

WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2015

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! WCAH is pleased to welcome the following new members; West Allis Redevelopment Authority, Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County, Monroe County Sheltercare and Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY A SUCCESS! On July 11, over forty homeless advocates from all corners of the State visited with nearly eighty legislators at the State Capitol for the first Homeless Legislative Advocacy Day. A wide variety of elected officials learned firsthand about homelessness in Wisconsin and within their districts. Advocate feedback indicated legislators were both attentive and interested in what State government could do to reduce and end homelessness in Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS: WCAH continues to work with the administration to create a new Wisconsin Intereagency Council on Homelessness. WCAH anticipates that the newly designed council will bring high level state officials to the table to help craft a coordinated and effective state response to homelessness in Wisconsin.

CREATING A STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: In the next few months, WCAH will reach out to stakeholders to garner input for the creation of a *State Legislative Agenda on Homelessness*. WCAH representatives will meet with CoC members, faith based providers and advocates, leaders of philanthropic organizations, elected officials and homeless and formally homeless persons and families. Stay tuned and please participate in this important endeavor!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: States and localities across the country have established innovative housing strategies and are now experiencing positive outcomes of their housing stabilization models. Just as every patient requires a unique medical treatment plan, each individual housing crisis requires careful evaluation and distinctive remedies. The Wisconsin Coalition Against Homelessness (WCAH) is fighting for similar creative, statewide approaches to address Wisconsin's many housing shortfalls. The Coalition is not only identifying the need for housing and homeless services, it is facilitating cooperation, encouraging information sharing

and researching creative approaches that will work for our State. Housing instability is drag on Wisconsin's economy and the wellbeing of its people. It is time to create a vibrant housing environment drawn on the best local and national ideas. We have the means and will build stable housing for everyone in Wisconsin.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE - LON NEWMAN: From 1988 to 2014, Lon was the Executive Director of a private not-for-profit health agency with corporate headquarters in Wausau that operated nine clinic locations, primarily in central Wisconsin. In 2004, Lon was one of ten recipients honored as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leader. Lon has been a presenter at numerous national conferences on rural community health, how to utilize electronic health technology and continues to advocate for accessible, affordable and confidential health care for all.

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE
WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS. YOU
CAN DO SO AT OUR WEBSITE AT WCAHWI.ORG**