

Newsletter

Office of Homeless Services

• MAY 14, 2025

• ISSUE 12

• Written by: April Calvin, Director

Rising Together During Challenging Times

In light of current events the Office of Homeless Services extends our hearts, thoughts, and prayers to our unhoused population, immigrant and refugees, service providers in the downtown district, MNPd, and Mayor Freddie O'Connell's administration. These past two weeks have tested us all.

As we embark on our Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County FY26 operating budget season, we are reminded why we need to advocate for additional funding, housing, and resources. Every day, our unhoused neighbors face unimaginable challenges—trauma from life on the streets, the burden of substance use disorders, untreated mental health conditions, cognitive challenges, and disabling medical issues, including terminal illnesses. As Council Member Courtney Johnston so powerfully said, "This is beyond cruel." When it comes to securing governmental funding, OHS seeks alignment with our community partners. Strategic planning, vision, goals, and a strong contingency plan are essential. In the face of potential challenges, OHS has convened a core work group of funded partners to scenario plan and drafted a comprehensive document to share with funders and policy makers. Our priority is to ensure the continuity of care and services for those who need them most. Our primary function at OHS is to advocate for additional funding to assist our community partners, strengthening the foundation for our unhoused Nashville neighbors. This collective effort is a testament to our commitment to shaping policy and funding decisions. As a wise person once said, *'Grants are for activities, while agreements/contracts are for results.'* At OHS, we are committed to achieving results because lives depend on the success of our community's efforts. This unwavering commitment to results is at the core of our mission.



72 People and 11 pets Move Into Interim Housing

When someone finds a home it should mean everyone they love comes with them. For our neighbors moving into housing, that includes their best friend. These dogs didn't just survive the journey—they made it home too.

Since March 31st, 72 people and 11 pets moved into Interim Housing from Old Tent City. Every move-in is a victory and none of it happens alone. While housing our neighbors living outside remains our top priority, we know it takes a community to make lasting change. We're so grateful for partners like Hospitality Hub, who provide interim housing and vital support on the path to stability.

To every organization, neighbor, and advocate walking alongside us: thank you. Your partnership is helping turn hope into homes.

For more information on how you can join our community-wide collaborative meetings, please email joseph.parker@nashville.gov

[Video of the move here.](#)

Strobel House Wins ULI Nashville Excellence in Development Award

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• Written by: Demetris Chaney

Strobel House has been honored with a ULI Nashville Excellence in Development Award—a recognition that underscores the powerful impact of this transformative project.

Led by the Metro Nashville Office of Homeless Services, Strobel House was brought to life through a remarkable collaboration between Moody Nolan, Catalyst Design Group, KS Ware & Associates, I.C. Thomasson Associates, EMC Structural Engineers, EDGE, and BELL Construction. Together, this team created more than just a building—they created a home.

Strobel House offers permanent supportive housing for individuals who have experienced homelessness, many of whom live with complex health needs. With on-site support services, trauma-informed design, and access to outdoor spaces, the residence fosters a sense of stability, dignity, and community. OHS looks forward to more opportunities to partner with builders to offer more Permanent Supportive Housing in Nashville.

For more information on
partnering with us, please
email

Marvin.Trotter@nashville.gov

If you or someone you know is
experiencing homelessness, please
call **615-862-6444** for available
resources.

Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM



Front entrance



Room view



Full view

A Heartfelt Thank You: Honoring Our Winter Shelter Heroes

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• Written by: Demetris Chaney

This month, we took time to honor the dedicated Metro departments, community partners, and OHS staff who went above and beyond at Metro's Emergency Overflow Shelter this winter.

To every person who took part in this mission—your work mattered. Your efforts were not only seen, they were deeply felt by the hundreds of Nashvillians whose lives were made safer because of your commitment.

From coordinating logistics and transportation, to ensuring public safety, providing health services, and maintaining facilities—each of you played a vital role. You showed up with heart and resolve, putting service above self.

You reminded us all what it means to be a true public servant. Your actions were a lifeline to our most vulnerable neighbors. You helped carry the weight of winter, and for that, we thank you.



General Services



Ty tiauna Ruffin (Shelter Manager), Chief Swan (OEM), and April Calvin (Director of OHS)



MNPD East Precinct Officers

See additional photos of participating partners and staff [here](#).

Keeping the Community Involved and Informed: Upcoming Events

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**SLOW DOWN TO GO FASTER:
AN OHS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

We've engaged a facilitator, Paul Warner, to explore two key tools to help us grow as leaders and as a team.

Discussion Topics

- Navigating Conflict
- Managing Emotions
- Working Through Challenges
- Recognizing When We're Stuck in Unproductive Drama

Let's invest in ourselves and each other to create a stronger, more effective team.

Light Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

WEDNESDAY 5/21/25 **TIME** 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM **LOCATION** 331 Great Circle Rd. Nashville TN 37228

PLEASE RSVP HERE [Additional Information: kayla.ritchie@Nashville.gov](mailto:kayla.ritchie@Nashville.gov)



2025 State of Homelessness Symposium

Key highlights of the symposium include:

- Updates on homelessness data and funding initiatives.
- Community engagement with local leaders including a Q&A with the Mayor.
- Work groups and much more.

Keynote Speakers

 Dr. Sam Tsemberis, Founder of the Housing First Model	 Freddie O'Connell, Mayor of Nashville
 Rosanne Haggerty, President and CEO of Community Solutions	 Richard Cho, Managing Director of Manatt Health

 Wednesday, June 4, 2025

 8:00am - 4:00pm [REGISTER NOW](#)

 Diocese of Nashville
2800 McGavock Pike



SCAN HERE

For more information, email: Kayla.Ritchie@Nashville.gov Visit event website: [State of Homelessness Symposium](#) For media inquiries, email: Demetris.Chaney2@Nashville.gov

For more information, contact:

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