

2023 Impact Report



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We believe **every** child should have a home and a healthy start in life!



We know that far too many families are homeless and without hope as they struggle to keep a roof over their children's heads. The high cost of rental housing and the lack of fundamental skills, such as literacy, budgeting, and job skills put even more families at risk.

SHELTER, Inc. gives families a safe place to live, meeting their most basic needs, while offering individualized services such as education, employment and counseling.

With the help of the community, we provide families with life-long tools that allow them to transform their lives and provide a brighter future for their children.

# Investing In People's Lives

### **Dear Faithful Supporters.**

Our hearts went out this past year to the 4,997 people to whom you gave new hope and a second chance. These people (including children, Veterans, and seniors) were in crisis after rising costs for food, fuel, and rental increases threatened them with eviction or sent them to live in shelters, vehicles. motels, or the streets. Your generosity helped to salvage and change their lives through case management, connection with resources, and other critical supportive services. You helped families stay together, kept children in school, and helped people remain in their homes, or helped them find new housing they could afford.

Your confidence in our proven services and track record of housing people made the difference between living on the street and starting a positive new path forward. We are grateful for your continuing commitment. Throughout the three counties we serve, Contra Costa, Solano, and Sacramento, we see continuing post-pandemic effects requiring rental assistance, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelter.

Through long-term planning and your support, we are better positioned and staffed to address the growing needs of the unhoused in our community. Our Solano County Beck Avenue Navigation Center's (formerly called SHELTER Solano) dining hall and commercial kitchen is open and serving participants nutritious meals. In the next year we will be expanding the commercial kitchen for use as a teaching facility for culinary and food service training. We have also bolstered programs for Veterans services and begun two new rapid rehousing programs for DV (survivors of Domestic Violence) in Sacramento and Solano counties in addition to our existing Contra Costa DV program.

The following pages illustrate the impact of your generosity, and how SHELTER constantly shifts and anticipates the needs of families and individuals as the economy changes. We are so grateful and thankful you have heartfelt compassion for your fellow children, women, and men. None of this would be possible without you!

With gratitude





assistance



children and adults receiving assistance

## The **Need**

SHELTER shifted with the post-pandemic economic needs of our community in 2023. The reality for many families, who were already just a paycheck away from financial hardship or eviction, was continued shrinking of income, with no means to cope with rising costs for rent, food, fuel and utilities; these families have scarce extra money to turn on air conditioning or heat, take a pet to a vet, or fix a car. The department of Health, Housing and Homeless Services in Contra Costa County reports that on any given day, there are more than 1,000 households qualified and approved for permanent supportive housing resources.

Our shelters in Contra Costa, Solano, and Sacramento counties served individuals and families, including opening a new dining hall and commercial kitchen at our Beck Avenue Navigation Center, to serve a greater capacity of participants, while our new partnership with the City of Vallejo and the Firm Foundation provides 47 units of housing to chronically homeless individuals at our newly developed Broadway Project in Vallejo.

We continued to provide rental assistance to both rehouse people and to prevent evictions.



# SHELTER, Inc. Solutions

Prevention/Rental Assistance Short-term rental assistance for families experiencing a financial crisis as a result of an unexpected life event (death in family, illness, job loss).

**Navigation Centers** Temporary shelter for families and individuals. Provides services focused on access to permanent housing and selfsufficiency.

**Rapid Rehousing** Short-term assistance with rent, security/utility deposits and services for rapid placement of families and individuals into housing.

**Permanent Supportive Housing** Long-term rental assistance and supportive services for individuals and families with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

**Affordable Housing** Provided to low-income families and individuals.

### Services

- Case Management
- Budgeting
- Housing Search Assistance
- Employment Services
- Mental Health Counseling
- Tutoring
- Parent Education
- Legal Services





### Your support provides critical housing and services to help families and individuals whether they are facing eviction, living on the streets or struggling to obtain affordable rental housing.

4,997 children and adults receiving assistance

# **Your Impact:** How Your Help Changed Lives

### Preventing Homelessness

Keeping a family in their home means that jobs are retained, families are fed, and children stay in school and are safe. Prevention services begin with a needs assessment to determine the amount of rental assistance needed.



Average amount of financial support per family provided



Families & individuals who were imminently at risk of losing their home remained in a permanent home

### Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

Homeless families and individuals receive housing and support services including employment, education, counseling and household budgeting to help move-in to a permanent home and regain self-sufficiency.



Families & individuals exiting Mountain View Family Shelter who moved into a permanent home



Families & individuals without a home who successfully moved back into a permanent home with rental assistance

### Providing Affordable Housing

SHELTER, Inc. owns or master leases housing units and rents to low-income, vulnerable residents, including disabled persons and Veterans, many of whom have otherwise been unable to find housing.



Housing units leased and owned by SHELTER, Inc.



### Year in Numbers



**267,392** Meals provided in our shelters



**387** Back to school backpacks and supplies distributed to children



**421** Thanksgiving meal care packages distributed to families



**840** Family holiday wishes fulfilled

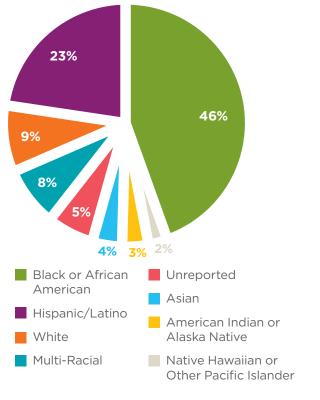
6 SHELTER, Inc.



### You Have Assisted:



## Race/Ethnicity of Participants:



# Participant **Story**

### **Meet Oni**

Oni is a 49-year-old woman who suffered a stroke resulting in partial paralysis on one side and was restricted to using a wheelchair. She was referred to SHELTER's Beck Avenue Navigation Center after she was dropped off at a warming station in Vacaville by a family member who could no longer care for her.

SHELTER was able to connect her to services including physical and speech therapy, then assisted with getting her an electric wheelchair, since she only had an unsafe, manual device she operated by pushing herself backwards.

After months of case management and support, Oni became one of our first participants from Solano county to move into a new studio apartment complex in Valleio through funding by County Permanent Supportive Housing for individuals with disabilities.

Oni was provided a furnished studio, and since she will need ongoing care, will receive onsite county case management and In-Home Supportive Services.

Oni missed her sons terribly after her stroke left her unable to care for them, and they went into foster care. Now that she has her own place, her boys can have visits and stay overnight with her. She is overjoyed and so thankful at the help she received from SHELTER and donors making it possible.

I am so grateful to SHELTER for helping me find housing I could afford, obtain a working wheelchair, and reconnect with my two sons, during the lowest point in my life.



## Mission In Action

### **Solano Community Hall Completed and Operating**

Beck Avenue Navigation Center is thrilled to announce its new Community Hall, with dining room and commercial kitchen, is completed and in use. We are most grateful to our many supporters and donors, with landscaping materials sourced and labor provided by the Fairfield Community Service Foundation.

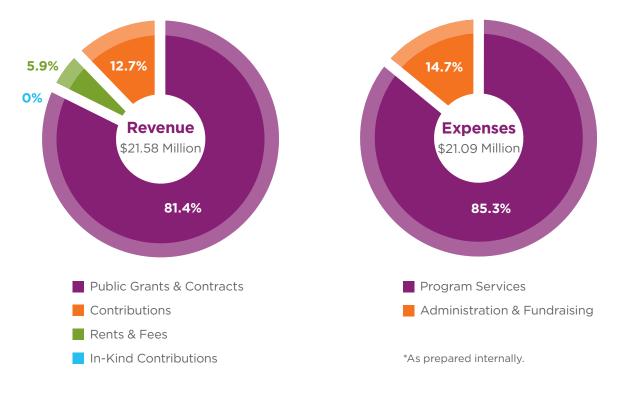
The new facility, more than 12 years in the making, is a much welcome improvement; a gathering space for all participants to come together and enjoy hot meals prepared in a proper kitchen. The commercial kitchen will also serve as a culinary training program under the tutelage of our food manager and chef to teach vital skills to those looking to regain self-sufficiency.

"We are so thankful we can provide this for our participants, and honored by the support we've received from the community," said SHELTER, Inc. Chief Executive Officer John Eckstrom. "It's been a long time coming and we thank everyone who was involved with helping us at all stages and levels of this project. It's not only a huge boost in the quality of living for our participants, but will also offer a place for social activities, and a training ground for their future employment."





# Our **Financials**\*





# Thank You To Our Supporters

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

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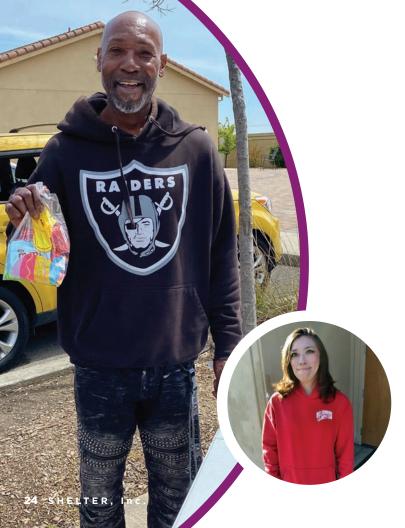
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We also extend our special thanks to the hundreds of inkind donors who gave items to meet the basic needs of our families. These gifts were valued at nearly \$531,566.55.





## It's your money... do with it as you wish

Did you know that up to 70% of adult Americans have not created wills or estate plans? Sadly, if you don't make a plan, your state will! One of the greatest gifts you can give your heirs is a plan that clearly states your wishes, and you can even carry on your philanthropic interests in that plan. You may save your heirs taxes, or even increase the value of your estate.

If you'd like to continue your investment in SHELTER, Inc. beyond your own lifetime, we would be honored, and even have tools on our website to help you start your planning.

www.shelterinc.giftplans.org or call 925.957.7572





Thank you for ensuring families have food, shelter, and a fresh start!

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