



COCOONHOUSE

Breaking The Cycle of Homelessness

Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Thoughts from our CEO

Joe Alonzo



Hello Friends,

As we turn our calendars to 2022, it is an opportunity to reflect on the past year. Simply stated, 2021 was a challenging year for Cocoon House. Yet, amidst the challenges of staffing shortages, disconnects resulting from another year of social distancing, and the need to constantly modify how we serve the most vulnerable youth and families in Snohomish County – we also experienced amazing progression toward building a strong community. Community is Cocoon House’s most important value. While our ways of interacting have shifted, there is no shortage of creativity and willingness to join in community activities.

This year we built new partnerships with neighbors and expanded services to young people. These services include an innovative student housing partnership called Onward Learning with Everett Public Schools, Housing Hope, and Everett Community College. As well as an innovative community-wide employment program partnership called SnoCo Futures with Worksource, Seattle Jobs Initiative, Immigrant and Refugee Services Northwest, and Housing Hope. Several of these collaborations were made possible by turning otherwise undesirable situations caused by Covid-19 into new opportunities that added value to previously existing programs. Together we are adjusting to new ways to achieve a greater impact.

We also believe that community is built when new ideas and perspectives are introduced. This past year, Cocoon House was able to expand our sense of collaboration and community by taking a hard look internally at our agency culture. We challenged every member on staff to embark on a journey to “bake” Equity and Diversity into our organizational culture. With shared values of this work and support by Premera, Cocoon House was given the opportunity to work with a group of professional equity consultants from an organization called Social Current. This work has given our staff the tools and has given the organization the structural components to ensure that our agency makes a lasting and impactful change in challenging racism, bias, and the status quo. For many, this process has been transformational. We’ve been able to acknowledge the harm that our agency has perpetuated, while at the same time, developing a renewed commitment to grow and learn. The way we interact, the way we lead, and the way we participate and show up have been a progression that we seek to continue.

We recognize our agency will be on a continual path toward strengthening our listening skills. I am proud to be in the company of countless people who are encouraged and eager to share their unique perspectives and experiences in the effort to make a more equitable community for our youth, families, and each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Alonzo".



VISION

Every young person in our community is safe and thriving.

MISSION

The mission of Cocoon House is to empower young people, families, and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing and prevention. This mission supports the belief that every young person deserves a home and the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential. We accomplish this mission through our core values.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The foundation of Cocoon House's work is to end youth homelessness and we recognize there is no way to accomplish this without dismantling the institutional racism that exists across many sectors. Our commitment has always been to remove barriers for youth and their families while supporting inclusion and diversity in all its forms. Undoing years of institutional racism will not happen overnight. Continuing the conversation without identifying immediate and long-term action steps will not be effective in creating an anti-racist community. In 2019-2020 our equity, diversity and inclusion activities included:

- Building staff capacity and expertise to help drive equity and inclusion throughout our agency
- Creating measurable actions that ensure Cocoon House is a place where youth, families, staff, and communities of color can thrive
- Building a race equity culture focused on proactively counteracting race inequities both internally and externally
- Committing to an independent equity assessment of our agency



21 families provided with case management assistance and support



12,506 direct and indirect services were provided to youth (such as laundry, showers, food, etc.)

95 young adults received housing placement services through Coordinated Entry



173 youth received services from our Advocates and Human Trafficking Team



427 individual youth provided essentials and connections to supportive care at U-Turn



30 young adults provided stable housing in our Journeys program

46 youth participated in our Music Program



68 families learned communication and decision making skills in our WayOUT program



Connections Host Homes



HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Becoming a host home with Cocoon House has been one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives. Knowing that we are making a difference for youth and that we are able to share our home and give them a place where they can feel safe and accepted for who they truly are is a feeling that words cannot fully describe. We can physically see hope and confidence grow in these young people and we are so honored to be a part of their growth.

- Cassie & Mike, Connections Host Homes Volunteers

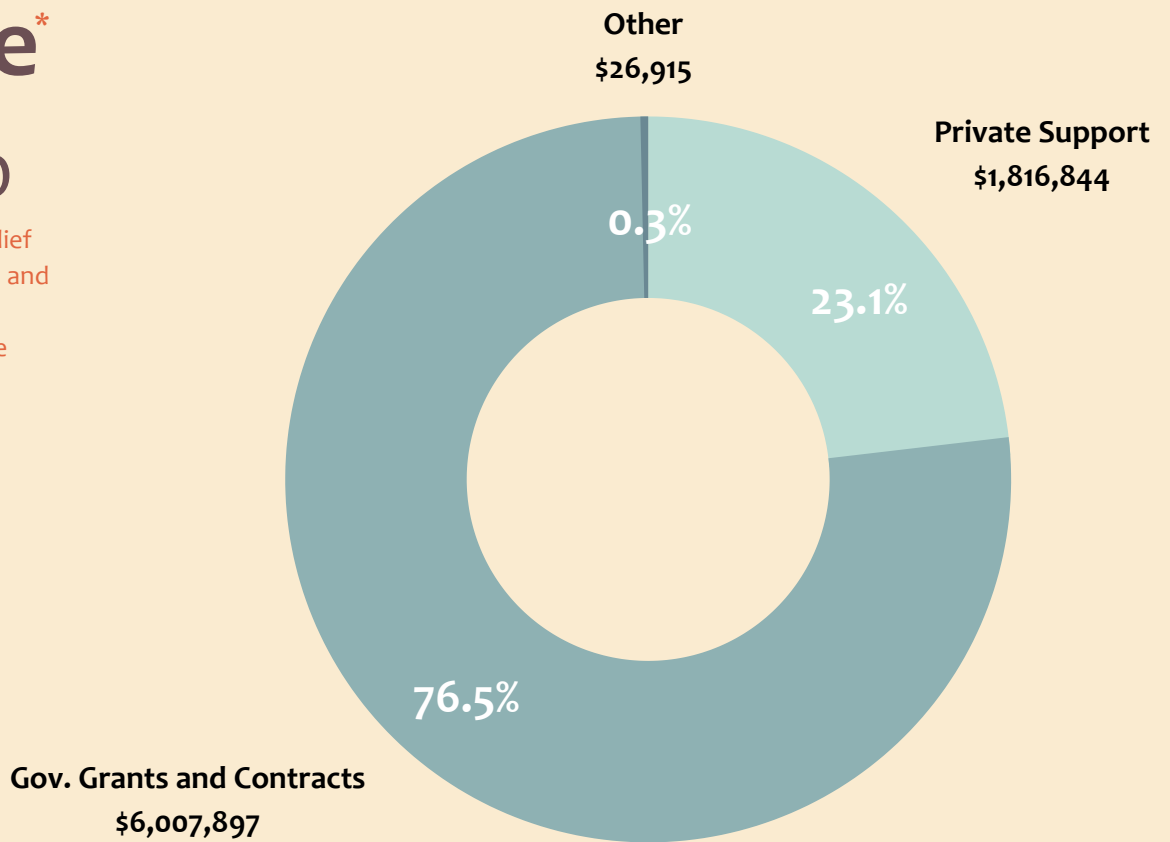
Connections Host Homes program is a short-term housing option for youth who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The goal of a host home is to provide a safe, temporary, and welcoming space where a young person has the support needed to reunify with their family or identify other housing options. This program not only helps with housing, but holistically supports the well-being of youth. If you live in Snohomish County and want to make an immediate impact in a youth's life consider becoming a Host Home. Cassie and Mike think it's one of the best decisions they've made.

Email hosthomes@cocoonhouse.org or call 425-737-5419 for more information

Revenue*

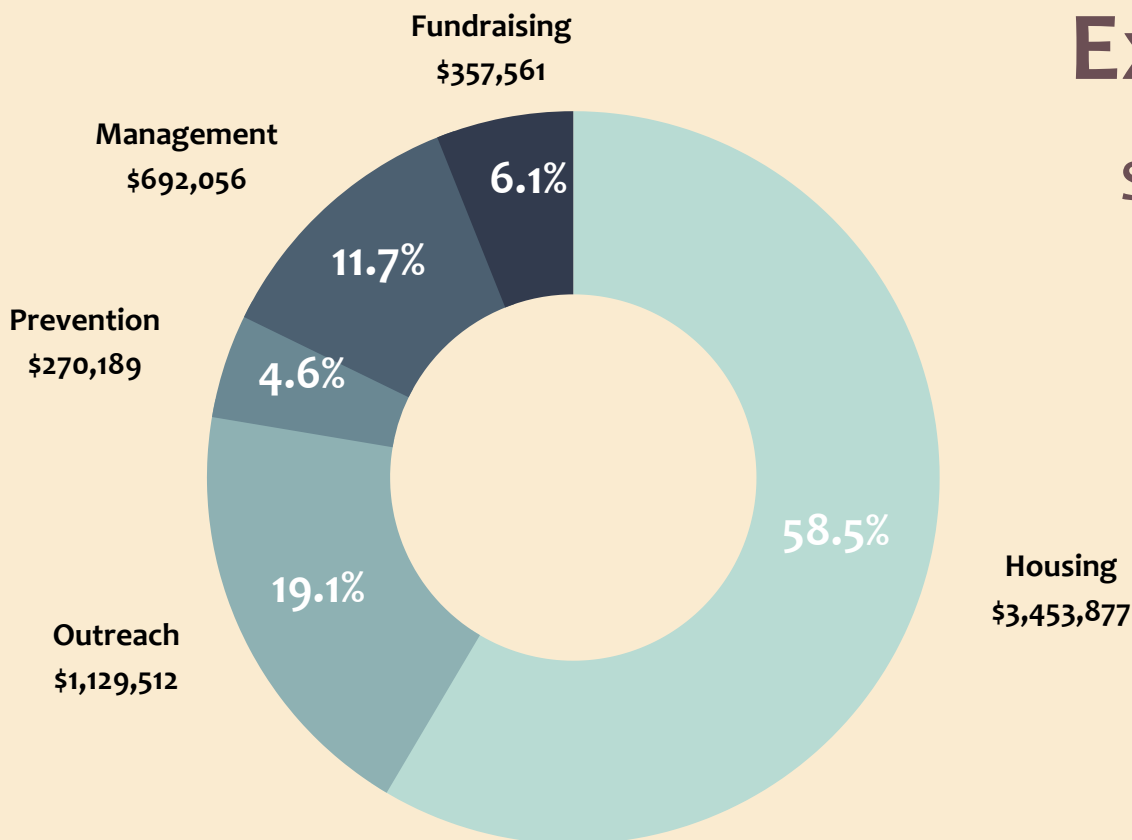
\$9,159,130

*Revenue reflects COVID-Relief funds, including CARES, ERAP, and TRAP funds, which were distributed throughout the community.



Financial Report

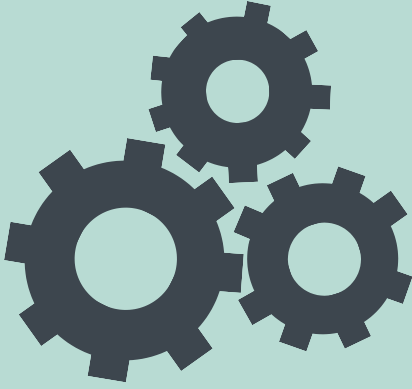
Beginning Net Assets: 7,389,198
Ending Net Assets: 8,493,279



Expenses

\$7,583,516

SnoCo Futures: Partnerships for Success



SNOCO FUTURES

People often think of unemployment as an adult problem. The truth is, unemployment numbers include a large number of young people who lack job skills or are facing barriers that make finding a job hard. Between December 2020 and December 2021, Statista reported that youth unemployment ranged between 12.6% and 8.5%, while the national unemployment rate was 8.1%. (Statista.com, 2022). In the Washington Employment Security Department's reports youth 18 to 24 were responsible for 12% of the claims in Snohomish between March 1, 2020, through December 11, 2021.

Recognizing this, Cocoon House implemented an employment training program, SnoCo Futures, in July of 2020. Through this program, youth within Cocoon House and the community are connected with employment education and training. These opportunities equip young people with job-readiness skills, completed education, and the confidence to move forward in their careers. It also provides youth with support services to alleviate barriers. SnoCo Futures offers career guidance services by Employment Specialists who find paid work for youth wherein they gain skills and experience and connect youth to pre-apprentice or Integrated Business Education Skills Training (I-BEST) programs locally in Snohomish County. By partnering with local agencies to host workspaces where youth congregate, we can meet young people where they are. The goal is to remove barriers that prevent people from accessing the program, such as transportation.

The program serves youth ages 14 to 24, who are either homeless or at-risk, in Foster Care or aged out, pregnant or parenting, offenders/ex-offenders, youth who have a disability and a high school degree or its equivalent but are low income and are English Language learners or basic skills deficient. So far the program enrolled 20 youth, exited 4 youth to employment, registered 4 GED credentials, placed 1 youth in an internship, and is currently providing services to 52 youth. Through continued face-to-face and virtual support, we are eager to see what these young people accomplish next.

The SnoCo Futures consortium is made up of a number of local agencies led by Cocoon House. Working with us are Refugee & Immigrant Services NW, Housing Hope, and Seattle Jobs Initiative.



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Seattle Jobs
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COCOONHOUSE

Breaking The Cycle of Homelessness



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