

# A Sincere Thank-you to our Funders



**Community Foundation**  
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN



Elizabeth Allan & Warren  
Shelden Fund



UCHC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions to UCHC are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



United Community  
Housing Coalition

2727 Second Ave, Suite 313, Detroit, MI 48201  
(313) 963-3310 | [www.uchcdetroit.org](http://www.uchcdetroit.org)



United Community  
Housing Coalition

## 2019 Annual Meeting & Dinner



Celebrating 45 Years of  
preventing eviction, foreclosure, and  
homelessness in Detroit

I.B.E.W. Local 58 Detroit  
1358 Abbott Street, Detroit, MI 48226  
Thursday, November 7, 2019 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## 2019 Board of Directors

Robert Shimkoski Jr.	Board Chair
Cassandra Walker	Board Vice Chair
Beverly Lemlé	Board Treasurer
Latanya Harris	Board Secretary
Thelma Best	Board Member
Michelle Fallena	Board Member
Christina Guzman	Board Member
Henry Lewis	Board Member
Margo Dalal	Board Member
Alexa Eisenburg	Board Member
Katie Hearn	Board Member
Kamer Zindani	Board Member

## UCHC Staff Members

Abigail Bartlett, Tenant Organizer | AJ Fouts, Data Administrator | Amy Alexander, Tax Foreclosure Counselor | Barbara Katzman, Attorney | Beverly Ealy, Deputy Director | Bill Halbower, Attorney | Brenda Miner, Rental Assistance Director | Carole Marbury, Accountant | Charlene Snow, Attorney & Legal Services Director | Clarice Werdlow, Housing Relocation Director | Claudia Sanford, Tenant Organizing Director | Crystal Dillard, Intake Specialist | Erica Scott, Accounting Assistant | Ernest Thompson, Home Repair Staff | Gerald Fetherson, Attorney | Gwen Gell, Home Repair Coordinator | Jewel Terrell, Intake Specialist | Jolayne Thompson, Finance Director | Kammi Johannsen, Legal Intake Specialist & Data Administrator | Karen McLeod, Rental Assistance Coordinator | Kim Stroud, Mortgage/LC Foreclosure Prevention Director | Lauren Mason, Tax Foreclosure Counselor | Leah Clisby, Collections Manager | Liz Lawlis, Data Administrator | Maxine Gardner, Intake Specialist | Meghan Strickland, Tax Foreclosure Counselor | Mia Jones, Mortgage/LC Foreclosure Counselor | Michele Oberholtzer, Tax Foreclosure Prevention Director | Patrick Carey, Data Entry | Sarah Hoerl, Business Analytics Director | Sharon Lemieux, Tax Foreclosure Counselor | Ted Phillips, Executive Director | Tim Bishop, Home Repair Services Director | Wanda Knight-Wilson, Housing Relocation Counselor | Zachariah Wahid, Tax Foreclosure Counselor

## About UCHC

**Our mission is to help low-income residents stay in their homes and strengthen their communities, through representation, support, and ownership.**

United Community Housing Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing housing assistance to Detroit's low-income residents. Since 1973, we have worked to keep people in their homes and secure affordable housing for those in need.

We believe that having a place to live is a basic human right, and are passionate about preserving this right in our communities. Our services are provided to income-eligible families and individuals free of charge.

*"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned."*

*~Maya Angelou*

## How you can help

A tax deductible donation of any amount is always appreciated. Donations can be for operational support or specifically designed for a particular project. For more information on making a donation, or to discuss how your donation could be used, please contact us at [supportus@uchcdetroit.org](mailto:supportus@uchcdetroit.org) or visit [www.uchcdetroit.org](http://www.uchcdetroit.org).

Also, please keep UCHC in mind during the upcoming holidays. Our annual family gift bags and food baskets will go out to many client families again this year. We need donations to fill those baskets with items like nonperishable foods or grocery store certificates. We will also need volunteers to help wrap presents. For all volunteer opportunities, please contact us at [volunteer@uchcdetroit.org](mailto:volunteer@uchcdetroit.org) or visit [www.uchcdetroit.org](http://www.uchcdetroit.org).

# Accomplishments FY2019

August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019

Housing Placement Cases Advised and Assisted	750
Housing Placement Cases Placed	530
Landlord-Tenant Cases Represented In Court	986
Landlord-Tenant Cases Resolved out of Court	767
Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Assistance	212
Redevelopment Relocation Provided (10 Buildings)	320
Tax Foreclosure Prevention Assistance	5,158
Tenant-Organizing Assistance (9 Buildings)	1,334
<b>Total Households Served</b>	<b>10,057</b>
Homes Purchased (Foreclosure Prevention)	548
Tax Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Mailing (15)	51,286
Tax Foreclosure Workshop Attendance (77)	1,572
Tenants/Homeless Received Financial Assistance	603
Financial Assistance to Tenants/Homeless	\$489,703
Amount of Funds Loaned	\$1,185,500

The above numbers do not include our current year's work with Tax Foreclosure Prevention through which 566 homes were purchased through the RoR/Make it Home and Auction projects for a combined value of \$10 million. This brings the total homes purchased to over 4,000 for their occupants since October 2010.

*"It is hard to argue that housing is not a fundamental human need. Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter, everything else falls apart."*

*~ Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*

# Annual Meeting Agenda

Celebrating 45 years!

- 5:00 pm Registration Opens & Silent Auction\* Begins**
- 5:20 pm Welcome Greeting & Overview of the Evening**  
Cassandra Walker, UCHC Board Vice Chair  
Ted Phillips, UCHC Executive Director
- 5:30 pm Legislative/Policy Update**  
Detroit City Council Pro-Tem Mary Sheffield
- 5:40 pm Dinner Begins**
- 6:00 pm Annual Report & James Sheehan Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Ted Phillips & Staff Members
- 6:30 pm Keynote: Judge Cylentia Miller,**  
Wayne County Circuit Court
- 7:00 pm Legislative Updates**  
Representative Rashida Tlaib  
State Senator Stephanie Chang  
City of Detroit Group Executive for Housing, Planning and Development, Arthur Jemison
- 7:30 pm Award Ceremony & Silent Auction Closes\***  
Ted Phillips & Staff Members
- 7:45 pm Board Elections/Membership & Closing Remarks**  
Cassandra Walker, UCHC Board Vice Chair
- 8:00 pm Silent Auction Item Pick-Up\***

\*Bidding on Silent Auction items will take place throughout the evening (silently). Please pay for and pick-up your items before leaving.

Thank you to all who made a donation to the Silent Auction and to all staff and volunteers who helped organize. A particular thank-you to Sharon Lemieux for coordinating the Silent Auction again this year.

We also would like to thank Faith Restoration Church, 11941 Harper, Detroit for their donation of desserts.

## Nice Guys Finish First...

At each annual meeting, we honor those who have had a major positive impact on housing for our low-income clients in the past year or over the span of a long career. It is what we do and this year is no different in that respect.

Bill Knight has been a leader with Lakeshore Legal Aid for 25 years and an advocate for justice even longer. His work to bring Lakeshore to Detroit in the last 4-5 years has been amazing and has provided desperately needed services to many. As a result, Lakeshore has been the first federal legal services “partner” in my entire career and it is refreshing to work with his agency to jointly resolve legal issues faced by our mutual clients.

Judge Cylenthia Miller’s service on the traffic bench in the 36th District Court provided new opportunities for the homeless whose lives were disrupted by otherwise simple legal matters such as misdemeanor tickets that denied them access to jobs or housing. Likewise, her work in the real estate division of the court respected the rights of all parties and acknowledged the impact her decisions could have on the problem of homelessness in Detroit.

On a daily basis in the Wayne County Treasurer’s office, Jontaé Jackson and Phil Cavanagh dutifully collected property taxes, but also found ways to educate taxpayers they encountered in the process, about various options for avoiding foreclosure, and sought policy solutions to reduce the numbers of lost homes when the options were too limited. We did not always agree, but we worked together to solve problems that made a significant difference in the lives of many Detroit residents.

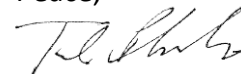
Can you imagine being evicted, being homeless, losing everything, finally locating a place to live and finding it completely furnished? Humble Design could imagine it and they acted to make it a reality for some of the poorest families we have placed in housing.

Julie Schneider and Meghan Takashima were two incredible leaders in the Housing and Revitalization Department who worked with us, especially during the past year, to identify and support creative solutions for addressing homelessness in Detroit.

All deserve recognition for their efforts critical to our success, but as we put together this year’s list, something was missing. What was missing were those who every day or every time they were needed, found a way to be there to help. Often these were the spouses or friends of various staff members. They were always there to give a client a ride, show up with a table (at just the right moment), pick up the awards for our annual event, and help in countless other ways. At a time when it seems that most of our generally recognized heroes are those caught on camera, these were the people simply doing what was needed behind the scenes, without any fanfare.

Tonight we recognize the one honoree who cannot be here and who I wish we had honored sooner. As his wife Sharon describes it, Steve Wilke always did what she asked him to do, and 99% of the time, UCHC or our clients were the beneficiaries of his generosity. He did the kind of things that make a real difference (often in moments of crisis) for our programs and clients. The necessary everyday things that are too often missed. Tonight we thank him posthumously for always being there for us. Steve reminds us of the need to also acknowledge some of the others with whom we have been similarly blessed. So, THANK YOU to Frank, Brian, John, Tom, Jeff, Jake, Matt (Olivia thanks you, too), Jen, Cheryl, Rebecca, Mike, Judy, and many more who I am not remembering at the moment. Good guys, good people, one and all, who deserve recognition and a heartfelt thanks as well.

Peace,



Ted Phillips

Executive Director, United Community Housing Coalition