



2022 Annual Report Rooted in Community

Facing Homelessness



Mission & Values

MISSION

To inspire deliberate relationship building and community engagement as a pathway to ending homelessness.

VALUES

Love, Compassion & Empathy

We believe people should be valued, seen and accepted for who they are, and not judged by their circumstances.

Equity & Social Justice

We believe in and are actively committed to anti-racism/anti-oppression, diversity, equity, and inclusion work as a pathway towards social justice.

Community & Collective Responsibility

We believe that working together as a community is the only way to end homelessness.

Accountability & Transparency

We use evidence, feedback and measurement to responsibly guide our work.

Action & Impact

We are a catalyst for transformational change.



From the Executive Director

Two thousand and twenty-two marks the 12th year since the Facing Homelessness (FH) Facebook page was born with the simple but radical purpose of changing the conversation around homelessness from one of division to connection. These conversations crossed the chasm of circumstances that so often divide us to instead help us find common ground. The call to “Just Say Hello” resonated more deeply than we could have imagined and before long the page had 50,000+ followers from all over the world eager to engage with compassion and love.

Through storytelling and photography, these conversations have led to numerous connections between individuals who had been strangers. Our community, housed and unhoused, wanted more and deeper interactions which led to establishing the Window of Kindness (WoK), a physical space of connection. Once it was clear we had the support to go even deeper, The BLOCK Project came to be and thousands of hours of volunteering and support have created homes that are much more than four walls and a roof. They represent healing and support not just for the 19 Residents who have been housed but for our broader communities.

We are excited to share how we have grown this year, what we have accomplished with our community, and ways we have become more deeply rooted in this work.

We have taken stock of the past 12 years and released an updated Mission, Vision and Values to reflect where we have been and where we are going. Inclusion, equity, and anti-racism have been a major focus this year which has meant dedicating time to educating our team. As a result we are committed to using our communications to more explicitly highlight the link between the issue of homelessness to systemic causes such as colonialism, homophobia, and racial injustice; learning from our most impacted community members, and creating systems of accountability for ourselves in this work.

Our mission remains the same - to call people into conversation and develop community based responses to homelessness. The Window of Kindness, Storytelling, and The BLOCK Project will continue to offer opportunities for people to connect to one another. But we are also committed to challenging ourselves, as individuals and a community, to confront the systemically rooted inequalities in our culture which allow homelessness to continue. All of this so that we can, in the words of Peter Maurin, “create a world where it is easier for people to be seen and supported.”

Sincerely,



Kevin Glackin-Coley
Executive Director

2022 Highlights

January

Renewed Mission, Vision, Values announced

13th BLOCK home breaks ground in Magnolia. Welcomed new Resident in September.



February

Racial Equity Accountability and Land Acknowledgement statements finalized and shared as guiding documents for our inclusion, diversity, equity, anti-racism work.

March

Johnston Architects partnered with FH on an exhibit at Bellevue Art Museum "The View From Here".



May

This year we held our first ever BLOCK Party event to fundraise for The BLOCK Project building on the efforts of the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction events of years past and adding new industry partners from other sectors.



June

14th BLOCK home breaks ground in Greenwood.



July

"Best Day Ever" event founders supported FH in hosting a "Day of Care" for WoK visitors during the hottest days of summer. Iced drinks, haircuts, hamburgers, and a place to relax were among the offerings.



August

In collaboration with Weber Thompson Architects FH held an exhibit at the Seattle Design Festival where participants built BLOCK Home panels for 2022 homes.



September

Partners from the NDN Collective, an Indigenous led nonprofit, visited Seattle to help build panels for two BLOCK homes. These homes were shipped to South Dakota in late September for inclusion in their Camp Mni Luzahan providing housing for unhoused community members.



October

FH collaborated with Color Speaks and Gensler Architects and the FH community to create a mural for the patio at the Window of Kindness!



November

15th BLOCK home breaks ground in Bitterlake.

5200

Moments of
Connection

BY THE NUMBERS:

One of the most important things we do is create opportunities for our housed and unhoused community to connect. Each conversation represented here is a beautiful example of the power of "Just Saying Hello".



10,000+

Days of Providing
Shelter through
The BLOCK Project

The BLOCK Project has provided supportive housing to 19 Residents who formerly experienced homelessness since it's founding in 2017 - that adds up to 10,000+ days of shelter and care!



\$29,400

Direct Emergency
Assistance to Clients

This year we have done fewer public asks to our community to support individual clients. Behind the scenes, we continue to provide resources and direct financial assistance in the form of hotel stays, vehicle repairs, rent or deposit payments, storage fees, and more.



5.5

Years - our longest
Host and Resident
relationship

Our Hosts and Residents have been building relationships for just a few weeks all the way to our longest Host/Resident relationship of 5.5 years! We celebrate the longevity of our community and everything they teach us.



1,453

Volunteer hours this
year, performed by 396
volunteers

From the conversations and care at the Window of Kindness, to raising the roof on our newly constructed BLOCK homes, to building new friendships through the companionship program, volunteers help make this work possible!

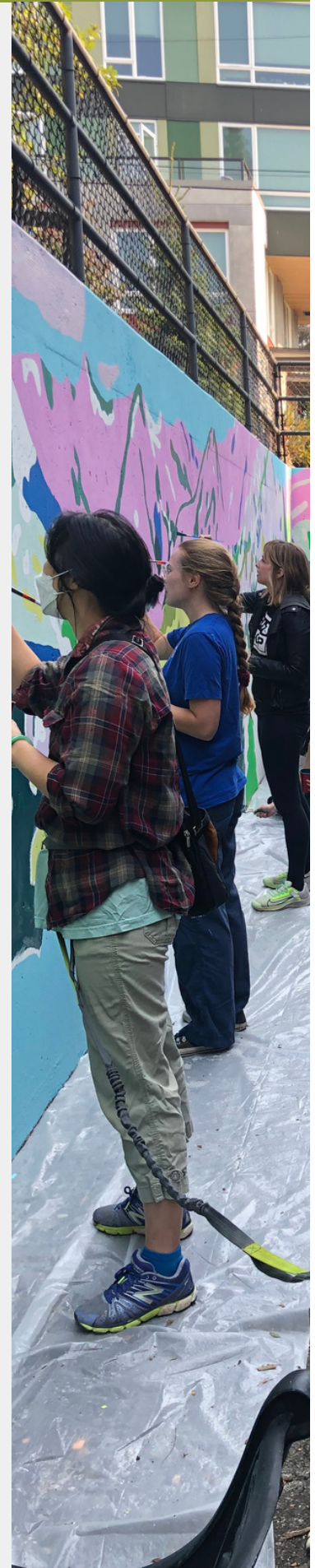


Programs - Storytelling

We have spent the past two years thinking deeply about how we tell stories. Our approach to storytelling is changing in a direct reflection of ongoing conversations around ethics and client centered storytelling. Our goal continues to be creating opportunities for connection and to change the narrative around homelessness. This year we have made some concrete shifts that honor our history while building out the program.

Early in the year we formalized ethical storytelling practices and are inviting our community to tell their stories in their own words which has been incredibly powerful. Community “asks” on social media, Facebook and Instagram, have been less of a focus this year but we have still been very active providing support behind the scenes in the form of light case management for Window of Kindness visitors and others who reach out to us. We have also distributed \$29,000+ in financial support for rent, storage, clothing, hotel stays, and the many other items you have helped us to provide over the years. We have done this by piloting a “General Fund” approach that enables us to be more equitable in our distribution of resources and act more quickly when a need arises.

We have provided more options for access to our stories and program updates outside of social media through our newsletter, which continues to get more robust, and by adding social media stories to our website. In May, we hired our first Communications Manager who has utilized storytelling to address the broader context and issues that surround homelessness through the lens of people who are most impacted. She has been building relationships, expanding our social media presence and adding more video content through new platforms (yes! we are on Tiktok) and building out a comprehensive communications plan.





"A friend told me about the Window of Kindness and I knew I had to volunteer. My first day there, I was pleasantly overwhelmed by the love and attention the staff and other volunteers poured into making sure we could provide necessities and even nonessentials to our clients, trying to make sure they have what they need but also a brighter day. Many times I've heard a client say, 'I wasn't feeling great when I came here, but you guys really cheered me up.' The Window of Kindness is such a positive place to be. I always leave a shift feeling my spirit lifted, and that I've helped in some small way."

- Window of Kindness Volunteer

Programs - Window of Kindness

Two thousand and twenty-two has been a year of growth for the Window of Kindness in every way! A year ago we opened up our services on Saturdays and it has provided new opportunities for our clients, volunteers and donors. We have established new systems and partnerships to sustain the additional resources, human and material, needed to make this successful including starting a Meal Train page which has been a huge help in providing food on Saturdays.

We have been able to host more special events for our visitors and volunteers this year including a haircutting event, a “Day of Care” with food, a space to relax with coffee, more haircutting, and a mural painting event. This summer, as Covid was less present, we were able to reopen our patio and provide a place for our visitors to relax on a comfortable couch for the first time in two years.

We also added a new Community Programs Coordinator and Resource Navigator Intern to our WoK team. With this support we will be able to host a public health table and provide more robust resource referrals to our visitors. We have been humbled by our incredible partnerships that have sustained and demonstrated community care to our visitors, including Outdoor Research and Bombas, and by our volunteers who bring snacks, show up in force during extreme weather events, purchase warm food from local restaurants, pick up much needed supplies and most importantly walk alongside our community.



Programs - Companionship



"What initially drew me to the Block Project was its combination of compassion, creativity, and community-building. From the first interview to meeting my companion, I've felt supported every step of the way. What I love about volunteering for the Block Project is the care, kindness, and intention I've experienced and knowing that that is woven into every aspect of the organization."

- Companion Volunteer

We all need multiple sources of support in our lives, and the Companionship Program is offering one avenue for those kinds of mutually fulfilling relationships to be built. Each person brings their unique and exquisite presence that strengthens our sense of a loving community within The BLOCK Project for all those involved.

We have a core of nine long time participants (both community volunteers and BLOCK home Residents) that have been actively building community within the Companionship Program for 1-2 years now, eight of whom have been participating since the initial pilot program in 2020. Each relationship continues to naturally evolve and deepen. Although from the outside this program may look "small," it truly embodies the "inch wide, mile deep" sentiment that is reflected in the intentionality and authenticity of each relationship.

The consistency with which people show up for one another, whether it's for a weekly walk or phone call, grabbing some pie, or simply being a consistent base for one another throughout life transitions, is truly something to uplift and celebrate.



“As a host, the BLOCK Project's power lies in its simplicity. Share a little of what we have. Be a good neighbor. That's about it. Out of that, we are able to help house a person in need and welcome them into our community. We have hosted for over a year. While it is transformative in its impact, it is surprisingly routine in its day-to-day for us. Often, we forget our resident is anyone other than just another neighbor on our block. We chat in the yard. We look out for each other. We share in the ups and downs of life. That is, we suppose, how it is supposed to be. A bringing into community in a way that builds relationships and connections, rather than setting a person in need apart. Of course, the staff and partners work incredibly hard behind the scenes to make this all happen. We are so thankful for them and for the BLOCK Project for bringing us a fabulous neighbor who enriches our entire community.”

- Greg and Louise Wong, BLOCK Project Hosts

BLOCK Project Hosts

Our incredible Hosts continue to show up to The BLOCK Project to share their space, act as welcoming, kind neighbors and lead the way in reimagining an end of the housing crisis.

We've spent a lot of time this year honing our BLOCK Host programming to be more reflective of what our diverse community needs. Hosts who have been with us for nearly five years have different needs than new Hosts who are still learning the ropes. We adjust our programming to ensure we are creating positive learning and community environments for our new Hosts while still providing vital support as needed to our longer term Hosts.

We are launching Host recruitment efforts this year for the first time since the project started in 2017. We have been very lucky to connect with most of our Hosts very organically and are now well positioned and excited to expand our Host community.



Programs - BLOCK Residents



"While I am still wrapping my mind around everything that has happened, one thing I know is how thankful I am to each and every member of the team. They came together to give myself and the other program residents the chance to live and feel human again. Because of this, I have had the opportunity to re-evaluate my life and to become the "real" version of myself. Something I can never say "Thank you!" enough for. Not only has the BLOCK Project & Facing Homelessness provided that home but also a group of people I know I can reach out to if I need anything. Having a support system is just as important as a residence. That is something incredibly rare about this program."

-Alexiel, BLOCK Home Resident

"Through my involvement with Facing Homelessness and the BLOCK Project, I've had an improvement in practically every aspect of my life. I no longer live minute by minute, I don't want to die every moment of the day, I can think about tomorrow, the day after, the week after, I can even plan things months out, and recently have begun thinking about the next few years of my life and what I'd like to accomplish. Another side-effect to having a safe place to live and even thrive is the network effect. I talk with my family almost every single night over the internet. This is unprecedented in our family and was a very unlikely outcome, and yet we've never been this close and connected before."

- BLOCK Home Resident

Maintaining housing often depends on a number of factors: being able to pay rent, having the capacity and foundations to plan for income and expense streams, maintaining one's mental health, managing substance use, and developing strategies to keep one's place clean and livable, to name a few. At The BLOCK Project, we alleviate the concern about affordability so that our Residents can invest their time and energy in addressing these other goals. This year, as folks have been able to feel more centered in their mental health and stability, we've had multiple Residents seek out vocational training, education opportunities and new jobs, things that did not feel possible to many of them a year or two ago. We've also seen Residents who have discovered they're ready for new housing opportunities that weren't accessible to them prior to The BLOCK Project.

We've dedicated this last year to adopting the frameworks of equity and inclusion that will set our Residents, Hosts and organization up for success in the long run. We are soliciting and incorporating our community's feedback into our programs, and working alongside BLOCK Residents to address concerns and build collaborative solutions to support Housing Stability. We know that solutions to the housing crisis need to be led by people who have first hand experience, and can provide creative, informed feedback and guidance to make our programs more trauma informed, inclusive, and equitable. When our Residents and our whole community feel supported, heard, and cared for, that's when we know we're succeeding in our mission.



“Following the heartbreaking trend of homelessness in this beautiful city, among others, I felt compelled to get involved. Finding FH and the Block Project has opened my eyes to a different way to help those in need. Not just the work that goes into building the homes, but the open hearts of the people who offer their land to share them. It is truly one step at a time, but the results are impactful. I am so happy to have found you, and look forward to my next volunteer opportunity. Thank you.”

-BLOCK Project Volunteer

Programs - BLOCK Construction

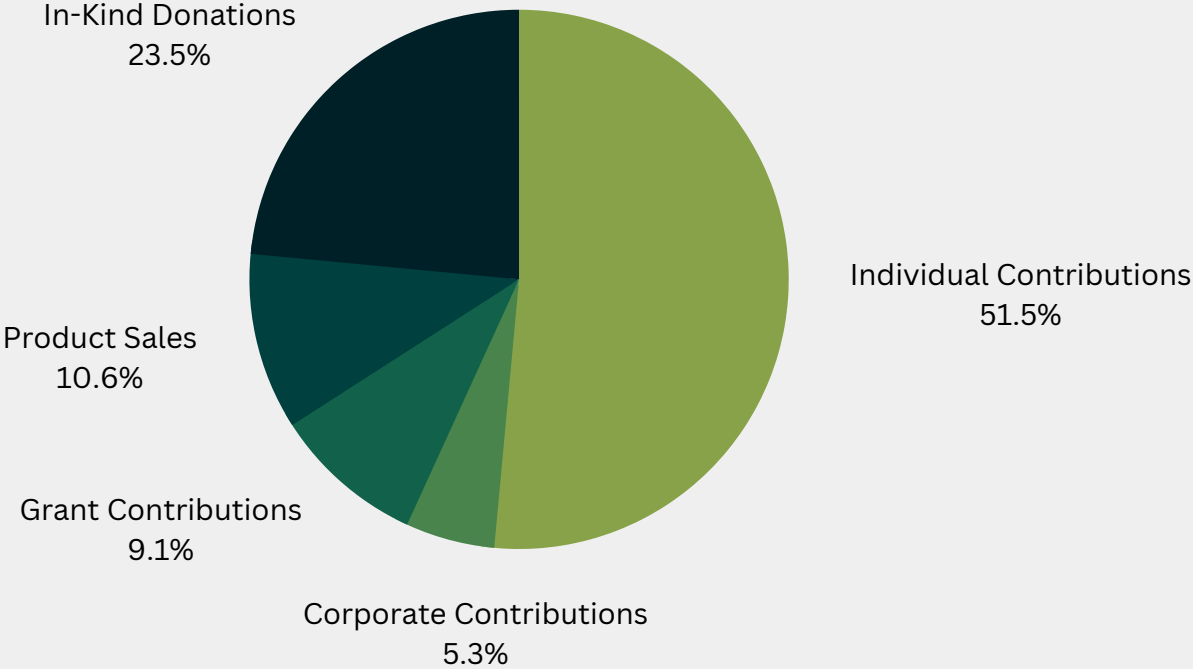
The BLOCK Project Construction / BLOCK Shop team of staff and volunteers, including 10 community and corporate groups, have been extremely busy this year! Collectively, well over 1,000 hours were logged building, landscaping, and fabricating BLOCK homes. Five homes were fabricated in the BLOCK Shop this year with two being placed in Greenwood and Magnolia, and two shipped to Rapid City, South Dakota. We will break ground on the 15th home by the end of 2022 in Bitter Lake and are already preparing for our 2023 builds, one of which will be in Burien just beyond the Seattle City Limits. We are grateful to have grown our team by hiring an Assistant Construction Manager who is able to provide much needed capacity supporting our growing community of BLOCK homes.

Among our greatest accomplishments this year was piloting the sale of BLOCK homes as a kit of parts to support other communities in need. This year our first two BLOCK home kits went to the NDN Collective, an amazing Indigenous non-profit who will use these two homes to start a 20+ cottage village called Camp Mni Luzahan in Rapid City, South Dakota. In addition to supporting communities most impacted by homelessness, this effort allowed FH to generate sustainable revenue. While working with NDN Collective, we started looking at some new larger conceptual plans of BLOCK homes, and would LOVE to develop the capacity to build 1 bedroom BLOCK homes that are ADA accessible.

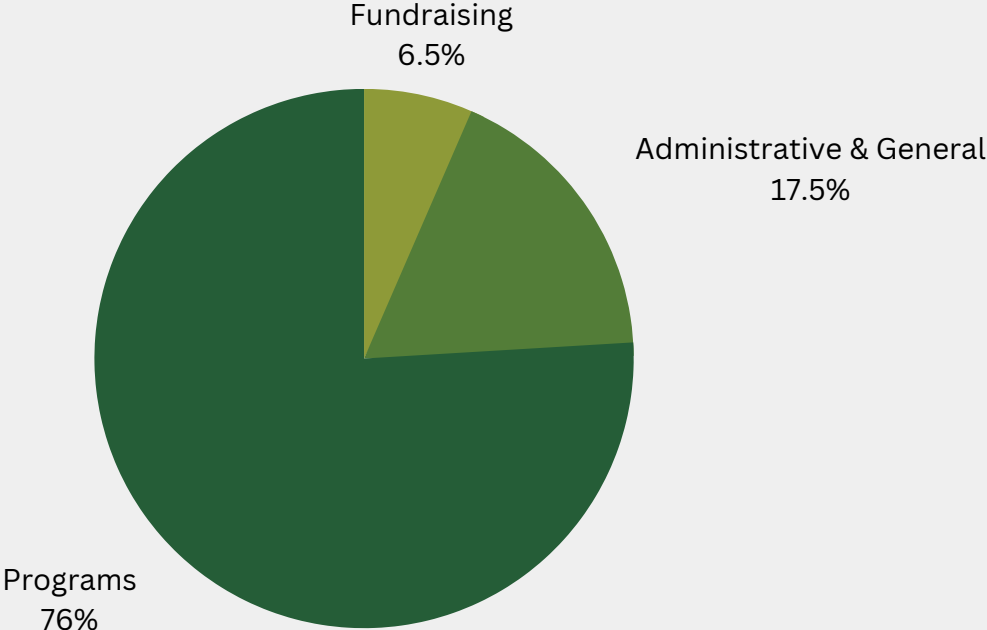


Revenue and Expenses

Revenue: \$1,265,417



Expenses: \$1,654,140



Net Assets, End of Year: \$2,198,061



Acknowledgements



Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who support our programs.

Facing Homelessness is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. EIN # 46-2376967



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