2022-23 Annual Report

"If we can solve homelessness in Portland and Seattle, **we can do it anywhere...** I believe that it is possible, especially if we work together—across systems, sectors, and jurisdictions—**with urgency and creativity." - Jeff Olivet, Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness**

September 2023

Simply put, village participants are going from the isolation and dangers of life on the street to connection with community as they build a **much better life.**

After two years of intense focus to build much needed services, I am honored to share the 2023 Safe Rest Village Annual Report with the community. A dedicated team lead by Chariti Montez, listened and learned from each community engagement meeting. They kept adapting to build seven villages across the city. We will continue to study the results and improve as we strive to move people from the streets to stability.

This report reflects one full year of data collection from the sites in operation, roughly 50% of what we can expect next year as we move to scale. Early data reveals that of the 143 people who have moved through our program in the past year, roughly 50% moved to temporary or permanent housing (70 people). It shows that of those 70 people, 35 had been chronically homeless. It also reveals that 57% of our program participants reported being non-white or multiracial. There's a great deal more to learn from this report.

Behind the data are people, and this report represents direct impacts on their lives. It represents Brad's story, who in his early 70s and after 22 years living under an I-5 ramp, was ready to make a move towards housing by accepting a placement in one of our villages. We hear Manny's story, who moved into a village distraught and suicidal following his divorce, who got a job and eventually moved into housing, and now returns with homemade asada for his village friends. We hear how the staff and villagers have built community and resiliency as they connect with behavioral health services, re-enter the work force, and build healthy relationships with fellow participants and with nearby neighbors. Simply put, village participants are going from the isolation and dangers of life on the street to connection with community as they build a much better life.

This report also represents incredible volunteerism and support for village participants through donation of services, supplies, and other acts of love – THANK YOU!

With this Annual Report, we share with you the foundation of a program that will give hope to many who were hopeless. We are just getting started. I look forward to the day when those healing will use their life experience to give back and serve others who need an on-ramp to a stable life.

Here's to more stories that offer hope, inspiration, and LOVE.

– Commissioner Dan Ryan

"Our main goal is to get [our participants] into housing, permanent housing, stable housing one way or another. And we back that up with a retention team... guiding them, making sure they are able to pay their bills, making sure their other issues are being taken care of, [anything] that they need help with **because moving from homelessness into this place and then moving into housing, it's a big, big thing."**

– Elijah, Peer Support Specialist, Menlo Park

WHO WE SERVED

this year in numbers*

43,475 nights of safe sleep

(total number of nights someone was sleeping at one of our sites across all villages open during this period)

345 people served

Gender

- **28%** Female
- **58%** Male
- **8%** Gender other than Male/Female
- **6%** Transgender
- **1%** Less than 5 Respondents

Ability

- **57%** Identify as Having One or More Disability
- **35%** Without
- **9%** Not Known

Race

- **57%** of All People Sheltered Reported as Non-White or Multiracial

33% chronically homeless

211 sleeping units

143 people exited

Of those 143, **70** went to temporary or permanent housing.
Of those 70, **35** were chronically homeless.

169 documents obtained

(IDs, Birth Certificates, etc.) These are critical to next steps — jobs, leases, food stamps, etc.

*** "This year" represents 5 sites open from 07/01/22 - 06/30/23**

BUILDING villages

The Safe Rest Village program launched in August 2021 with a small team focused on building something **new.**

Something to fill a gap in a system of services that helps people avoid houselessness, and support those who are experiencing it. At that time, the system supported by many of our partners did not offer outdoor shelters with 24/7 onsite support and services. That's the system we have built. Services vary by village, but all provide case management, access to mental and behavioral health services, and basic amenities.

Much of the information in this Annual Report reflects one year's data and funding for our program from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, in sync with the reporting requirements of the federal American Rescue Plan Act grant that funds the program. Other information may reflect the entire length of the program – each is labeled accordingly.

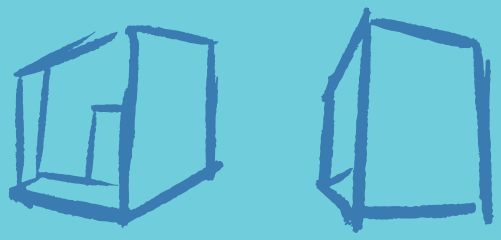
Given reporting periods, these numbers reflect data for the sites that were open during the City's most recent fiscal year, the one-year period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Note that some sites were open before this, and others were only open for a short period of time during this year, so the data reflecting their outcomes reflect a short period of time.

7 sites open

326 sleeping units

(including personal RVs)

First RV safe park in Portland



"We are a **ragtag, queer team** building pods for the houseless next to a bridge that I slept under when I was younger."

– Nate Stanley of Stanley Tiny Homes, one of our tiny home vendors

current **map** of **Safe Rest Villages**

Two of the villages in the Safe Rest Village program support specific cultural communities – the Queer Affinity Village serving LGBTQIA2S+, and the BIPOC Village serving community members who are Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.

*Sunderland and Reedway are not reflected in annual statistics, as they opened after the reporting period.

BUILDING community

The Safe Rest Village program is building more than the villages themselves. Along with our shelter operators, we are building community for those who participate in our program. This is a critical ingredient to their success – to everyone's success. Beyond the lockable shelters, basic amenities and services, each village is growing connections, helping people support one another, and feel connected to others. These human connections help people build resilience, stabilize and focus on their next steps in life, rather than survival, personal safety, and meeting basic needs.

"Thank you, to everyone that is out there helping those that are lost and unhoused. **A little act of kindness can make someone's whole day."**

– Harley, neighbor who volunteers with Multnomah Safe Rest Village

3 art spaces

30+ different types of activities in the villages — and growing

5 raised garden beds

40+ pets (dogs, cats, rabbits, and a guinea pig) plus being neighbors to the Belmont goats!

13 covered gathering spaces

COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

We have 13 covered community gathering spaces across our sites. Each community has adapted them for a range of uses from a place for movie nights and games, to a space for yoga, art, meditation, and karaoke. Here are some examples:

- 21Ten Theater bringing a play to a village
- Bingo
- Birdhouse painting
- Book club
- Button making
- Community barbecues
- Conversation project with Oregon Humanities
- Craft day
- Dance party w/ DJ
- Distributing coloring books
- Foosball
- Gardening (garden beds planted and bursting with summer veggies and flowers)
- Jam session with free music
- Jewelry making
- Outings to see a play at Portland Center Stage
- Painting
- Photography
- Pumpkin carving
- Rock painting
- S'mores night
- Superbowl streaming
- Tie dye
- Villager-hosted potlucks
- Visits from Street Books, including having a resident librarian!
- Woodworking

"We encourage participants to lean into the **joy of gardening** by planting, watering, and caring for the garden beds... we hope to have helped them move to places where they can plant their OWN plants in their OWN beds and watch them grow year after year."

– Andy Goebel, Director,
All Good Northwest

BUILDING **resilience**

In addition to community-building activities across our sites, activities and groups are dedicated to building resilience through prioritizing the mental and behavioral health of our participants.

- **Dual Diagnosis Anonymous** group
- **Meditation**
- **Men's** groups
- **Narcotics Anonymous** group
- **Street Medicine** workshops
- **Women's** discussion groups
- **Yoga**

Program partners include:

- **Blackburn Center**
- **Concordia University St. Paul** School of Nursing
- **Multnomah Dental**
- **Portland Street Medicine**
- **Sumner Nursing College** program

"This [village model] works, because it's **humane.** That's one word that just describes the whole thing. **It's humane."**

– **Sonya,** Reedway Participant

"It's **seriously fantastic** that my friends aren't dying from overdoses and infections anymore."

"I'm living inside now, which is one of the hardest things I've ever done, especially after having been outside for 10 to 11 years. The staff understand the struggles we've been through and the struggles we still face. Every staff member I've had the pleasure to meet has been super helpful, friendly, and truly sincere. It's as if they've become an extended part of our small community that we call 'family.'

It was really easy to make the transition from tent to pod because we were basically brought in as a collective group... It's seriously fantastic that my friends aren't dying from overdoses and infections anymore! Thank you. This place is a true God's blessing upon us."

– **Natasha,** Participant in Peninsula Crossing

Note: All quotes and stories shared with permission, some names changed upon request.

STORIES OF

success

MANNY'S STORY

When [Manny] came in, he was distraught," shares **Dale, Case Manager at Menlo Park**. "He had broken up with his wife, and he wasn't sure if he wanted to keep on living. I met with him for a couple of weeks. We talked and talked. He finally decided that he wanted to get a job. I swear that same day he went down to WinCo down the street, he came back a couple hours later with a job. He was working so good that...after three or four days, he went and he asked his boss if he could get a raise, and sure enough, he got a fricking raise. It was maybe two weeks after that, he was ready to move...He's one of our big success stories. I mean, everybody knows Manny. He was so cool. Now he's working, and he's got his own place and he still tries to come by to visit.

PARTICIPANT QUOTES

"This community has been the **best thing to happen to me.** This place offers a lot of needed help, like mental health support... and a [staff] that is awesome in a way that can't be replaced. **I want to say thank you for all you've done for me."**

–Sheila, participant in Peninsula Crossing

"Within a **month** of moving into the village, I've **kicked my drug habit** and **my girlfriend now has a job!"**

–A **Reedway** Participant

"It's done amazing things for me and my family. The **smiles on my grandkids' faces** when they get to come here and be with me **means everything**."

–Stephanie, former Menlo Park participant, on moving into housing

"[We meet] people where they're at and understand this space and can relate to them... We've had people that've been homeless for five years, and we have people that have been homeless for 30 years; coming to a new space and feeling safe and protected is a big shock for them. They're not used to that. They don't even know if it's real. So, there's a lot of emotion involved. We let them know that they're worth it, they deserve to be here, and everybody deserves a chance," said **Elijah, Peer Support Specialist at Menlo** (Cultivate Initiatives).

"Our Safe Rest Village aims to provide emotional and physical safety. That's important," said **Jeray Bridges, a staff member at Peninsula Crossing**. "Here at Urban Alchemy, our job is to make sure that... [as they're connected to] permanent housing ... they remember who they are, the journey they came from, that there's always a light at the end of the tunnel and to never to give up on themselves."

BUILDING partnerships

Thank you to the many partners who have brought this **vision to life.**

JURISDICTIONAL PARTNERS

Joint Office of Homeless Services
Oregon Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
Prosper Portland
TriMet

SHELTER PROVIDERS

All Good Northwest
Cultivate Initiatives
The Salvation Army
Urban Alchemy

DONATIONS OF SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

21Ten Theater
Anderson Construction Foundation
Animal Aid
Blackburn Center
Bridges Middle School
Classic Collision
Cleveland High School
Concordia University St. Paul School of Nursing
Constructing Hope
Cultivate Initiatives Workforce Program
Family of Grace Church
Franklin High School
Friends of Community Gardens
Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village
Gather:Make:Shelter
Grant High School
Growing Gardens
Hillsdale Assistance Team
Home Building Foundation
International School of Portland
Jaya Kula
KT and City of Portland staff Queer Alliance
Merlo Station High School
MODS PDX
Multnomah Arts Center and Multnomah Arts Center Association
Multnomah Dental
Portland Center Stage
Portland Street Medicine
Portland Street Response
Rapid Response Bio-Clean
Reynolds Learning Academy
Roosevelt High School
Safeway
Sam Barlow High School
Sarah Bellum
St Helens High School
Street Books
Sumner College Nursing Program
SW Faith Coalition
The Links (Portland Chapter)
Tivnu
Vista Pet Clinic
West Hills Christian School

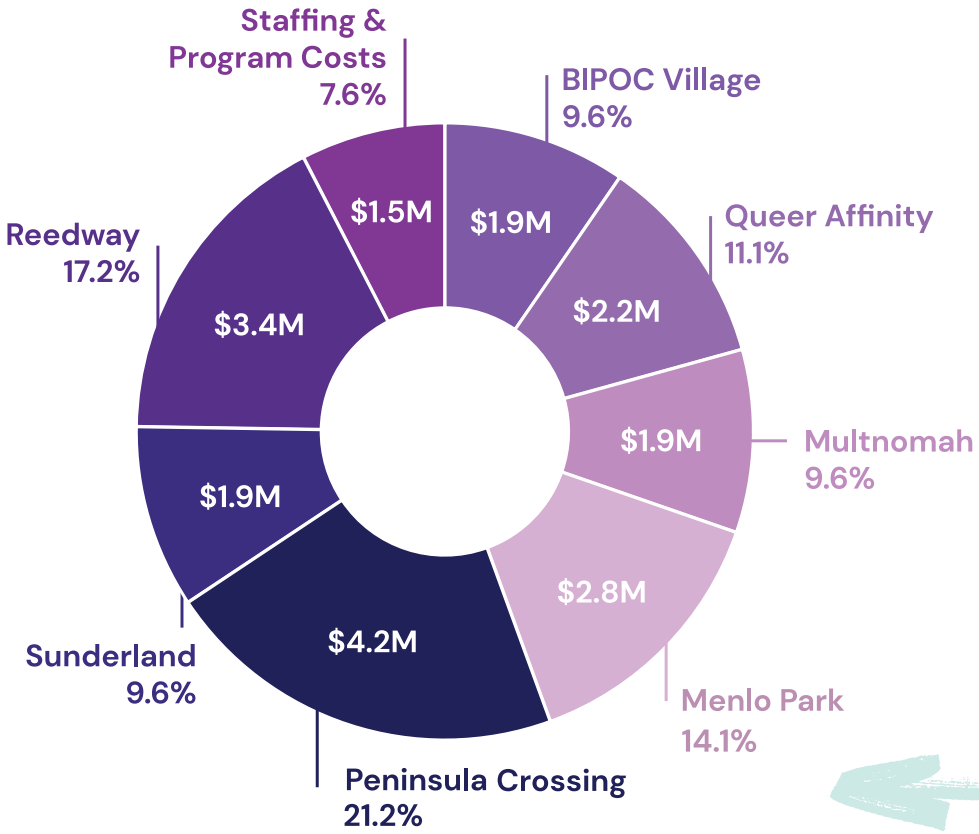
finances

Expenses (Fiscal Year 2022-23)

These are expenses from **July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.**

They cover **three general categories**: (Note, each site was at a different point in construction and operation during this one fiscal year.)

- **Acquisition and Construction** this includes leases, site construction and permitting, purchase of shelter units and service structures, and other site amenities, etc.
- **Site Maintenance** this includes ongoing utilities, repairs, etc.
- **Shelter Operations** this covers programmatic costs for shelter operations.



American Rescue Plan
Investing in Portland

Total Budget (2021-24)

FUNDING FOR 2021-2024:

$56.3 million

WHICH INCLUDES:

American Rescue Plan Act **$52,300,000**

General Fund **$3,000,000**

State Grant **$1,000,000**

FISCAL YEAR 22-23 TOTAL EXPENSES:

$19.9 million

BUILDING
trust

"Staff, students and parents at Bridges Middle School and the International School of Portland believe that global citizenship begins with us taking responsible action within and outside of our community. As such, we whole-heartedly support the mission and vision of the Safe Rest Villages and believe they are an important pillar of the complex infrastructure supporting Portland's most vulnerable citizens.

We are grateful for the supportive partnerships that have developed with the arrival of our friends at the Queer Affinity Village located between Bridges Middle School and International School of Portland. These partnerships include not only the program participants and dedicated Safe Rest Village team, but extend throughout the neighborhood, and the city. We support the SRV model because we believe in its successful approach to supporting people holistically, with dignity and Love."

– Beven Byrnes, Executive Director,Bridges Middle School, Neighbor to queer affinity village

Safe Rest Villages

CITY OF PORTLAND OREGON 1851

American Rescue Plan
Investing in Portland

saferestvillages.org

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