

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-** Friday, November 14, 2014

Scattergood Foundation Launches Community Design Challenge Addressing Homeless Shelters

Philadelphia, PA- The Scattergood Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of its fourth annual Design Challenge to kick-off National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This year the Scattergood Foundation challenges the community to:

**Create a low-cost, high-impact product that promotes resilience in a homeless shelter environment.**

[Research](#) has shown that approximately 92 percent of women in family homeless shelters have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their lifetimes. Homeless shelters often lack the capacity to help their guests deal with that trauma. Building on the success of past Design Challenge's, the Foundation will ask the community-at-large to be creative, think outside of the box, and submit their product designs online. The winning submission will be crowd-funded for and supported by the Scattergood Foundation and implemented at the Jane Addams Place, a shelter for women and children run by Lutheran Settlement House in West Philadelphia.

The goal of this challenge is to have a replicable, sustainable product that promotes safety, prevents re-traumatization, and empowers guests of a homeless shelter. By bringing together the "unusual suspects", the realities of an issue can be reframed by new perspectives and fresh solutions can be quickly developed through collaborative action.

The development of this Design Challenge came out of months of research completed by Caitlin O'Brien and Shoshana Akins, both Masters of Public Health candidates at Drexel University School of Public Health. In finding that trauma can be both a cause and effect of homelessness, they hope to encourage ways to employ trauma-informed principles in the development of products used in homeless shelters, not only in Philadelphia, but nationwide.

To learn more about this year's Design Challenge visit <http://www.scattergoodfoundation.org/design-challenge>.

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**About the Scattergood Foundation:** The Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation is a Quaker-based, philanthropic, grant-making foundation committed to raising its voice to improve the system through which behavioral healthcare is delivered. The annual Design Challenge is a flagship program that has resulted in unique implementable solutions to a variety of the behavioral health issues. Visit <http://www.scattergoodfoundation.org/past-design-challenges> to learn how the Design Challenges have made real impact in the community.

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