***Where We’ve Been…***

*Anne Miskey, Executive Director*

***Ending Homelessness, Eh?***

At the end of October FTEH staff had the opportunity to attend the first ever [Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference](http://www.caeh.ca/conference-2014/conference-2013/) in Ottawa, Canada. We were pleased to meet with over 30 funders from across Canada who are focused on homelessness and related issues. We heard about some great work, especially in the area of youth homelessness – an area Canada has focused on for a number of years. We discovered lots of opportunities to share great ideas and work with our northern cousins, including participation in the [National Learning Community](http://learningcommunity.ca/) on youth homelessness. This past week, we attended their annual strategic planning session in Toronto. We hope this group can guide the formation of our own youth community of practice, and we plan to reconnect with them at the [NAEH Family and Youth Homelessness Conference](http://www.endhomelessness.org/news/calendar/2014-national-conference-on-ending-family-and-youth-homelessness) in February.

***Site Visits and Philanthropy Forward in Columbus, Ohio***

In October, The Columbus Foundation hosted a meeting of funders who work together with the [Community Shelter Board](http://www.csb.org/). Their amazing work is a model on how to work together to effectively end homelessness. Barb Poppe from [USICH](http://usich.gov/) also spent the day taking us on site visits around her fair city. We saw a youth shelter called [Huckleberry House](http://huckhouse.org/), where we discussed the increasing need for a focus on youth homelessness. We also visited a permanent supportive housing complex called Inglewood Court. In this 60-unit building, services are “wrapped” around tenants who have been disabled by mental illness and have long histories of homelessness.

The next day, FTEH hosted a [workshop on systems change](http://philanthropyforward.org/funder-roles-in-ending-youth-homelessness/) to end youth homelessness at the [Ohio Philanthropy Forward](http://philanthropyforward.org/) conference. Our panel included Barb Poppe, Angela D’Orazio from [Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland](http://www.socfdncleveland.org/), and Mark Putnam from [Building Changes Seattle](http://www.buildingchanges.org/). *If you are interested in learning more about systems change and/or planning a session at a conference or event near you, please contact Bevin Shagoury at* [*bevin@funderstogether.org*](mailto:bevin@funderstogether.org)*.*

***GEO Supporting Movements Conference***

Last week staff and board members from FTEH attended the [GEO Supporting Movements Conference](http://scalingwhatworks.org/events/supporting-movements) in Washington DC to learn more about how funders can support movements for change. Powerful movements have radically changed and improve the society in which we live – including the civil rights movement, the women’s movement, the marriage equality movement and more. This conference focused on the roles of funders in creating, building, and supporting movements. We learned a number of key lessons in how we can support a movement across our land that *ends homelessness.* Our work in systems change and advocacy, as well as building local networks that connect with each other are all vital in making this happen. [*Read more*](http://funderstogether.org/resource/systems-change/) *from FTEH about how you can help take part in and support a movement to end homelessness.*