

Sample Narrative Own Your Value

“Shelter for All”

Shelter for All is dedicated to ensuring every individual has access to safe, dignified, and stable housing through community-based solutions, advocacy, and support services. Shelter for All is a 501 (c)(3) organization and began operations in 1999 in Columbus, Ohio. While we are based in Columbus, we have two additional field offices in Cincinnati and Akron and ongoing programs/projects in all fifteen districts in the state of Ohio. We are proud to have established and built strong relationships in communities across Ohio over these 25 years, which has informed not only our areas of focus as an organization but also ultimately strengthened our impact and programmatic successes.

Shelter for All currently has 14 full-time staff (Executive Director, Program Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Development Director, Advocacy Director, Communications Director, Case Managers); and over 200 dedicated members of our volunteer base, including support for construction/maintenance, programming, and administrative assistance. Many of our volunteers come through local schools, law enforcement, and the faith-based community in each district. We also have nine board members with varied areas of expertise, including housing, finance, law, and social work.

Shelter for All provides the following services and support:

- **Rapid rehousing support:** We support those in need of rapid rehousing, from families to individuals. We provide short-term support and provide counseling, job training, and transportation to help shift to more sustainable shelter solutions.
- **Emergency shelter partnerships:** We work with local and state policy makers, private sector, and the faith-based community to strengthen support infrastructure for shelter options, prioritizing the needs of the vulnerable and supporting the needs of each individual community where we operate.
- **Housing crisis intervention:** Many homes and structures have not been maintained properly. We provide guidance/instruction for repairs, tools for support, and utilize the expertise of our volunteers to assist in small home repairs. Annually, we average over 250 homes that have been supported through this pillar.

Shelter for All was awarded the 2022 Nonprofit Excellence Award for our sustainable housing initiative in Cincinnati, which was supported through strong

public and private sector support and ultimately helped to move 120 families to permanent housing. Our CEO Courtney Jones has testified before the Ohio Legislature on multiple occasions to discuss housing challenges and to provide targeted recommendations/solutions to help shape a more impactful approach for vulnerable community members in Ohio.

Shelter for All also received the PRNEWS Nonprofit Award in 2020 for a rapid response campaign we initiated in Akron, which raised the visibility of some of the urgent housing shortages for low-income families in the community. Local Akron police chief Frank Norton said the following about our work at that time: “Shelter for All shined a light on some of the most urgent housing needs in our community. Having been in Akron for many years, they were able to quickly activate both citizens and donors and stepped up to not only educate about the challenges but also to provide solutions. They were an essential partner to the community and really made a difference.”

Shelter for All is a proud member of The Nonprofit Alliance (TNPA) and regularly contributes our experiences and recommendations to coalition partners and in broader coalition spaces, to the press, and in educating community members, all of which broadens the reach of our ideas and results-oriented solutions. Our staff and board are regularly quoted in publications such as The Columbus Dispatch and The Cincinnati Enquirer. We also have monthly community meetings in Akron, Cincinnati, and Columbus to hear from community members on their concerns and ideas to ensure our programmatic approach is localized.

Shelter for All has provided maintenance guidance/support to over 25,000 homes, provided job training/counseling to over 5,000 individuals, and helped transition 10,000 families to emergency housing. We have employed over 120 full-time staff since we began in 1999. Testimonial from Amy Carter: “Shelter for All helped me and my children into safe housing and also provided support in my own job search, including training for a career in computer programming. They listened to my goals and what I wanted for my family and I appreciated their support. I now serve as a volunteer!”

Shelter for All does not accept government funding and is primarily funded by individual donors, foundations, and the private sector. Through the generosity of our donors, we have been able to make small but incremental growth each year, which has allowed for our community services to be expanded and flexible, occasionally filling much-needed service gaps when emergencies arise. Shelter for All is proud to have a platinum rating from GuideStar.