



Annual Report

FY 2019-2020





Our Mission

Fostering opportunities for community development and safe, functional shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

Shields House crew at their new home

The Shields House, a transitional community living space created by Community Supported Shelters, where residents pay the rent and do the maintenance.



communitysupportedshelters.org
541-683-0836 ■ css.eugene@gmail.com

Greetings CSS supporters! Welcome to our second Annual Report. A lot has happened in a year!

We're pretty excited about our overall trajectory and want to share our enthusiasm with you—the people who make it all possible through your donations, volunteerism and moral support. Your backing literally makes all the difference.

We've come a long way in seven years, growing from a twinkle in Erik and Kristin Fay's eyes to a formidable collection of Huts, Microsites, Safe Spots, a hygiene station and even a four-bedroom transitional house—with more to come! Eugene's residents—as well as elected officials and police—have embraced us more and more each year. We started out asking for permission to build: Now the City is eagerly reaching out, asking us to please do more! We're hoping that, with your help, we can indeed continue to innovate and grow.

If, after reading this report, you have questions or comments, please reach out to us. We always take feedback very seriously and find it invaluable in continuing to develop as an organization for public benefit.

Thanks for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Tod Schneider, Interim Executive Director

Erik de Buhr, Chief Operating Officer

October 2020

Over the Past Year

117 People sheltered for up to one year

37 Huts built with...

1261 Hours of volunteer construction help

3 Safe Spot camps managed

3 new Microsites established

1 new, transitional Shields House for camp graduates

1 new "Reboot Station" with food, clothing & showers

Two-Shower unit at our new Reboot Station

Generously donated by the University Fellowship Church, the shower trailer lives at our West 11th Microsite and is available to the public three afternoons a week.



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Since Our Founding...

661 People sheltered for up to one year

141 Huts built by dozens of volunteers

62% of our clients exit to better circumstances and improved lives!

...and on the Horizon

Exciting requests, brainstorming and visions for the future keep bubbling up from inside CSS as well as coming at us from all sides...



Founder Erik de Buhr surveying property for a new Safe Spot camp

Both the city and the county have expressed urgent interest in more joint efforts. We'll keep you posted as these projects take shape!



Rebuilding Lives

When Tonie French moved from a tent by the river into a Conestoga Hut sited next to a local business, he was already working and going to school. He has the money and good references to rent a place, but is continually blocked by a felony on his record.

The Hut and help from CSS allow him to, “concentrate on the things I need to be concentrating on, trying to get a regular place. This is a stepping stone to the next step. It’s a Godsend.”

He hopes soon someone will see beyond his past and open the door for housing to him. “Until then, I’ve got to keep on going,” he says. CSS gives him the space and support to do that.

***Tonie French outside his
Hut in Eugene***

*CSS provides invaluable
breathing room while he
makes the changes that will
get his life on track.*

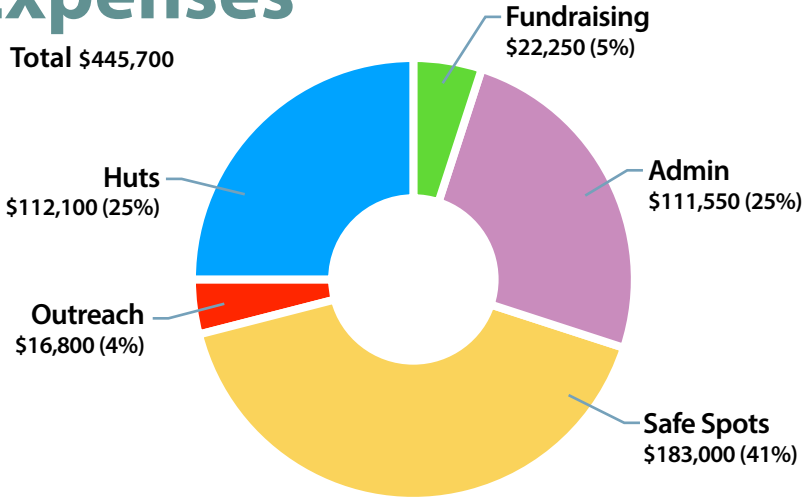


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Expenses

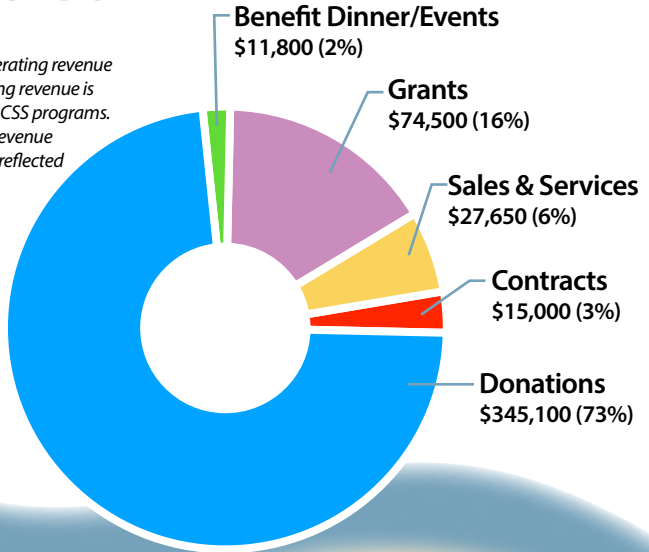
Total \$445,700



Revenues

Total \$474,050

This represents only operating revenue (\$474,050). The operating revenue is revenue received to run CSS programs. We also received asset revenue (another \$322,250, not reflected in pie chart). The asset revenue is primarily the down payment on the Shields House and the purchase of 1845 West 11th Avenue.





Distant Impact

CSS continues to hear from distant communities, eager to learn about our model. We have sold over 240 Hut manuals worldwide and drawn interest about our program from many parts of the U.S. and Canada. We regularly consult with leaders in other communities, eager to learn how we do what we do.

Community activist Laural Park (below) sponsored a Conestoga Hut build in Redding, California, in January 2020 to demonstrate for city and county government officials a new approach to providing shelters for unhoused people in their community.

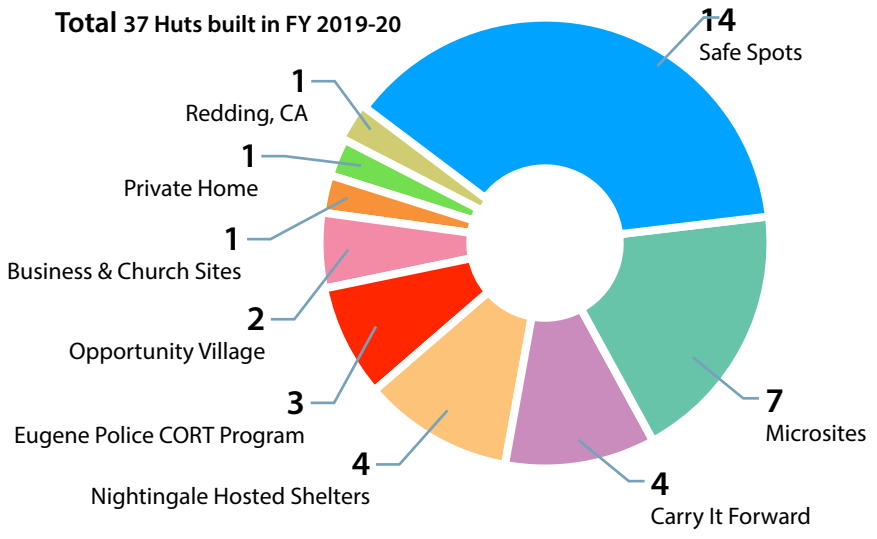


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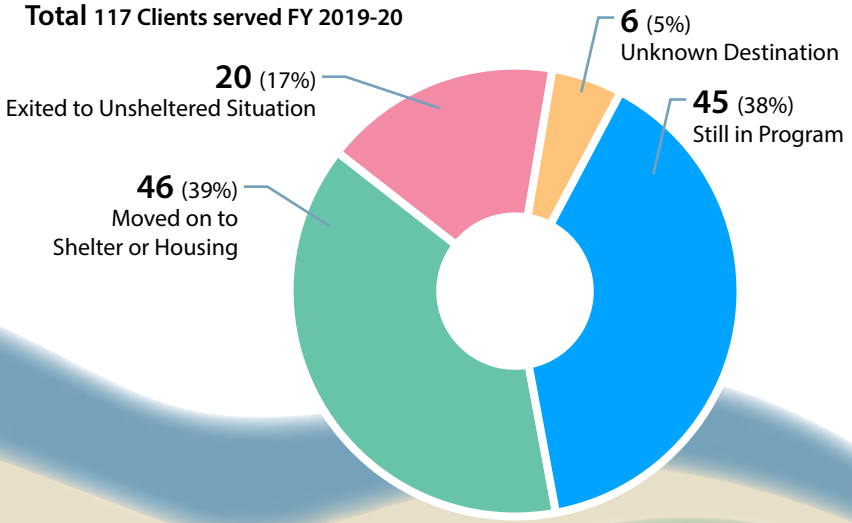
Hut Locations

Total 37 Huts built in FY 2019-20



Client Destinations

Total 117 Clients served FY 2019-20





Empowering the Dispossessed

During the eight years she was homeless after her former husband drained all the money from their joint account, Catherine Gasior sometimes “flew a sign” to raise money for necessities. “People would yell at me, ‘Get a job!’” she says. “Sometimes I yelled back, ‘Give me a job!’” She didn’t get much help from anybody.

But that’s changed with the support she gets since she’s been at the CSS Expressway Safe Spot, especially from Camp Facilitator Plaedo Wellman. “He’s been helping me try to look for housing. He comes and tells us when there are job opportunities. And if you need someone to talk to, you can talk to him. Not only that, you get a roof over your head, so you’re not out in the cold or in the rain during winter. And you eat every day. It’s a step up and a way to get on with your life.”



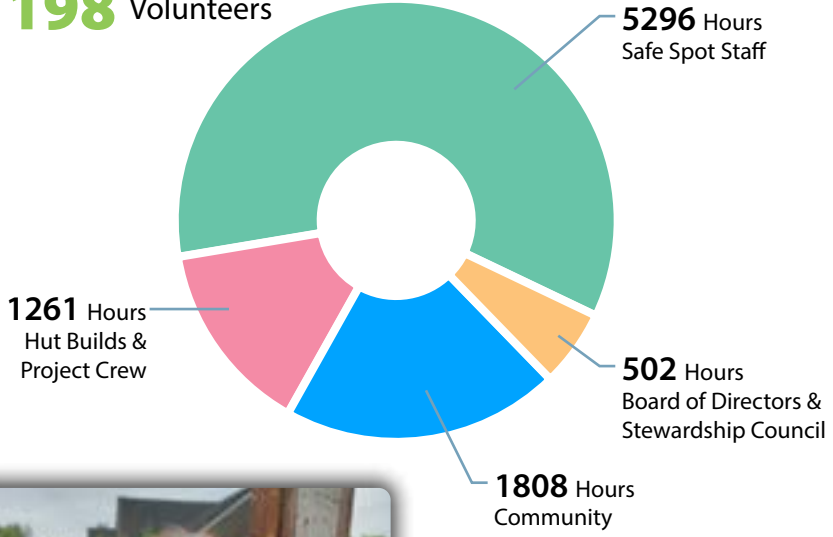
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Volunteer Service

8867 Total hours

198 Volunteers



1808 Hours
Community

(Includes preparing meals for Safe Spot work parties & camps, sewing Hut curtains & face masks for COVID-19 safety, assistance with our shower program, laundering the shower towels, food pantry helpers, the newsletter crew, office projects & group volunteer work parties from local businesses, etc.)

Hut Crew member Carmen
Volunteering can be a great way to give back to the community.