

November 24, 2011

To: Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

From: Alice Skirtz

Re: Nomination of Anna Louise Inn for Service Provider Award

This is a nomination of Cincinnati Union Bethel/Anna Louise Inn (ALI) for the Service Provider of the Year Award for outstanding commitment to providing affordable housing for homeless women. Having provided housing and lifesaving services for single women for more than a century in its historic location, ALI sought and received tax credit and HOME funding in the amount of \$12.6m for renovation of the 102 year old historic Inn ranking first in the Ohio Housing Finance awards in 2010. Immediately following these funding awards, the powerful Western & Southern Financial Group (W&S) began to denounce ALI programs, zoning and historic approvals, and the funding, *and* denigrated the residents as somehow not worthy to live in their own homes, nor in the neighborhood the corporation seeks to control. Proclaiming that the ALI renovations and programs are counter-productive to economic development, the company claimed entitlement to the property and sought a forced sale, even though it is not for sale. ALI withstood vigorous attempts to rescind Council's approval of the HOME funds, OFA's approval of tax credits, and reversal of zoning and historic credit decisions. The project is delayed; several court cases are pending. The residents also have a case pending in Federal Court on matters of discrimination, intimidation, and violation of fair housing rights.

Like the Coalition for the Homeless, ALI has stood clearly and firmly with its residents upholding the mission of housing for homeless women, and like the Coalition is unwavering in advocating for affordable housing for those who are homeless and poor in a socio-political-economic climate where they are reviled and excluded for their economic poverty and the transgression of being without housing.

It is a privilege to nominate Cincinnati Union Bethel/Anna Louise Inn for the 2011 Service Provider of the Year Award for outstanding service and commitment to the mission of ending homelessness, and for extraordinary perseverance throughout unprecedented bullying tactics by one of the most powerful corporations in the city.

Submitted by Alice Skirtz, 513.651.3499, askirtz@fuse.net