



Annual Report

FY 2020-2021





Our Mission

Rebuilding the lives of unhoused people through intentional community



Developing Community

Residents gather to relax in the security of the Expressway Safe Spot in March, 2021.

On the Cover

The first residents of our Lot 9 camp, behind Autzen Stadium, completed in the spring of 2021. Go Ducks!



communitysupportedshelters.org
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Greetings CSS supporters! It's been a blockbuster movie kind of a year, with the first COVID pandemic, massive wildfires, and a surge in demand for non-congregate shelters.

In response, the City government funded a massive building spree. Our shop and volunteer Hut crews rose to the occasion, operating with an intensity we'd never seen before, and we needed to hire twenty new employees to keep up with our expansion. We jumped from three Safe Spots to eight, plus a new Microsite, and a couple of Mini-Microsites. With 147 Huts now in operation, we're able to shelter more people than ever in our history—approaching a three-fold increase.

Throughout this adventure, queries have steadily trickled in from afar. People worldwide—from Orcas Island, Washington, to Toowoomba, Australia—have ordered Hut construction handbooks and templates, thanked us for our inspirational work, and turned to us with questions about building Huts, camps, and communities.

We are excited to move forward, serving our community as well as friends from afar.

Sincerely,

Tod Schneider, Executive Director

Erik de Buhr, General Services Officer



Absolutely on Her Way

“It’s been amazing. It’s been wonderful. I found family. I found purpose,” says Jourdan Horton, 31, of her time at the Expressway Safe Spot.

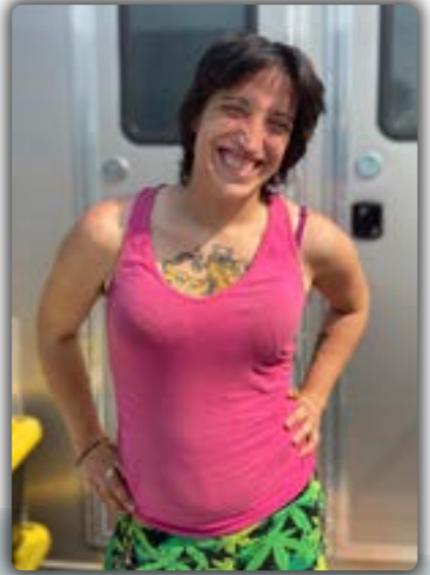
Jourdan became homeless when a promised job that brought her to the Eugene area fell through. A trespassing ticket for sleeping under an awning in the rain led her to the Community Court program, which eventually led her to CSS.

“The big thing was learning to trust everyone around me,” she says, “to come into a community and have a safe spot.”

She developed into an advocate for the camp during the double challenges of the pandemic and the CSS expansion. She also volunteers with the shower program.

Now, as she prepares to move on after a year with CSS, she feels ready to clear up unfinished business back east and to follow a lifelong dream of traveling.

“I got stuck, but I’m about to take off. I’m absolutely on my way.”



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Measuring Success:

- New huts built: **91**
- New Safe Spot communities built: **5**
- New micro-site: **1**
- Total Safe Spots in Eugene: **8**
- Total micro-sites: **2**
- Total huts: **147**
- The number of clients we've welcomed over the past year: **164**
- The number of people currently in Safe Spots, successfully sheltered and working on rebuilding their lives: **84**
- Plus all those who have moved on to better circumstances: **45**
- Total lives changed for the better: **129 people**
- Success rate: **79%!**

Distant Impact

- Hut manuals sold: **150**
- Countries/states reached with manuals: **39** states, **3** other countries.
- Consultations: **10**, from British Columbia to California, Kansas City, and Kalamazoo.

"I'm a social worker on Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands, Washington. We've officially placed our first client in our first Conestoga Hut and it has been a truly great fit! We're starting to think about the idea of creating a village of Huts on a property here on the island with a live-in manager and a communal kitchen."



Over the Past Year

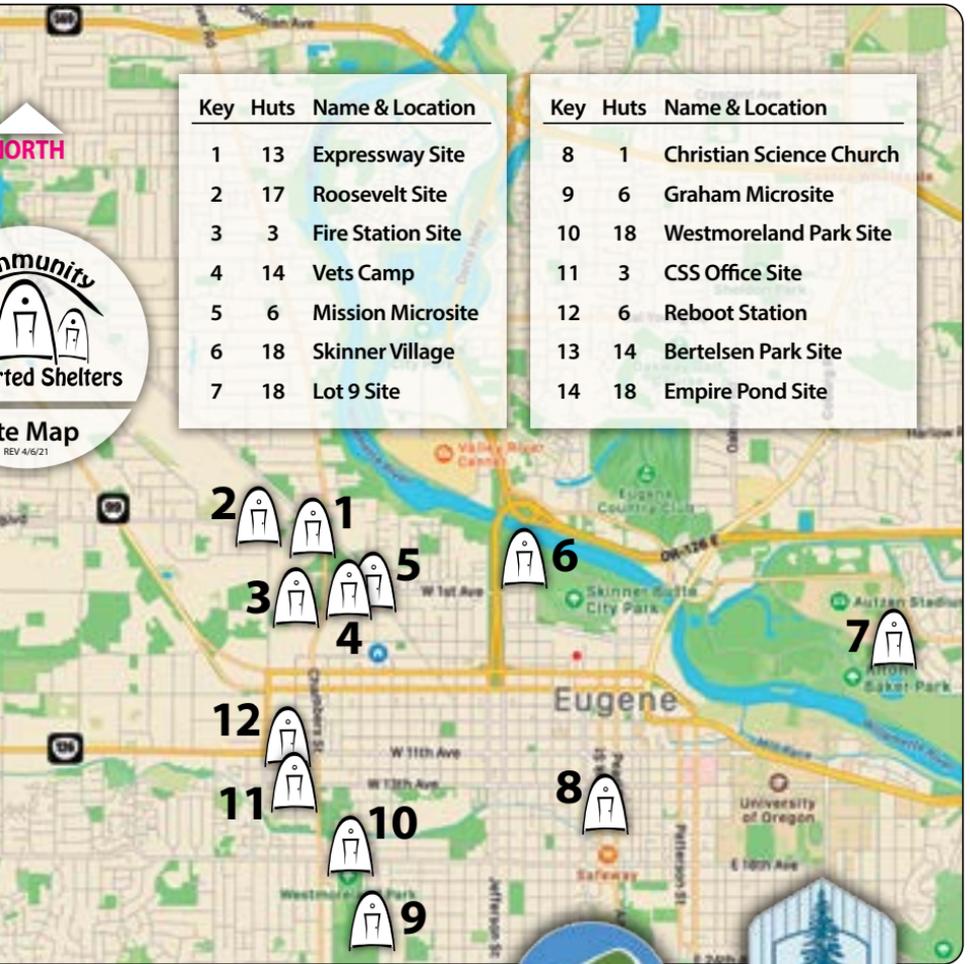
By far the biggest development of the past year has been the massive build-out of five full-sized Safe Spots, plus the Graham Microsite, thanks to major funding from the City of Eugene and Lane County.

The project was monumentally challenging, but we got it all built in record time—under six months total. We had to build so much so fast that we even had to subcontract out some pieces of the project. Essex Construction built wall segments far faster than we were set up to do, and fencing and gravel companies took on components as well.

Our Hut crews played a critical role, building Huts about ten times faster than ever before. We simultaneously continued running our three oldest camps, a scattering of Mini-Microsites, and an additional Microsite. All in all, we now have 147 Huts in all of our locations.



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NORTH



Site Map
REV 4/6/21

Community Supported Shelters continues its partnership with the City of Eugene and with Lane County.





Giving Back

Ryker Miller, 30, an Army and National Guard veteran, didn't want to face winter in a tent. Despite working a variety of jobs, that's where he ended up after two years of homelessness. Then he heard about CSS. In October 2019, he moved into the Vets Camp.

"This program has given me a chance to just be myself and work and exist," he says. "Life is still rough, and I'm still trying to figure out where I'm going from here, but it's given me peace of mind."

In February, Ryker was hired to a staff position as a Peer Support Worker. He was surprised to be asked but welcomes the opportunity to give back to the program: "Knowing that somebody else out there is in kind of the same situation I was. Work here can be difficult at times, but I know I can help."

And he's started working towards his next steps after he leaves CSS, applying to Central Oregon Community College with hopes of working for the Forest Service someday.

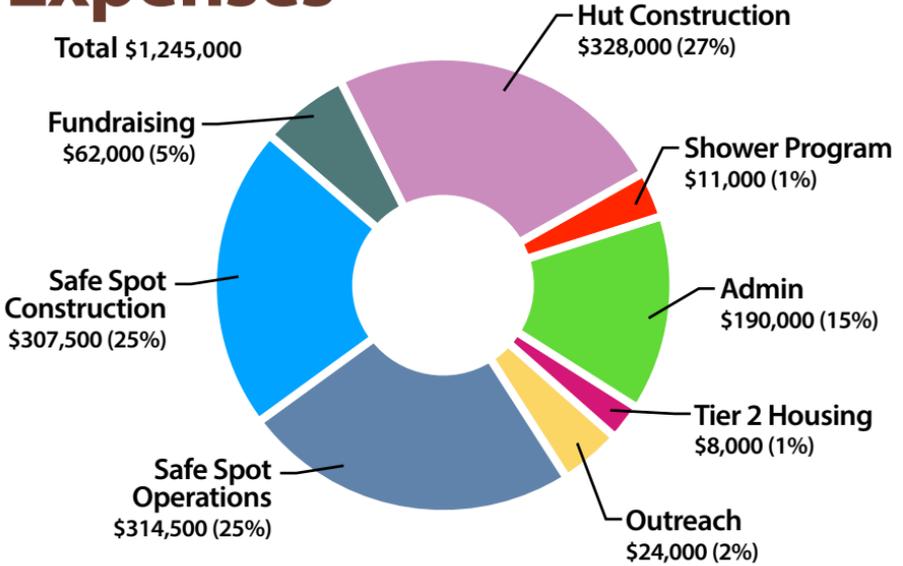


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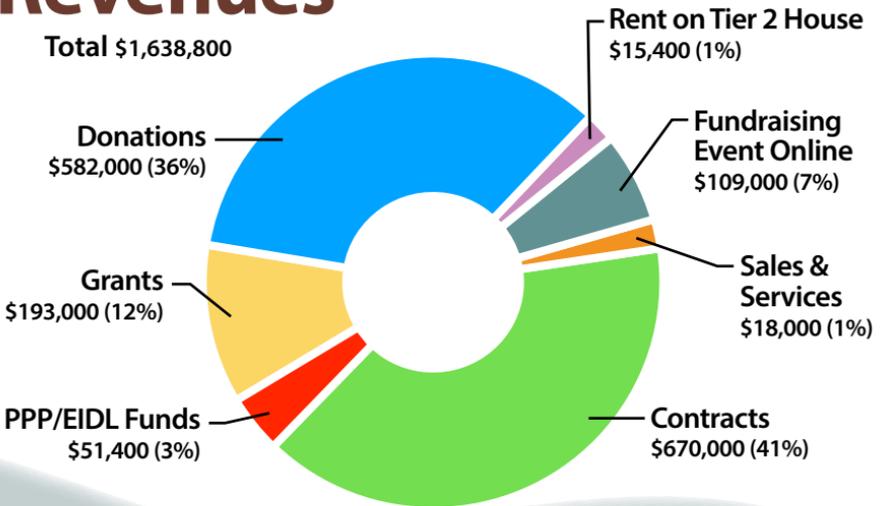
Expenses

Total \$1,245,000



Revenues

Total \$1,638,800





What Lies ahead

Stabilization is our goal for the new fiscal year, and there's a whole lot to do to get there from here. While the new camps are fully funded this year, the three older camps still squeak by on private donations, and our administrative cubby-hole has failed to grow to match our need for office space--hence many of us still work from home. Our goals include getting 1) the new Service Team fully trained and operational; 2) Over 100 new homeless applicants screened and eventually moved-in; 3) Essential program handbooks created, and 4) all of our Huts and camps operating at full capacity.

The latter challenge is taking longer than we'd like. If we ran on a warehouse-model, we could fill right up. But we're different--we build small intentional communities, then slowly integrate newcomers. Moving too fast would undermine program integrity.

Ultimately, we're excited about, with your help, building a replicable framework for developing transformational, transitional shelters that can play a huge role in addressing homelessness in America and beyond.

We Love Ruben!

Ruben Garcia, CSS board member, dedicated CSS ambassador, and generous donor, poses with a van he bought for us this year.



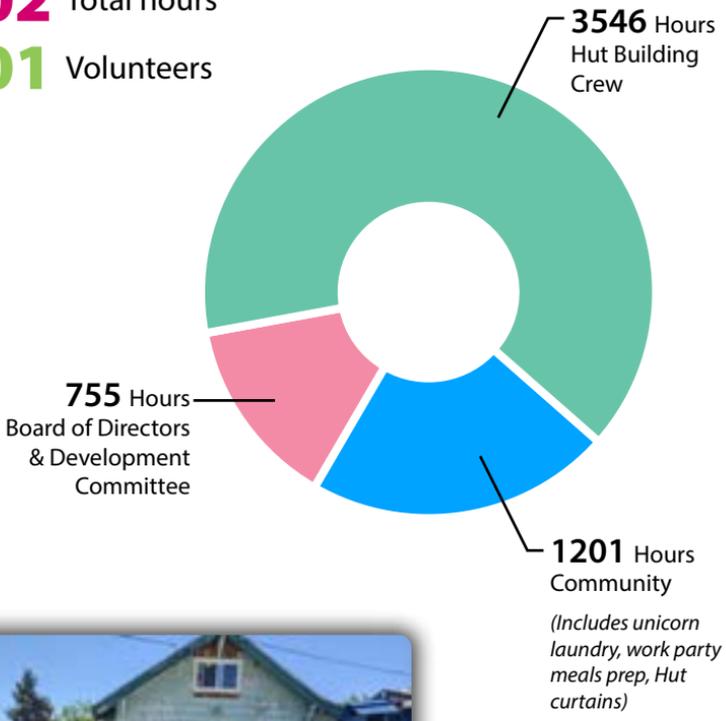
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Volunteer Service

5502 Total hours

101 Volunteers





1160 Grant Street
Eugene, Oregon 97402

Supported Shelters

Text from a new client:

Being in a group requires patience and great leadership and I'm very thankful that you guys are the ones that are providing the leadership. You guys are doing an awesome job on this program and I'm very thankful to be a part of it.