

Homeless Prevention Center **Annual Report**



2023

*Working with Families and Individuals in Crisis
to Secure and Retain Housing*

Staying On Track

When someone loses a home they've often already been traumatized by the loss of other supports along the way. Many of the clients HPC works with are bravely juggling multiple crises at once. Maybe it's a serious health issue that's upended work and finances; trying to flee an abuser; grieving a close family member. When someone finds that increasingly-elusive home which is safe and affordable, they may hit a slew of other barriers: stringent credit and reference requirements, a hefty security deposit, trying to find childcare and transportation to get or keep a job.

As if that puzzle weren't challenging enough, imagine trying to solve it while short on sleep, and with the anxiety and frustration of not knowing where you can shelter tonight, shower for an interview in the morning, or prepare the kind of dinner you want your kids to eat. It seems reasonable that many of us might come across as irritable, bewildered or defeated.

At times like this, the staff at Homeless Prevention Center are listening. Listening to what someone needs to express in that moment; to what their goal is for the future; to what any barriers may be to reaching it; and for strengths and assets they may not realize they possess.

It's about supporting people who have been systematically overwhelmed to focus their energy on what's most

important today ...and avoid getting tangled up in things over which they have no control. It's helping people stay on track, and when they get weary, reminding them what that goal was down the line.

With the backdrop of Vermont's increasingly politicized housing and homelessness crisis--and so much instability, suffering and distraction filling this moment--this feels like sound advice for any of us. Here at HPC, we stay on track by focusing on what's most important: the person in front of us trying to navigate through a housing crisis. This year's report is dedicated to the 593 Vermonters HPC served this year--through bad times and good--and the dedicated case managers and support staff who listened, guided, and believe in them.

***Thank you so much for your support
and for looking out for your neighbors!***

Angus Chaney

Angus Chaney, Executive Director



Rehousing the Homeless

Our core work continues to be assisting people who are literally homeless back into housing--and providing supports they need to be stable there. Our approach is client-centered, so if we're doing our part well it looks different for everyone.

In the past 12 months we re-housed 128 homeless Vermonters. *(Since January 2020, when we started tracking this number, HPC has rehoused **520** homeless Vermonters.)*



Prevention

With people facing imminent homelessness, we bring case management skills and financial assistance tools to bear to negotiate around eviction, or help someone find alternative housing.

In the past 12 months we prevented homelessness for 110 Vermonters, generally by curing evictions.

Supporting Families

Family Supportive Housing (FSH) is a more intensive option for families who have experienced homelessness. Most have young children and many have struggled through multiple episodes of homelessness and other challenges. **In 2023 our FSH service coordinators assisted a record 58 families** (66 adults and 107 children) in areas such as housing, parenting, recovery, budgeting, and financial literacy. We're excited to be expanding Family Supportive Housing program in 2024 to serve even more families interested in this support.

Working with Landlords

HPC works with dozens of landlords. Being a landlord or property manager isn't easy, and we value these partnerships. Managing the communication involved with identifying apartments, coordinating subsidies, attending viewings and lease-ups, and completing applications isn't easy either, and we're grateful for our in-house Landlord Liaison for the work she does to maintain relationships and build new ones. Part of our role is to be responsive to landlords we place people with. Good communication and some additional technical assistance or case management can prevent a challenging landlord/tenant issue from spiraling. Our Landlord Liaison checks in with landlords periodically to see how tenancies are going. **Among clients HPC houses, 87% remain stably housed for at least 12-months.**



Reaching People in Crisis

Homeless Outreach is about developing trust, demonstrating integrity, and being able to provide useful information. **This year, HPC provided outreach to 44 individuals in the community experiencing homelessness.**

41% chose to enroll in HPC case management supports. **61%** of those enrolled were successfully housed, often with HPC rental subsidy and services.



Youth Homelessness

Homeless youth are at increased risk for exploitation, landing in unsafe environments, and getting into patterns of instability and dependence that can last a lifetime.

This year, HPC's Youth Navigator assisted 24 homeless youth, helping them get from cars and tents to safer situations, and developing housing opportunities and the skills and resources they need to be responsible tenants and independent adults.

Emergency Shelter

If you live in Vermont, you're probably aware that most people experiencing homelessness here are sheltered through the State's general assistance (G.A.) program. It's an important safety net, but the challenges are well documented: lack of accountability; health, safety and quality issues at motels; exploitation from people offering to "help"; and—increasingly--dislocation from the community someone was living in to a county where there happens to be motel capacity. G.A. has proven a challenging program for the State, Legislature, advocates and communities to remedy or right size. While the scale is limited, HPC leases a number of apartments to **provide a safe, short-term solution when G.A. or other shelters are not an option.** We use these apartments as a base to rapidly connect people with services and support successful transitions to permanent housing.

This year we sheltered 21 persons in our emergency apartments.

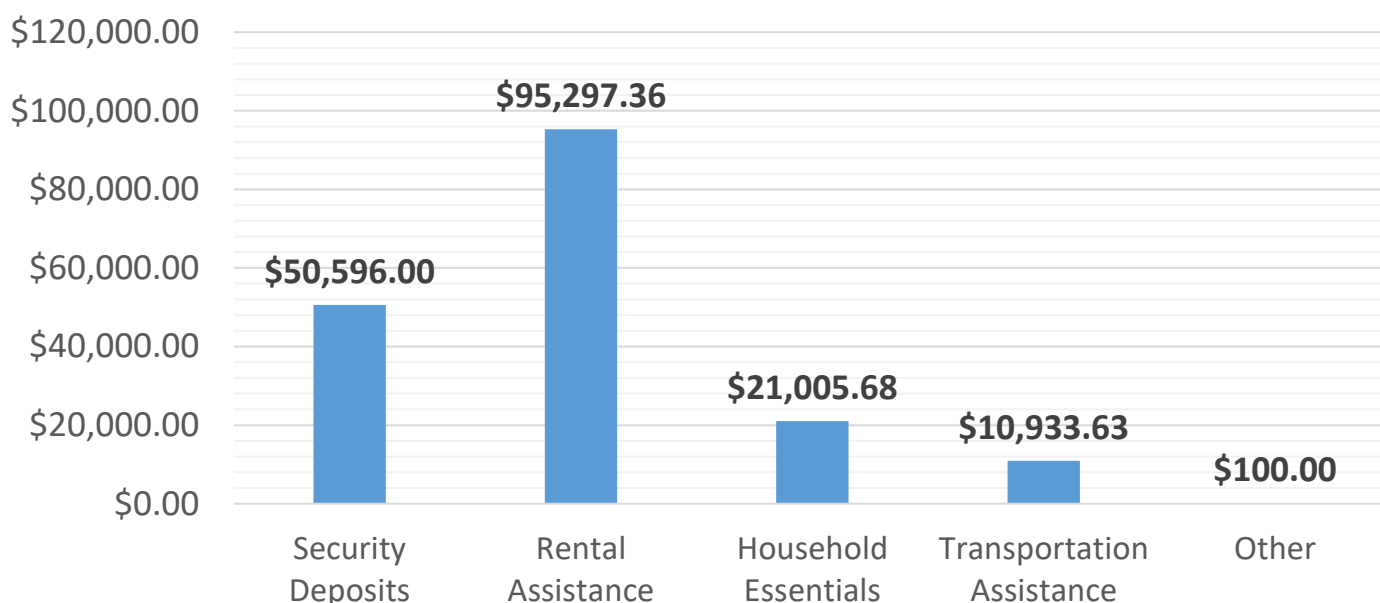
100% had an HPC case manager. Of the people who exited between July and June, **100%** went directly into permanent housing.



Providing Financial Assistance

Sometimes it does take money. HPC provides funding to help clients get into housing or prevent evictions. **This year, we paid \$177,933 on behalf of clients.** The majority went toward rental assistance and security deposits. (In the past five years, we've provided \$822,686 in targeted rental and financial assistance.)

HPC Client Financial Assistance to Support Tenants (2023)

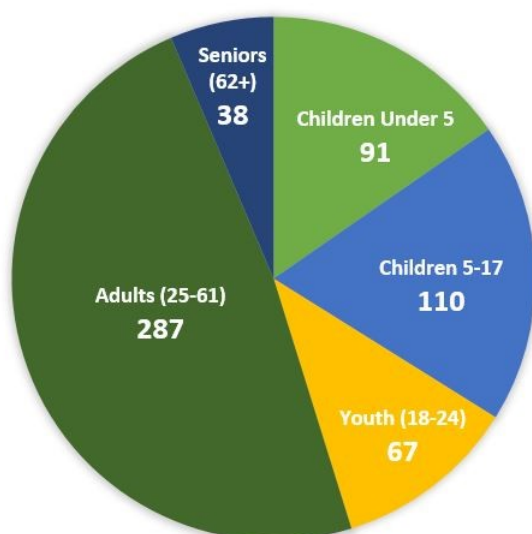


The People we Serve

HPC assisted 593 Vermonters this year, a 24% increase over 2022.

Roughly half are adults between 25 and 61. Children under 18 make up one third. Young adults (18 to 24) comprise 12%. Statewide, Vermont is seeing an increase in the number of frailer, older people experiencing homelessness. This is reflected in our local work where **we saw a disproportionate (50%) increase in the number of clients age 62 and older.**

AGES OF VERMONTERS WE SERVE



Special Events ...*Get Involved!*

Follow our social media, mark your calendar, and keep an eye on the **HPC website** for more on these and other upcoming events...

GI[♥]NGTUESDAY

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 (All Day)

Use the QR code on the last page



Candlelight Vigil

Join us on the **Winter Solstice** at 5PM in Depot Park to remember Vermonters who have lost their lives while homeless and connect with people working to end homelessness in our community.

Thursday, December 21st 2023. 5PM



Spring Sprockets & Walk-Its 24!

All ages Fun Ride & Walk at Pine Hill Park.

Cool prizes. Food. Music. Choose between riding, walking or cheering on the crew.

Saturday, May 4th 2024 10AM-1PM



And many thanks to all of *YOU*

who sponsored and participated in our community & fundraising events this year!



HPC Staff

Angus Chaney, Executive Director
Jessica Makela, Program Supervisor
LeeAnn Cenate, Administrative Assistant/Finance
Sara Orvis, Coordinated Entry & Navigation
Jori Brija, Coordinated Entry & Reception
Sarah Woods, Family Supportive Housing
Brenda Kingsbury, Family Supportive Housing
Peggy Moyer, Landlord Liaison
Andrea Tumielewicz, Case Manager
Raymond Colón-Alomar, Case Manager
Tiffany Ervin, Case Manager

HPC Board of Directors

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Tonya Magoon, Vice President
Jay Kullman, Treasurer
Randal Smathers, Secretary
Dr. Michael Reeves
Mark Grossarth
John Humphreys
Zak Ransom
Jane Bourhill



Our Vision

To eliminate hopelessness and homelessness within our community.

Our services remain free to participants and are supported by grants and your private donations.

Consider donating today to help even more Vermonters find home in 2024!

Scan code to support our work →

Homeless Prevention Center

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Art: Jessica | Photos: Sara, LeeAnn, Tara, Angus

