2023
Annual Report

Change Brings Opportunity
CELEBRATE 70! Community Council is celebrating 70 years of living out our mission of bringing people together to build stronger communities. Our Team of 17 members live this mission everyday while upholding our vision that communities are stronger when people work together. We bring together individuals and organizations from all sectors including nonprofit, government, business, education, healthcare and the faith-based community, to address issues including homelessness, hunger and affordable housing. We also support the human service community by providing opportunities for networking, resource sharing, training and communication.

As I reflect on our history that began in 1954, so many collaborative efforts were born through Community Council and are still in place today. Although we are the unifying organization, we have not done it along. So many individuals have worked, volunteered, provided leadership or provided encouragement throughout the years. I personally want to thank all of you who have had a hand in writing our legacy. Our team continues the good work in a humble servant leader fashion.

When reflecting on history, you always have an eye to the future. What do the next 10, 20, 70 years look like? Continued collaborative efforts will always be the foundation of Community Council. Though the names and faces may change, the mission will remain the same. Come join us on this journey, there is always an open seat at our table.

Your Servant Leader:

Todd Barnes,
Executive Director

Board of Directors
Leah Manis, Chairperson
Julie Turner, Vice-Chair
Brian Martin, Treasurer
LaTonya Thomas, Secretary
Michelle Bernth
Raymond Chandler
Julie Egan
Lyssa Franck
Kyle Gaines
Luke Giesmann
Dan Guest
Erica Land
Michael Lemons
Lori Myers
Amanda Rose

End of 2023
Meet Our Team
Who is Community Council?

Community Council's mission is to create a stronger, healthier and more compassionate community by developing collaborative solutions to social service needs. We unite all sectors around community needs by.....

- Educating the Community About Issues
- Networking and Collaborating
- Collecting and Sharing Data
- Creating Partnerships
- Planning Solutions
- Taking Action
Who is Community Council?

Coordinated Entry (CE) is truly a reflection of the spirit and collaboration of partnerships.

- The purpose of CE is to assist every neighbor experiencing homelessness or those at imminent risk of becoming homeless, in finding the right resources needed to get on track to stabilized housing.
- Serving St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties
- Single access phone call supported through United Way's 2-1-1
- Case Manager conducts triage followed by a coordinated assessment to determine eligibility
- Mandated by HUD, CE is sustained with funding from MHDC, municipal grants and contracts, CDBG funding, community partnerships with local hospitals and other grants and donations

Successes & Challenges of Coordinated Entry

CE has assessed over 1,943 new households in a housing crisis in the tri-county area over the past year. This is an increase of 2% over 2022. Over 3200 households in the tri-county area have been prevented from becoming homeless in the past year. As of January 12, 2024, 857 households in St. Charles County were homeless.

We have a strong network of participating churches and organizations working to stabilize those in a housing crisis. The CoC also has a strong leadership team. Community Council continues to be challenged to secure funding resources at the level needed to maintain the quality Coordinated Entry services we have developed in the face of growing need, declining COVID funding, and inflation.

The most urgent issue we see among the households we serve is a critical need for affordable housing. Only 30% of our homeless neighbors are being housed taking on average 255 days to find housing.
The Fragile Families initiative works to identify community needs and measure community progress with a special focus on Hunger, Homelessness and affordable housing.

GOALS OF FRAGILE FAMILIES:
- Coordinate services with front-line organizations through the Continuum of Care: Schools, neighbors, churches, health & mental health, first responders, etc.
- Share best practices in serving fragile households
- Use data to track community rehousing performance, the demographics of who is struggling, and understand best assistance to support households in regaining stability
- Identify unmet and emerging needs, including disaster needs, among fragile households
- Share community performance data with stakeholders
- Support community initiatives to address unmet needs
Who is Community Council?

The Nonprofit Support Services (NPSS) focuses on collaborative partnerships that empower nonprofits to become stronger.

**NPSS:**
- **Membership:** Nonprofit Network with 100+ organizational members
- **Community Partnership:** Strengthening community with support of our partners and sponsors
- **E-Newsletter:** Sharing member & community announcements, events, and job postings. Distributed to 2900+ people each week.
- **Website:** Sharing services available in our community through Searchable Resource Directory, Food Resource Guide, & Community Calendar
- **Social Media:** Using Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram & Twitter to share member & partner information as well as making connections throughout the community
- **Network Luncheons:** Host monthly luncheons/workshops to educate the community on pressing topics. 2023 topics included: Navigating Mental Health; Burnout; Child Abuse Prevention; Food Insecurity; Affordable Housing; County Updates; Suicide Prevent; AI
- **Community Services Summit:** Premiere skill building and resource event for professionals serving children & families.
- **Community Builder Awards:** Annual recognition of collaborative and volunteer efforts in the community
The Numbers

Who We Serve

These numbers represent neighbors in our community experiencing a housing crisis and the demographics for 2023 (St. Charles, Lincoln & Warren Counties)

Financials

Community Council
Community Partners

Thank you for helping us to continue to fulfill our mission.

community council
www.communitycouncilstc.org
636-978-2277