



## **Carpenter's Shelter Board Belief Statement**

The Carpenter's Shelter Board believes that everyone has the right to a safe place to live, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or socio-economic status. Our service data and individual and collective experiences, clearly show homelessness has disproportionately affected Black people as a result of unequal access to education, training, employment, economic opportunity, medical and mental health care, and unfair treatment in the criminal legal system. We are committed to eradicating the systemic racism that fuels these barriers by centering the voices of the Black, Brown and poor people we serve. We do this by hearing and partnering with our resident and other community allies, while advocating, and actively participating in change actions that ensure the people we serve dignity and equal access to a safe and affordable forever home. We realize the first step is to examine our own stories to accept the role that systemic racism has played in our society and in the lives of our residents and to work tirelessly to identify, recognize, and own our bias and privileges. Together we will provide an environment of inclusion, compassion, and respect on our board, for shelter staff, and for the people we serve.