

The Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) is the lead entity for ongoing community planning and implementation for *Home Again: The 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* in Portland and Multnomah County.

The committee is comprised of more than 45 member groups representing a broad range of stakeholders dedicated to ending homelessness, including service providers, government entities, businesses, faith groups, residents, formerly homeless individuals and other community representatives.

For more information on the 10-Year Plan or CCEH, visit:
www.portlandonline.com/phb/endinghomelessness

A background image showing several hands of different skin tones cupped together, holding a small model of a house. The image is faded and serves as a backdrop for the event title.

2011 Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness Achievement Awards

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Presented by

Nick Fish
Housing Commissioner
City of Portland

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Commissioner

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011 CCEH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES!

We are honored to recognize the contributions of our six 2011 award recipients. These awards represent the passionate dedication of our community's "unsung heroes" – volunteers, advocates, residents and staff members who work together to accomplish great wins towards ending homelessness. Their commitment to the cause reminds us that our work is not done, and their actions inspire us by showing that homelessness is being ended, one person and one family at a time.

Individual Category

Mellani Calvin **Program Director, Disability Benefits Training & Consulting and Assertive SSI Service Team (A.S.S.I.S.T)**

For the past five years Mellani has assisted hundreds of disabled individuals experiencing homelessness to acquire federal Social Security benefits (SSD and SSI) and secure more stable housing. She shares her knowledge by training hundreds of community members in Portland and across the nation. She also advocates on the federal level for change within the Social Security Administration. Last year, Mellani formed two new Portland-based companies dedicated to benefits advocacy and training. Her unique approach counters the often impersonal nature of the bureaucratic benefits system and keeps people focused on the individuality of the disabled persons who are seeking assistance.

Joan Jenkins **Volunteer, JANUS Youth Programs**

Joan has been a volunteer with Janus' Yellow Brick Road outreach program for more than 16 years. She joins the team every Monday night, making contact and building trust with street-dependent youth and connecting them to information and services. Joan's passion, energy and laughter are an inspiration to the young people that she meets on the streets, and also to the programs' volunteers and staff members. She demonstrates humility in serving others and avoids personal recognition, keeping her focus on supporting young people as they transition out of homelessness. Joan truly believes in the potential and futures of young people and is a passionate outreach counselor on their behalf.

Ledena Mattox **Housing Access Case Manager, Transition Projects**

Social workers who specialize in housing play a key role in ending homelessness, and Ledena is one superstar whose daily efforts result in housing wins for people with some of the most difficult barriers. She works with people living outside, in vehicles and unsafe housing situations to help them create attainable plans for finding housing that fit their needs and desires. Committed to social justice, Ledena advocates effectively for those who have experienced discrimination and other barriers, including transgender individuals facing homelessness, employment discrimination and safety concerns. Her ability to build trust and show compassion to those she serves is a true asset to our community.

Shannon Singleton

Executive Director, Salvation Army Female Emergency Shelter (SAFES)
Under Shannon's leadership, SAFES has emerged as a key community resource that effectively responds to the unique issues of women experiencing homelessness. Through her vision she has formed critical partnerships with other agencies, not only to strengthen services within SAFES, but also to leverage these relationships to improve community-wide coordination. Shannon is an invaluable member of the CCEH Steering Committee. She is a strong voice for empowering women, people experiencing homelessness, communities of color, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. She ensures that the voices of these individuals and groups are included, not overlooked, in policy and program decisions.

Lynne Walker **Volunteer and Community Advocate**

Lynne stands out for her tremendous commitment to efforts to end homelessness. Her work is rooted in her own experience of having been homeless several years ago. Lynne gives her time generously to a variety of efforts: She is an active participant in CCEH, is involved in East County's efforts to address homelessness, and volunteers with winter shelters and service agencies. She also served on the Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments Advisory Committee, which provided recommendations to improve housing access for groups experiencing discrimination and other significant barriers. Lynne's track record of "giving back" motivates us all to do more.

Program Category

Employment Access Center **Central City Concern**

During the worse economic recession in decades, the Employment Access Center (EAC) at Central City Concern has provided a lifeline of support to hundreds of job-seekers experiencing homelessness, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency through employment. The skilled and dedicated staff, many of whom are themselves formerly homeless or in recovery, work effectively with individuals to overcome multiple barriers to employment, including limited work histories, past convictions, addictions and health conditions. Last year, EAC staff provided employment assistance to 988 people, of which 460 secured jobs. During a time of service cutbacks, the EAC has brought in new federal funding to our community while expanding and enhancing services to meet the growing demand.