Community Foundation Support Helps to End Homelessness in Middlesex County

For Immediate Release
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In 2007, when community leaders from across the county came together to create a plan for ending homelessness in Middlesex County, the Middlesex County Community Foundation (MCCF) was there, offering their expertise and funding. Numerous countywide organizations and over a hundred traditional and non-traditional stakeholders came together to formulate the Middlesex County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness (TYP), a unified effort to provide the required vision and leadership to develop and implement a plan to end homelessness in Middlesex County. The TYP lays out an ambitious agenda in order to solve a complex social problem. It provides an outline of activities to move from managing homelessness to preventing and ending homelessness. In 2008, these community leaders formed the Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness to create a structure for the implementation of the TYP.

Five years later the Middlesex County Community Foundation is still there. In January, MCCF awarded the Coalition a $5,000 grant to help the Coalition implement their ambitious plans. With their ongoing support, the Coalition has achieved many successes over the past several years:

- Dozens of homeless persons living in shelters have been assisted in seeking employment.
- 178 families have been avoided homelessness via over $184,000 in grants from the countywide Homelessness Prevention Fund.
- 56 “Housing First” supportive housing units created to house formerly chronically homeless individuals.
- Created LEADers, a group of people who are homeless or formerly homeless, who raise awareness and decrease stigma surrounding homelessness through community organizing, public speaking and holding leadership positions in the community.

“We are very grateful for the Community Foundation,” said Howard Reid, Chair of the MCCHH Steering Committee. “They are one of many leaders in our County that takes a holistic view of preventing and ending homelessness. There are many reasons a person can become homeless and it needs a broad-based solution.”

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of the County, now and in the future, by developing endowments, making grants that have impact and assisting donors in meeting their philanthropic objectives. Since its founding in 1997, the Community Foundation has provided over $1.8 million in grants to more than 220 organizations for the arts, cultural and heritage programs, educational activities, environmental improvements and for health and human services.

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