



*Homeless Solutions Policy Board
Chairpersons*

Walter A. Hibner, Executive Director, Home Builders Association of Dayton
Charles R. Meadows, Community Leader

451 W. Third Street, 9th floor
Dayton, OH 45422-3100
937-225-4695 (Fax) 937-496-7714

July 27, 2007

Dear Community Member:

A year ago when the Homeless Solutions Community 10-Year Plan was adopted our community said we wanted to help homeless people differently – that we wanted to provide more housing and better services. In September the first housing project for homeless people will open at River Commons (formerly Helena Hi-Rise). The homeless adults moving into River Commons need your help to successfully make a home and a new start. Most of the new residents will only have clothing and a few personal items, they need all the household items we take for granted in our homes. We are asking you to help us provide furniture, bedding, kitchen items and cleaning supplies for River Commons.

There are several ways you can help:

- Make a tax-deductible donation
- Donate new household items
- Volunteer to help set-up the units

We have included information about the River Commons project, a list of the items we are seeking, and information about how to help. Your support will mean so much to the men and women just starting out in their new home. If we receive more than enough for the residents at River Commons we will use the donations for other homeless families and individuals starting in a new home.

For more information about River Commons or the community's Homeless Solutions Plan please contact Joyce Probst-MacAlpine, Montgomery County Manager of Housing and Homeless Solutions, at (937) 225-4218. To make a donation or volunteer please contact Margaret Quinn at (937) 750-9373. Thank you for your help in making a new home for residents of River Commons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walt Hibner".

Walt Hibner
Co-Chair
Homeless Solutions Policy Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Meadows".

Charles Meadows
Co-Chair
Homeless Solutions Policy Board



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**River Commons Supportive Public Housing
Furnishings Donation Request**

What is River Commons Supportive Housing? Who will be living at River Commons?

Affordable permanent housing with on-site supportive services for homeless individuals, particularly those currently being served at the community's day and night shelters. Residents will be homeless adult men and women who are eligible for public housing, no children will live at River Commons. The services will help the residents maintain their housing, seek employment and link to other service providers in the community.

There are 101 small one-bedroom units at River Commons (formerly the Helena Hi-Rise). Fifty units are currently empty and will be available to homeless single adults who are eligible for public housing in September 2007. Fifty-one units are currently occupied by public housing residents who will remain in the building.

Why do we need supportive housing in our community?

Research has found that for some long term homeless single adults, permanent supportive housing has a lower overall cost to the community than when the homeless person is on the street or in the shelter system and using the community's crisis services such as emergency rooms, jails, and mental health system. Other research has found that once a homeless person is stabilized in supportive housing, substance abuse and minor criminal offenses are reduced.

The Dayton-Montgomery County *Homeless Solutions Community 10-Year Plan* recommends the creation of 750 units of supportive housing over the next 10 years.

What is needed to furnish the units at River Commons?

Anything needed to make a home; the units will only have basic kitchen appliances and overhead lights and the new residents will only have a few personal belongings and clothes. The 50 new residents will need furniture as well as eating and cooking items, linens and food to stock their kitchen. The 50 current River Commons residents also need smaller household items, for these kitchen and bath items we expect to supply 100 units.

How can the community help the new residents at River Commons?

- Donate cash.
- Donate new household items.
- Volunteer to help set up the units

How much do we need to furnish the units at River Commons?

To provide sanitary furnishings mattresses and upholstered furniture need to be purchased new. These items will cost approximately \$35,000. We will also need donations to complete the purchase of any household items that are not donated. If we needed to purchase everything it would cost approximately \$100,000.

How can I make a cash donation to the project? Are donations tax-deductible?

Montgomery County will accept donations on behalf of the River Commons project; checks should be made out to *Montgomery County with River Commons Project* in the memo area.

Checks should be sent to the attention of:

Joyce Probst MacAlpine, Manager of Housing & Homeless Solutions
Montgomery County
451 West Third Street, 9th floor
Dayton, OH 45422.

All donations are tax-deductible. Please provide complete contact information and a letter acknowledging receipt of the donation for tax purposes will provided. **All of your donation will be used to purchase furnishings for the residents of River Commons;** no portion will be used for administrative purposes.

How can I donate new furnishings and household items?

Donated items may be dropped off at our **Fill the Home** event on Saturday, August 18th, information about locations will be announced throughout the community and on Montgomery County's website (www.mcohio.org). To arrange additional drop-offs or pick-ups if necessary please contact Margaret Quinn at (937) 298-9373 any day of the week between the hours of 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

How can I volunteer to help?

We will need volunteers to help before the residents start moving in on September 4th. Volunteers are needed to organize the household items prior to move in and to set up the units before the residents move in. To volunteer please contact Margaret Quinn at (937) 750-9373 any day of the week between the hours of 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Who is already donating to River Commons?

- Economy Linen and Towel Services Inc. – bed and bath linens
- Society of St. Vincent DePaul – furniture & linens for two units
- Office Depot – stationary supplies

How will donors be recognized?

There will be a grand opening celebration for River Commons in early September. Donors will be recognized at that event and in materials describing the project. Additional recognition can be arranged on an individual basis.

Where can I get more information about the River Commons project?

Please contact Joyce Probst MacAlpine, Manager Housing & Homeless Solutions at 225-4218 for more information.

River Commons Suggested Furnishings

FURNITURE [50 units]

Twin bed frames and mattress
Table & 2 chair set
Recliner
Dresser
Lamp

BED & BATH LINENS [100 units – 2 items per unit]

Twin bed sheet set - COMPLETED
Blanket
Pillow
Bath towel - COMPLETED
Hand towel - COMPLETED
Wash cloth - COMPLETED
Bath mat - COMPLETED

KITCHEN [100 units]

4 dinner plates
4 small plates
4 bowls
4 sets silverware
1 knife
1 frying pan
1 saucepan
1 mixing bowl
1 set cooking utensils
1 can opener
1 toaster
1 microwave
1 coffee pot

FOOD [100 units]

Salt, pepper, ketchup, mustard
Sugar
Rice, pasta
Tomato sauce, tuna
Peanut butter, jelly
Coffee, tea
Gift card for meat and produce

ENTERTAINMENT [100 units]

Playing cards
Paper, envelopes & pens - COMPLETED
Radio/CD player

CLEANING SUPPLIES & PAPER PRODUCTS [100 units]

Mop & bucket
Broom & pan
Sponges
Dishwashing soap
Garbage can
Toilet brush
Cleansers
Laundry basket & soap
Dish rack
Hangers
Light bulbs
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Kleenex