUE

Breakdown



PARTNERSHIPS

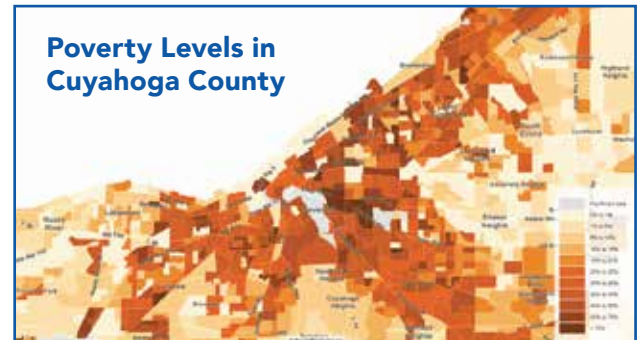
- We partnered with Cleveland Lead Safe Advocates for Safe Housing to demand that the City of Cleveland develop policy and laws for safe housing in our community.
- We partnered with Legal Aid Society, Organize Ohio, and the Homeless Congress to draft a Homeless Bill of Rights and we are currently strategizing on how to advocate for implementation.
- We partnered with Denison UCC and Metanoia to call on the City to protect their critical cold weather hospitality center and to develop a community cold weather plan for people experiencing homelessness. We held 2 different actions at City Hall that resulted in City Council forming a Cold Weather Plan committee and a Cold Weather Plan will be formalized through City Council in the spring.
- We partnered with The Legal Aid Society, The Housing Center for Rights and Research, and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries to publish a report about the impact of collateral sanctions. The report highlights the extent to which Cuyahoga County's federally subsidized housing providers may deny housing based upon prior criminal convictions.
- We partnered with Legal Aid Society, the Cleveland Bar Association, and the ACLU to host workshop for lawyers to learn about the criminalization of homelessness and the intersection between incarceration and housing instability in our community.
- We partnered with Ohio City Incorporated, LAND studio, Frontline Services, the Port of Cleveland, and others to make sure homeless residents on Riverbed Road were treated with dignity and given viable housing options at the onset of Irishtown Bend development.
- We partnered to create a prioritization plan with the County stakeholders' group to help County Council implement its regional housing plan.
- We partnered with Hands On Northeast Ohio to coordinate transportation for the annual Homeless Stand Down.

FUNDRAISING AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- NEOCH-toberfest generated a net revenue of \$35,000 for general operating support.
- We increased our budget by \$100,000 by reengaging funders, increasing private donors, and cultivating business sponsorships.
- We hosted educational and fundraising events throughout the community in partnership with CODA, Drumplay, Reverb, The Woodchoppers Ball, Storytime Cleveland, and others.
- We engaged a consultant to develop a new five-year strategic plan and to perform a governance and board analysis.
- We added 5 new board members to fill strategic needs, such as legal, development, and affordable housing policy expertise.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Everyone that donated blankets, winter items, and especially to the SocksPlus Campaign, an initiative of the Community West Foundation. We have been able to distribute more than \$126,579 worth of donations to people experiencing homelessness in our community.



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