2019 Year in Review
Homeward Alliance

A Year of Impact

This was an extraordinary year for Homeward Alliance. Thanks to supporters like you, virtually all program outcomes were higher than or equal to all-time agency records, and we vastly expanded our capacity to provide long-term, case management services (focused on employment and housing) and direct financial assistance (e.g. rent, career gear).

In the report that follows, we give you a sample of what you helped us achieve in 2019 and what we hope to accomplish in 2020. The bottom line is clear: We launch into the new decade more confident than ever that we will make homelessness rare, short-lived and non-recurring in northern Colorado.

- David Rout, Executive Director

We Helped 222 People Escape Homelessness

- Hand Up
  - Helped secure 212 jobs

- Dedicated Navigator
  - Helped individuals and families obtain nearly $1 million in public benefits

- One Village One Family
  - Helped a record of 19 families, including about 40 children, escape homelessness

- Housing First Initiative
  - Housed 59 chronically homeless, highly vulnerable individuals

- Mobile Laundry
  - Complete up to 40 laundry loads per day via newly-launched mobile laundry vehicle

- Street Outreach
  - Engaged with more than 500 individuals on the streets of Fort Collins

- Distribution
  - Distributed more than $1 million of life-sustaining supplies statewide

- Re-Entry
  - Maintained 5% recidivism rate and helped more than 70% of participants obtain employment

- Children in Need
  - Served nearly 600 families at quarterly resource fairs and biennial maternity fairs

- Bike Repair
  - Completed more than 550 bicycle repairs

Murphy Center for Hope

Recorded more than 50,000 interactions with about 3,000 unduplicated individuals, thanks in part to expanded evening hours during cold-weather months.
FUSE: Housing for the Most Vulnerable

In collaboration with Homeward 2020 and the Health District of Northern Colorado, we launched a Frequent Utilizers System Engagement (FUSE) project in August. FUSE is a best-practice model through which communities work across sectors—criminal justice, healthcare, etc.—to identify individuals who are homeless and frequently engaged with costly emergency systems and provide those individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

The project will help 20 individuals escape chronic homelessness in 2019 and 2020; Homeward Alliance employs the Clinical Case Manager who coordinates services for program participants.

Launched Mobile Laundry Program

We launched our all-volunteer Mobile Laundry program in October. A team transports a custom-built “laundry truck” to key public locations in Larimer County and completes up to 40 laundry loads per day for individuals and families who are homeless and/or low-income. The laundry truck—equipped with six washers, seven dryers and a mobile power supply—brings a vital, basic service to the people who need it most. It also presents an opportunity to engage with people who might be disconnected from other needed services.

Key Fact: The volunteer team that runs the program also developed the concept and raised the funds to launch it!

Expanded Murphy Center Hours

Thanks to funding from the City of Fort Collins, we expanded hours at the Murphy Center during cold-weather months. Beginning in late 2018 and through at least 2020, the Murphy Center will remain open until 9 PM (rather than 5 PM) from November through April.

The expansion filled a dangerous gap: the lack of a consistent location for people to be during the most dangerous months of the year. But it also provided individuals with 500 additional hours of access to core services in the building (mail, laundry, showers, lockers, etc.), brought new case management capacity to guests and allowed individuals to engage in services who work or are otherwise unavailable during the day.

Awards

Torch Ethics Award, Finalist (Better Business Bureau)
Awarded annually to businesses and non-profits that “represent the highest standards of leadership, character and organizational ethics.”

Larimer County Community Service Award (Group Publishing)
Awarded annually to one outstanding non-profit in Larimer County.

Heroes for Nonprofit Families (Family Housing Network)
Awarded annually to leaders who demonstrate excellence in advocacy for families experiencing homelessness.

Innovation Grant Recipient (United Way of Larimer County)
Awarded to high community impact projects that meet significant unmet needs in Larimer County.

“...The Murphy Center helped stabilize me despite my health issues, which helped me get a job and housing... a little hope and coffee goes a long way."
-Japheth
Homeward Alliance is the leading source of accurate and actionable data on homelessness in our community. Those data and recommendations educate the broader community, help agencies and local leaders identify strengths and gaps in service provision, and inform local and regional funding priorities. The data below is a community-level snapshot of people who, as of our most recent data, have been homeless in Fort Collins for at least six months. Combined with the fact that this represents only a subset of people who are homeless—for example, more than 1,100 students in the Poudre School District experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 school year—it shows clearly that, as much progress as we have made, much remains to be done.

434 people have been homeless in Fort Collins for six months or longer. Among them:

- 50% self-identify as disabled
- 2.5 years: median length of homelessness
- 44% report that they are struggling with substance use disorders and/or mental health issues
- 70% have experienced homelessness at least once before their current episode of homelessness
- Less than 1% report enough income to afford a market-rate one-bedroom apartment despite being employed

2019 Financial Highlights

**Revenue**: $2,787,000

- Individual Contributions: 11%
- Special Events: 6%
- Corporate/Organizational: 6%
- Investment/Other: 2%
- Foundations/Grants: 17%
- Government Grants: 22%
- InKind Contributions: 36%

**Expenses**: $2,659,000

- Administrative: 4%
- Fundraising: 6%
- Program Expenses: 90%

**End-of-Year Assets**: $1,205,500

- Operating Funds: 45%
- Reserve/Endowment Funds: 27%
- Product Inventory: 13%
- Grants/Gifts Receivable: 9%
- Other Assets: 6%

$250,000 $500,000 $750,000 $1,000,000 $1,200,000

*These financials have not been audited or approved by the Board of Directors. They are therefore subject to change.
Expansion of Family Services

In 2019, we contracted with Colorado State University’s Social Work Research Center to conduct a study of services for children and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Larimer County. Our staff and CSU researchers conducted more than 70 one-on-one interviews and a dozen focus groups with families who were homeless and the agencies that serve them, collected aggregate data, and more.

The final study, complete with recommendations, will be released in early 2020. It will help us expand and improve our services, collaborate more effectively and empower more families to escape homelessness.

New Continuum of Care Creates Opportunity for Data Leadership

In January 2020, Homeward Alliance was selected as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency for the newly-formed Northern Colorado Continuum of Care. In that role, we will oversee the data system for all HUD-funded agencies in Larimer and Weld Counties. We expect to help the region develop and grow a data platform that improves service coordination, enhances our understanding of the issue and helps more people escape homelessness.

Increased Support for People Who Need it the Most

Homeward Alliance hosts a team of case managers that provide intensive, one-on-one support to hundreds of individuals each year. Unfortunately, far more individuals require such support, and the community lacks the capacity to provide it to everyone who needs it.

In 2020 and beyond, Homeward Alliance hopes to significantly expand our capacity to empower more individuals to achieve the outcomes (employment, education, permanent housing) that we know are possible.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers are the lifeblood of virtually all Homeward Alliance programs. In fact, volunteers founded nine of our 11 programs. In 2019, well over 1,000 volunteers contributed more than 11,000 hours of service to Homeward Alliance—about $280,000 worth of time, according to an independent valuation of volunteer time.

Get Involved!

Want to get more involved with Homeward Alliance? There are tons of ways to help.

❤️ Volunteer
💰 Donate Money
📦 Donate Product
🌐 Follow us on Social Media

Visit www.HomewardAlliance.org or www.MurphyCenter.org to volunteer, donate or learn more.

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