

ACLU of Ohio Foundation  
 Appalachian Nutrition Network  
 Asian American Community Services  
 BRAVO Buckeye Region Anti - Violence Organization  
 Camp Fire USA Central Ohio Council  
 Camp Sunrise  
 Capital Area Humane Society  
 CASA of Franklin County  
 Cat Welfare  
 Center for Humane Options in Childbirth  
 Center for Wholeness  
 Central Ohio Green Ed Fund  
 City Year Columbus  
 Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio  
 Columbus Landmarks Foundation  
 COSI Columbus  
 Deaf Services Center  
 Earthtouch  
 Enhanced Life Styles Training Facility  
 Free Geek Columbus  
*The Free Press*  
 Friends of the Scioto River  
 Greater Linden Development Corporation  
 Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus  
 Heart of the City  
 Hocking Athens Perry Community Action  
 Inn at Broad  
 Interfaith Center for Peace  
 Kaleidoscope Youth Coalition  
 MAP Furniture Bank  
 Mercy For Animals  
 MOBILE Mid Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment  
 Native American Center of Central Ohio  
 NARAL/Pro Choice Ohio Education Foundation  
 Neighborhood Services, Inc.  
 Ohio Alliance for Arts Education  
 Ohio Citizen Action  
 Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
 Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
 Ohio League for the Mentally Retarded  
 Ohio Literacy Network  
 Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund  
 Pater Noster House  
 Project Open Hand Columbus  
 Simply Living  
 Stonewall Columbus  
 SAVE Strategies Against Violence Everywhere  
 Vietnam Veterans of Ohio  
 Waldorf Education Columbus  
 Wright Choice Intern Program



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For further information contact:

Melissa Magers: 614-262-1176 / [director@communityshares.net](mailto:director@communityshares.net)

Ryan Kovalaske: 614-262-1176 / [pr@communityshares.net](mailto:pr@communityshares.net)

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## Community Shares Announces COSMO Award Ceremony Recipients

**Columbus, OH** – Community Shares of Mid Ohio (CoSMO) held their first annual COSMO Award Ceremony on Wednesday, August 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA). The award ceremony recognized individuals and organizations in Central Ohio that have made a significant contribution to building a stronger community.

The COSMO Workplace Campaign Award was given to a CoSMO participating employer that has distinguished itself by encouraging its employees to participate in CoSMO campaigns. The 2008 recipient was Edison Welding Institute, who was recognized for the expansion of their workplace giving campaign to include Community Shares and its member agencies, increasing the range of giving options for their employees and their support of local, community based non-profits.

The COSMO Sonya Mawhorter Volunteer Award was given to an individual who has actively contributed to CoSMO in a significant and positive way. The Volunteer Award is named for Sonya Mawhorter, a board representative for the Ohio League for the Mentally Retarded, who passed away earlier this year. The 2008 recipient was Sally Meckling of OCSEA, who is actively involved with the union in philanthropic partnerships with numerous public sector workplace fundraising campaigns throughout the State of Ohio, particularly the State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign, which raises over five million dollars for non-profit organizations.

The COSMO Public Service Award was given to an elected official who has encouraged the participation of public sector employees in CoSMO campaigns. The 2008 recipient was Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown, who was recognized for her leadership as chair of the Franklin County Combined Charitable Campaign during which County employees contributed over \$326,000 to local nonprofits.

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**3709 N. High Street Columbus, Ohio 43214 V (614) 262-1176 Fax (614) 262-4343**  
**[office@communityshares.net](mailto:office@communityshares.net) [www.communityshares.net](http://www.communityshares.net)**

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The COSMO Reporting Award was for the best media coverage in Central Ohio about social justice issues. Nominations can be for individuals, specific news stories or news organizations in print, radio, television or the Internet. The 2008 recipient was the Dispatch Media Group, who was recognized for their coverage of Community Shares member agencies and for the many issues non-profits are working to resolve.

The COSMO Member of the Year Award was given to the CoSMO member organization that has made the most notable and significant contributions to building a stronger local community. The 2008 recipient was the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), who was recognized for its six-year effort to address the serious problem of predatory lending in Ohio and its work with the Ohio legislature to develop legislation that protects homeowners, culminating in the passage of the Homebuyers' Protection Act on June 19. Through the advocacy of members, legislative commitment, media attention and public education, the Ohio General Assembly produced a bill that protects consumers and will make lenders honest and accountable.

Special thanks were also given to Giant Eagle who donated refreshments for the event and to OCSEA for hosting the event.

“Central Ohio has so many generous donors and volunteers. We are delighted with this opportunity to recognize those who have contributed to strong, healthy communities,” said Community Shares Executive Director Melissa Magers.

Nominees were submitted by board members of Community Shares of Mid Ohio. The board’s workplace campaign committee selected the winners from the submitted nominees.

With 15 years of success in workplace fundraising, Community Shares of Mid Ohio assists local area non-profits in new options to receive donations. Through workplace fundraising drives done in public and private sector workplaces, employees are given the opportunity to donate directly to the non-profit agencies they care about most through payroll contributions.