

“ To have someone stand by your side and talk you through it all from beginning to end, and be supportive no matter what, changed my life. ”

— Diane, now housed



2023 Year in Review

385+

People escaped homelessness and secured permanent housing.

80%

Six-month housing retention rate among all those housed.

2,147

Adults and children served at the Murphy Center for Hope.

550+

Volunteers provided over 7,000 hours of service.

Who We Are

Homeward Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to ending homelessness in Northern Colorado. Guided by core values of best practices, collaboration, passion, vision and principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Homeward Alliance engages in four primary efforts:

1. Operates a continuum of programs for individuals and families, designed to end homelessness for as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.
2. Oversees the Murphy Center, the resource center in Larimer County for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.
3. Leads and advocates for data-driven, collaborative solutions to homelessness.
4. Provides technical services and system-level solutions to various local and regional efforts.



Volunteers have been the heart and soul of our organization since we were first founded as Homeless Gear in 2008. Today, over 550 volunteers support nine Homeward Alliance programs. In 2023, we recorded over 7,000 volunteer hours—the equivalent of over three full time staff positions!

Two of our programs are completely volunteer run: Mobile Laundry and Bike Repair. Both serve adults and children experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Fort Collins and Loveland.

Homeward Alliance



2,101

Unduplicated individuals and families served by Resource Navigation at the Murphy Center and 10 outreach locations, providing 9,117 services.



131

People diverted from homelessness at intake or through family/friend reunification.



100

Unduplicated individuals on parole at medium to high risk of recidivism enrolled in our Re-Entry program. 91% did not reoffend.



79

Families prevented from entering homelessness and 40 families provided with move-in assistance to escape homelessness.



219

Jobs obtained or retained and 281 Career Closet transactions recorded through our EARN employment program.



5,617

Loads of laundry washed, dried and folded by Mobile Laundry. Volunteers contributed 2,896 hours of service. Mobile Laundry provides free laundry services at outreach locations.

The Murphy Center for Hope



31,273

Total Day Shelter check-ins, providing basic-needs services to 2,147 unduplicated individuals including showers, laundry, mail and lockers.



1,417

Gear Room transactions, providing clothing and gear to meet basic human needs and provide protection from the elements.



35

Health events hosted, serving 399 individuals. Clinics included immunizations, STI testing, blood pressure and cholesterol checks, and prevention/health education.

The Murphy Center, located in Fort Collins, hosts about 20 independent agencies and is the hub of services for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in Larimer County. Homeward Alliance also provides core human services (computer access, laundry, lockers, mail, etc.), operates Day Shelter 5 days/week, and hosts Inclement Weather day shelter. Resource Navigators stationed at the center provide HMIS-compliant intakes for all clients, thereby serving as the primary entry-point (for Larimer County) into the Northern Colorado's Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System.



233

Adults and children served by Bike Repair. In 2023, the program hosted 21 clinics, recorded 486 volunteer hours of service, and distributed 38 bikes to job seekers and students. Bike Repair fixes and maintains bicycles to ensure safe, reliable transportation.

New in 2023

Larimer County Strategic Plan

In 2023, Homeward Alliance secured funding to develop a regional approach to address homelessness in Larimer County. This is a two-year, two-phase project with a focus on developing a plan in 2024 and beginning implementation in 2025.

Participants include the cities of Loveland, Fort Collins, and Estes Park, Larimer County, United Way of Larimer County, Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (United Way of Weld County), and Homeward Alliance. This group will build on the current accomplishments and ongoing efforts in Fort Collins and Loveland for best practice, system-level solutions with a collaborative approach.

Murphy Center Clinic

In late 2023, we broke ground on a new medical clinic located at the Murphy Center. Funding for the clinic was made possible by a \$1 million COVID-relief grant from Larimer County. SummitStone Health Partners will operate the clinic, expected to open in early 2024.

The clinic will provide robust, integrated, behavioral and physical healthcare services to community members experiencing homelessness—a subpopulation of people who, relative to people who are housed, suffer far higher mortality rates and are less likely to access primary or preventive healthcare.

We expect clinic services to benefit those we serve, and the larger community, in many ways, including better health outcomes and increased use of non-emergency medical services.



HOPE Team Collaboration

This year Fort Collins Police Services launched a Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team to respond to calls involving people experiencing homelessness. Staffed with specially trained officers, this team provides individuals with resources and services, promotes safety and addresses environmental concerns. Our EARN Resource Navigator participated in ride-alongs with the HOPE team and they worked together to reach out to those not yet connected to our services.

The outcome of this collaboration has been to allow us to enroll more people into our region's by-name housing list, connect them to services, and—in at least one case—help an unhoused person obtain a housing voucher and escape homelessness.

Effort to Strengthen Colorado's Necessary Document Program

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Homeward Alliance are leading an effort, alongside about a dozen other non-profits, to help more Colorado residents secure necessary documents.

This effort would ensure that very low-income residents can access, at no cost, a State Identification or Driver's License necessary for employment, housing and transportation. Impacted groups include those who are unhoused, as well as people fleeing domestic violence, those who have lost their documents in natural disasters, and others.

Current funding to support identification for impacted groups falls far short of meeting the true need, requiring non-profits across the state to cover the costs. Homeward Alliance alone spent \$11,000 on these cost in 2023, which diverts limited funding from essential services. For residents not able to find assistance, they report losing out on jobs and housing opportunities, and facing costly tickets for not being in compliance with motor vehicle laws. Updates to follow!

2023 Updates



Loveland Lead Agency

Operating as Loveland’s lead agency on homelessness, Homeward Alliance coordinates systems and processes by convening and strengthening collaboration of agencies and resources to create meaningful system change.

2023 achievements include:

- Loveland front-line agencies have adopted the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database to be part of solutions in providing meaningful data, both locally and regionally. HMIS and the Coordinated Entry (CAHPS) process creates fair housing opportunities to all individuals experiencing homelessness and provides aggregate data to support more funding opportunities through Northern Colorado’s Continuum of Care.
- Creation and oversight of a homelessness task force to implement sustainable solutions with a focus on infrastructure needs, community education, public safety, data and housing.
- Coordination with partners in helping to establish and oversee service provision at Catholic Charities’ newly opened Permanent Supportive Housing project, St. Valentine Apartments.
- Homeward Alliance continues to expand services and programs into all of Loveland and work with other agencies to do the same.

Murphy Center Garden

In 2023, our volunteer, Brigitte, led an effort to improve the Murphy Center’s Community Garden by creating a more inclusive, accessible, and inviting environment. Changes include the addition of accessible walkways, new beds for flowers, vegetables and fruit, and even the installation of a beehive! Guests beautified the space with art, too. We were also gifted a sculpture for the lawn by a local artist, Jerry Severns, which was dedicated in memory of Kim Larsen, former Murphy Center Director.

The project was a labor of love and helped us further our goal to create a space that is welcoming, peaceful and a place of beauty.



Save the Date!

2024 Events

Project Homeless Connect

Friday, April 19, 2024
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Homeward Alliance’s Annual UnGala

Saturday, May 18, 2024
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm



Mission to Hope Walk

Saturday, October 5, 2024
10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Program Spotlight

Family Services

Family Services works with families who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. We are often the provider of last resort—meaning we work with other community agencies to fill gaps when other options have been exhausted.

Services are provided at a family-only site, called Family Resource Connection, which offers bilingual resource navigation and access to child and teen clothing, outerwear, family food and hygiene. Navigators also provide services at outreach locations.

In 2023, the program served over 1,500 unduplicated family members.

“ I remember that day of September 8th, as if it were yesterday. That morning, I remember thinking to myself, I do not know where I am going, but I know that I want a better life. I walked into the Murphy Center, and my life was forever changed. They believed in me more than I believed in myself at that moment in time. ”

— Heather, mother of 5, now housed and attending college



Peer Recovery Navigation

Peers are trained individuals who have lived experience in recovery, and use that expertise to help others who are living with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Data shows that incorporating Peers into treatment teams reduces rates of relapse, increases treatment retention, among other benefits.

Our Peer Recovery Navigator is embedded at the Murphy Center and at outreach locations, providing individual and group support and connection to Crisis/Detox resources, inpatient and outpatient treatment, medication assisted treatment and sober living facilities.

“ This program is very important to me. I use my life experience from my personal journey of recovery from addiction and mental health challenges, to engage, advocate, and link clients to formal or informal treatment activities, services, and/or supports. I am able to be open about my time in active addiction to help them not feel alone or stigmatized by the disease of addiction. ”

— Jeremiah, Homeward Alliance Peer Recovery Navigator



Director's Letter



2023 was a year of profound impact, new initiatives, and the promise of an even brighter future. As you peruse through this Year in Review, know this: without supporters, like you, none of it would be possible.

But don't take my word for it. Below, hear it from someone who knows better than most: Paula Stearns, our outgoing Board Chair and years-long volunteer. Thank you, Paula—take it from here!

Sincerely,

David Rout
Executive Director



“

When I started volunteering at the Murphy Center in 2016, I quickly understood what so many in our community never think about: that the basics I had long taken for granted—clean clothes, warm showers, clean restrooms, a secure place for personal belongings, and even a mailing address—are luxuries for people experiencing homelessness. I was proud to be part of an organization that provides a sanctuary where individuals can fulfill those basic needs and connect with services to end their homelessness.

My education has continued ever since, as I joined the Board of Directors of Homeward Alliance in 2017, volunteered at the COVID-19 shelter during the pandemic, and worked at expanding homeless initiatives in Loveland. As a retired nurse, I am especially eager for the imminent opening of the onsite medical clinic at the Murphy Center. None of this, of course, can be done without the donations and support of the larger community, the people who are fortunate enough to take those basics for granted. With your help, we can address the unique challenges of each person who walks through our doors, and give them the opportunity for a much brighter future.

”

Paula Stearns, Outgoing Chair,
Board Member Emeritus

Board of Directors

Paula Stearns, Board Chair

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Chris Banks, Board Member

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**África García-Fariña
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City of Fort Collins

In loving memory of Kathy Nicol, Board Member, who passed away on November 18, 2023

Years of Service: 2020 – 2023

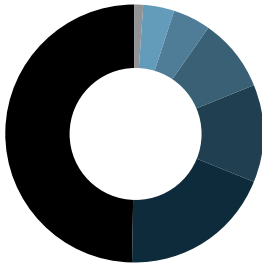
Every Dollar Counts

Since the onset of the pandemic, significant government grants have enabled Homeward Alliance to substantially expand our services. This influx of funding is the primary reason our budget has doubled since 2020. Although government grants are crucial for funding programs and positions, their rigid nature can pose limitations that impact outcomes.

The true backbone of our support lies closer to home, stemming from individuals, companies, and faith-based and community organizations. Your flexible contributions offer us the best of both worlds: providing support for new and existing programs, while also offering the flexibility to adjust, fill gaps, and respond dynamically to evolving community needs.

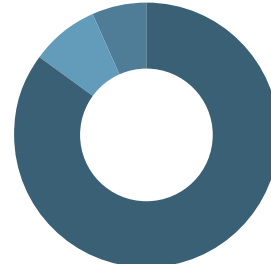


Revenue: \$4,792,550



- **Government Grants: \$2,376,900 | 49.6%**
- **Foundation Grants: \$912,800 | 19.0%**
- **In-Kind Contributions: \$592,700 | 12.4%**
- **Individual Contributions: \$432,900 | 9.0%**
- **Corporate/Organizational: \$234,900 | 4.9%**
- **Special Events: \$183,300 | 3.8%**
- **Investment/Other: \$59,050 | 1.2%**

Expenses: \$4,331,600



- **Programs: \$3,693,700 | 85.3%**
- **Administrative: \$357,600 | 8.3%**
- **Fundraising: \$280,300 | 6.5%**

End-of-Year Assets: \$3,309,950

Operating Funds: \$1,824,300 | 55.1%
Fixed Assets: \$608,700 | 18.4%
Reserve/Endowment Funds: \$444,300 | 13.4%

Grants/Gifts Receivable: \$341,200 | 10.3%
Product Inventory: \$53,600 | 1.6%
Other Assets: \$37,850 | 1.1%



1.6% 1.1%

Preliminary, unaudited results

Ways to Help

Follow us on social media to keep up-to-date on ways to help in your community.



To schedule a one-time or monthly donation, visit www.HomewardAlliance.org and click on "Donate Today"