

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

#### A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION - MEET THE GARCIA FAMILY

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Ray and Cealestrial fell into homelessness after losing their work due to restaurant shutdowns. With limited access to resources and a newborn daughter they were forced into homelessness and had to call one of Colorado Springs' most dangerous campsites home. With little knowledge of available resources and limited stays at the local family shelter this campsite is where they raised their daughter, Persephone. That is where she took her first steps, where she said her first words. Ray and Cealesterial did everything they could to provide for their child, but without opportunity they struggled to survive.



They had multiple interactions with bears and other dangerous wildlife while unhoused, causing them to constantly fear for their young family's safety. While unhoused they often lost what little resources they had remaining to theft and vandalism which left them to feel that they could not seek opportunity or they would lose what little they had.

However, sometimes all it takes to escape the depths of despair is an outreached hand.
Homeward Pikes Peak's Street Outreach team met Ray and Cealesterial at their campsite and immediately started the process of getting them connected to resources. Jansen, the program manager, demonstrated her dedication and compassion when she advocated for the family to be identified as candidates for HPP's Housing First program.

With the help of DHS and the Colorado Springs Fire Department they were able to expedite the HPP permanent supportive housing process and

were housed within a month of identification. Within a week of moving into their new home they regained full custody of their daughter. For the first time in a longtime, Cealesterial did not have to give her daughter a bath at the nearby Circle K or wash her clothes in the sink. They now live in a two-bedroom unit that they have turned into a home filled with toys, and most importantly love and stability for their daughter. Because of their commitment to HPP's program Ray has recently found employment. The family is taking all the opportunities given to them and are excelling.

## **Our Mission**

Homeward Pikes Peak empowers individuals and families to access stable housing, increase mental health, increase recovery, and achieve economic stability.

#### HARBOR HOUSE RECOVERY HOME 2023

This program provides sober living and supportive housing for men that addresses homelessness and addiction with onsite staff and wrap around services. We also work with men returning to the community from jail or prison. Clients work on treatment goals, recovery, employment, and personal relationships.

In 2023 we served 47 men with an average stay at Harbor House of 3.3 months. 77% maintain or secured employment. 77% increased their earnings during their time in our program. 65% of clients left our program and moved to safe living environments.

Overall, we are achieving an 84% success rate of clients moving through our program and exiting with positive outcomes.

HHR provides individual counseling and group counseling sessions. Our clients average 16 encounters per month while in our program, in addition to community support sessions such as peer coaching, AA and NA.





#### **PROJECT DETOUR 2023**

A sober living and supportive housing program for women struggling with drug and /or alcohol addictions with onsite staff and wrap around services. Women may be referred by the courts or Department of Human Services.

In 2023 we served 34 women and 8 accompanying babies with an average stay of 10 months. 98% of these women maintained their parental rights. 70% had employment success with 45% achieving increased income while in the program. 85% have rebuilt family relationships.

Project Detour provides individual and group counseling sessions. Our clients average 12 encounters per month while in the program, in addition to counseling mandated outside of our program and parenting classes.

#### **BLOOM HOUSE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER**

In 2023 HPP opened the RTC and established community support for the program. The program struggled to maintain strong referrals and sustainability. Therefore, Homeward Pikes Peak took time to evaluate ongoing obstacles. We continue to work on serving women with substance use disorders.





#### STREET OUTREACH 2023

HPP provides street outreach in our community to individuals who are not fully engaged in other services. HPP partners with the Colorado Springs Police to engage with individuals and provide resources and referrals for housing and behavioral health. Our goal is to build long-term trust with individuals experiencing homelessness and assist each person with the opportunity to move into housing, access health care services, and become self-sufficient once again.

In 2023 we served 724 individuals experiencing homelessness. Of those individuals, 232 were considered chronically homeless. 139 were male, 134 were female. 24 were Veterans, 11 were under the age of 25. At the time of contact, 78 persons had a diagnosed mental health disorder, 66 with a diagnosed substance abuse disorder, 33 with developmental disability, and 55 with a physical disability.

32 clients were moved into a housing program. While this number is low, it is representative of the limited housing options for chronically homeless individuals.

#### **HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM 2023**

Housing First provides permanent supportive housing, rental assistance and supportive services to community members who have experienced chronic homelessness, disabilities, addiction, and mental illness.

In 2023 HPP served 135 adults and 42 children. 91.5% of clients remain in stable housing. 80 % of the Head of Households engage in supportive services. 70% of our clients accessed medical and behavioral health treatment. The average length of stay in the housing first program is  $5\,1/2$  years.





#### **CLINICAL SERVICES 2023**

HPP provides substance use disorder and mental health treatment for very low income and medicaid recipients.

In 2023, the Clinic served a total of 104 clients: 47 men, 59 women, 1 transgender, and 3 LGBTQIA+. Of the 59 women served, 25 had children and 7 were pregnant. 87% of clients served have stable housing and 13% are homeless. The clinic had a total of 2826 encounters with clients in 2023. 92% of clients who begin services make progress on their recovery goals and 80% of clients who engage in regular treatment see an improvement in their overall health and Social Determinants of Health.

#### **THE COMMONS 2023**

The Commons is a Permanent Supportive Housing Site that aims to house low-income households to prevent homelessness. In the year 2023, 50 households, encompassing families, individuals, and Veterans, a total of 115 individuals were served. In 2023, the Commons achieved 100% occupancy.

Among the achievements, 73% of our clients successfully maintained their income, reflecting the stability. Notably, 33% of our residents experienced an increase in their income after transitioning into housing.

The Commons partners with CC, PU, DH, ATHRC, VATRMC to support our residents.





### Building Hope, Brick by Brick: The Power of Community at Homeward Pikes Peak

At Homeward Pikes Peak, we believe in the transformative power of stable housing. It's more than just four walls and a roof; it's a foundation for healing, growth, and opportunity. Every day, we witness the resilience of individuals and families as they overcome immense challenges, and it's a privilege to walk alongside them on their journeys.

Our mission is multifaceted: empowering individuals and families to access stable housing, while simultaneously supporting their mental health, recovery, and economic stability. It's a complex equation, but one we tackle with unwavering dedication. We deeply value the trust our clients place in us, allowing us to be partners in their pursuit of wellness and a brighter future. This trust fuels our commitment to providing comprehensive services. We offer supportive housing options, mental health counseling, recovery programs, and companionship to navigate homelessness and housing instability. But our impact extends far beyond individual programs. We foster a sense of community, creating a safe space where individuals can connect, share experiences, and find strength in each other.

The road to recovery and stability is rarely smooth. Trying times are inevitable, and the challenges our clients face can feel overwhelming. Yet, in these moments, the love and support we receive from our community shines even brighter. We are incredibly grateful for the financial contributions from federal, state, and city governments, private foundations, local businesses, and individual donors who believe in our work.

Your generosity allows us to expand our reach, offer innovative programs, and provide critical resources to those in need. It's a testament to the compassion and understanding that exists within our community, a collective belief that everyone deserves a chance to heal, grow, and thrive.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering individuals and families. We know that with continued support, we can build a future where stable housing, mental wellness, and economic stability are within reach for all. Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we are making a difference, brick by brick, life by life. - Beth Hall Roalstad, MSW CEO

#### THANK YOU

Homeward Pikes Peak would like to thank all our supporters for a very successful 2023. We could not continue our critical programs of case management and substance abuse treatment without your generous support. So many exciting new programs are possible; women, children, veterans, and families will be helped with your financial backing. We appreciate your helping us achieve our goals and dreams to empower individuals and families to access stable housing, increase mental health, sobriety and economic stability.

#### **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Bryan Construction, GE Johnson, Gold Hill Mesa, ANB Bank, Concepts Restaurants, Quantum Real Estate, El Pomar Foundation, Sobritree, Raymond James Wealth Management, Behr and Behr Real Estate, Biggs Kofford, Premier Real Estate Group, Dominium, Diversus, Ting, Weidner Homes, Jennifer Darby Law, Colorado Community Health Alliance, Reliant Construction

#### **FOUNDATION SPONSORS**

Pikes Peak United Way, Classic Homes, Colorado Springs Health Foundation, CSU Community Focus Fund, First Congo El Pomar Foundation, Virginia Hill Foundation, El Paso County Investment Fund, Kaiser Foundation – CHP, Kum & Go, El Pomar Foundation, Osborne Trust, Everett Charitable Trust, Carl George Bjorkman Foundation. Adam Scripps Foundation, Alano House, Anchutz Family Foundation, Carl Bjorkman Foundation, Chapman Trusts, CHFA, Couples Who Care, DAV Charitable Trust, Edon Foundation, Enterprise Foundation, Friends of the Haven, half the Sky, John H Edmondson Foundation Myron Stratton Foundation

#### **GOVERNMENT SPONSORS**

Federal, State and Local Support: US. Dept of Housing and Urban Development, State of CO – Dept. of Local Affairs – Division of Housing, State of CO – Dept. of Human Services – Office of Behavioral Health, El Paso County Department of Human Services – Community Solutions Block Grant, El Paso County ARPA Funds, City of Colorado Springs – Emergency Solutions Grant & Community Development Block Grant.

#### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

HPP does not disclose our individual donors however, we received over \$100,000 in 2023 from a variety of generous community members.

