

COCOONHOUSE

Breaking The Cycle of Homelessness

Annual Report 2021 - 2022



Thoughts from our CEO Joseph Alonzo

“Where is the Cocoon House?”

I’ve received this question more times than I can count over my 10-year span with the agency. I usually tell the story about how we began as a small emergency shelter in 1991 for teens right here in Everett and since then, we have grown significantly in our quest to remain nimble and responsive to the needs of our community. While we haven’t lost sight of how we started, we have evolved and I am always so proud to tell the story of where we are now and the people who make this work possible.

Over the past 32 years, Cocoon House has turned into so much more than the shelter on Cedar Ave and our presence can be felt throughout Snohomish County. Since first opening our doors as a shelter, we have since developed into an organization who serves over 2,300 young people and their families each year through our outreach, Youth & Young Adult Housing, family engagement, and employment. What started as a dream for one visionary community member, has blossomed into a robust staffing model of 100+ people who all work tirelessly to help in fulfilling the mission.

In more recent years, Cocoon House has had the privilege of providing a variety of young adult housing options to folks 18-24 years old, which has been a much-needed resource in our community. We extensively expanded our youth and young adult employment programs, and were at the forefront of Covid relief efforts and rental assistance supports for young adults in our area. We are pleased to see the results of our work:

- **140 youth received specialized job training and support through SnoCo Connect**
- **Distributed over \$12M of Covid Relief rental assistance dollars to young people, thus preventing countless evictions and homelessness**
- **Over 10,000 basic need items distributed to teens and young people**
- **20 young people enrolled and living in student housing at Everett Community College through Onward Learning**
- **22 young people were able to sign a lease to their first apartment**

We are extremely proud to deliver 18 different services and programs to the entire Snohomish County community and are committed to strengthening our impact. We remain committed to dedication services in South Snohomish County, advocating for access to affordable housing for young people, launching the first Young Adult Shelter Model in Snohomish County and expanding our housing and education supports in close partnership with Everett Public Schools, Housing Hope, Everett Community College and Edmond College. So when people ask, “Where is the Cocoon House,” the answer is we are everywhere in our community because people like you allow us to be. Thank you for believing in the work we do, investing your time, talent and treasure to us, and for believing that young people deserve more.



What We Stand For

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

COMMUNITY - EQUITY - RESPECT - GROWTH - ADVOCACY - LEADERSHIP - SAFETY

17 families were provided with case management assistance and support

9,308 basic needs items were distributed to young people in need



115 young people received stable housing through our Coordinated Entry program

502 youth received essential care and connections to support at our drop-in center, U-Turn



62 youth participated in our Music Program





165 young people received case management through our Outreach Team



19 families took our WayOUT family engagement classes



26 young adults provided stable housing in our Journeys program



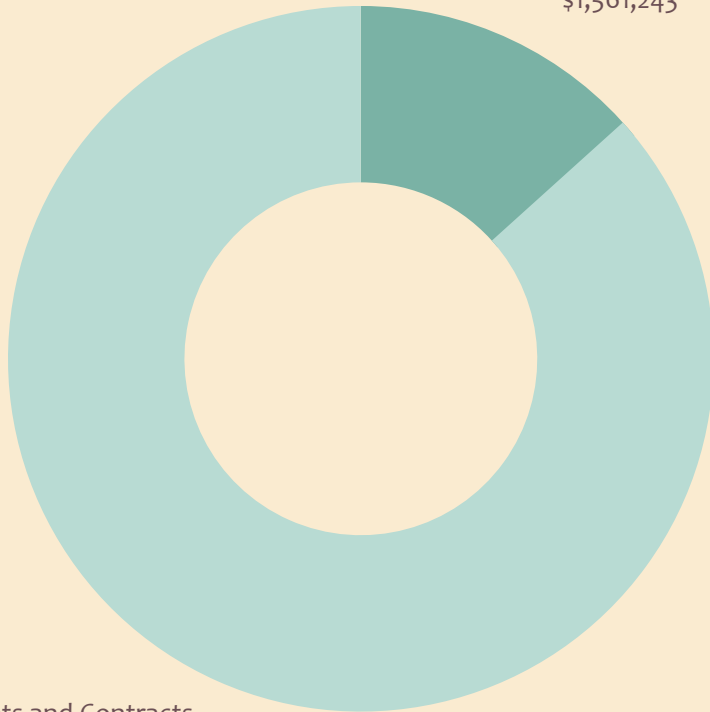
FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year 2022

BEGINNING NET ASSETS: \$8,493,279

ENDING NET ASSETS: \$8,244,905

Private Support
\$1,561,243



Gov. Grants and Contracts
\$10,159,488

Covid Assistance
\$5,855,531

Revenue: \$11,720,731

Housing
\$3,218,581

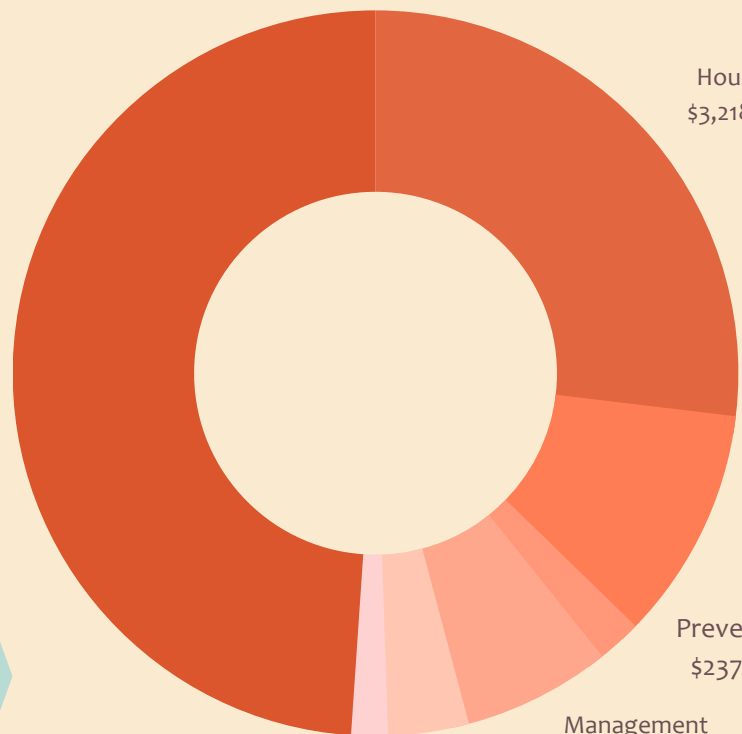
Outreach
\$1,242,459

Prevention
\$237,274

Management
\$789,706

Employment
\$195,810

Fundraising
\$429,744



Expenses: \$11,969,105

COCOON HOUSE

Cocoon House is committed to creating peaceful, nurturing, and trauma-informed environments that help young people overcome challenges and look forward to an independent, healthy and fulfilling future. Our five core programming areas include:

Our **Youth Housing** programs meet the immediate needs of at-risk and homeless youth ages 12-17. Focusing on reunification, family counseling, and other prevention-based services, our short-term shelter in Monroe and our community-based host home partners throughout the county work to meet the diverse needs of youth and families. Our long-term housing programs focus on supporting youth and young adults to transition successfully to independence. Young people can receive therapeutic counseling, substance use disorder treatment, medical care, case management, and education/employment support while building resilience and skills for future success.

Our **Young Adult Housing** Program provides studio apartments, immediate crisis housing, help with apartment searching, and independent living supports to young adults, ages 18-24, who are experiencing homelessness. Once in housing, our team provides short term rental assistance, employment search support, education support, and case management to ensure that young adults are successful in their new housing arrangement. Our team works with young people to ensure that they have the ability to sign their own lease, live self-reliantly, and continue on their education and employment paths independently by the time they transition out of our program.

The **Outreach** program consists of both street outreach and a drop-in center for youth and young adults with the ultimate goal of helping them transition from the streets. Our Advocate team works with youth in the community to access basic needs items, housing resources, and connections to community services such as crisis response, health care, and legal support.

Through mobile case management, our Anti-Human Trafficking team compliments these. At our U-Turn drop-in center, young people can access basic needs items, showers/laundry, recreation, case management, and community resources.

Youth homelessness results primarily from disruptive family issues. Working to resolve conflict is a critical and effective strategy for reducing and preventing youth homelessness.

We provide **Prevention and Family Engagement** services that address challenging family environments that often lead to youth becoming homeless. Consultations and family case management services help parents/guardians increase their understanding of their developing teen and help build a safe, structured environment for teens and families to thrive.

Education and employment support meet the growing needs of young people in Snohomish County. The SnoCo Connect Program is a collaboration between Cocoon House and three partner agencies offering mobile-based case management, employment support and paid on the job learning experiences for young people experiencing the most challenges to education and job training opportunities. Our educational program, Onward Learning, is a partnership with Housing Hope and Everett Community College to provide free tuition and housing for homeless Everett School District students with a high school diploma or GED.

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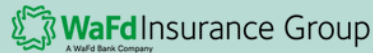
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