



News Release

June 27, 2014

Goal Has Been Reached to Help the *Most Vulnerable* Exit Homelessness News Conference Set for Next Week

The Community Alliance for the Homeless will celebrate a significant milestone next week. The Alliance's partners have identified and found housing for 100 of the "most vulnerable" homeless adults in Shelby County, an ambitious goal announced in October 2012.

"We're excited to share the results of this historic milestone in our community. We set an ambitious target to find the most vulnerable people and move them off the street quickly, as part of the national 100,000 Homes Campaign. We had no idea how difficult the work would be and are so proud of the many people in our community who came together to make this vision a reality. We've seen a dramatic change in what we believe is possible in our community. It shows what can happen when caring and dedicated people from government, community organizations and social services providers all work together to combat one of Memphis and Shelby County's most pressing issues," said Katie Kitchin, Executive Director for the Community Alliance for the Homeless.

Those termed *most vulnerable* are homeless people who have a combination of mental illness, chronic physical illness and substance abuse and have extensive histories of homelessness. **"Statistically, this group faces an 80% chance of dying on the street without the intervention of housing and services. Our team works hard to establish trust with people who are often very isolated and support them through the difficult transition back into the community. We've seen dramatic transformations take place,"** added Ms. Kitchin.

More details about the two-year initiative will be announced on Wednesday, July 2nd at Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North Second Street, at 11:30 a.m.

City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., and Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., will give remarks along with Ms. Kitchin and other homeless services providers.

For more information, contact Katie Kitchin, at katiek@cafh.org or (901) 527-1302 Ext 301.

(End of Release)