



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

FUSION  **N**
HOUSING FAMILIES IN NEED

A note from our FUSION Leadership

FUSION is a nonprofit set within a landscape of other nonprofits, all working to achieve the important work of eliminating or mitigating homelessness for families. From our Board of Directors, to our staff, to the volunteers who support our organization, we all work toward this shared vision of rendering homelessness a non-issue.

As we know, this issue impacts us all, to some degree. It is painful and distressful to see individuals on our streets who exhibit the hallmark signs of being homeless. What may not be apparent to many though, is that families experiencing homelessness tend to fly under the radar as they do their best to sustain the normal behaviors of family life—school, work, belonging to their community—while experiencing homelessness.

Every family comes to us with their own specific set of needs, and our professional staff works to meet them where they are. This is achieved through a Family Stability Plan that is created by the family in consultation with their case manager. It is basically a road map with necessary steps identified that will include not only housing, but also employment, transportation challenges, and children with specific needs.

For most families, their stability plan can be achieved within ninety days, and we house these families at our Pete Andersen FUSION Family Center.

For families that encounter more barriers to success, we work to place them in our transitional homes located in King and Pierce counties. These families have up to eighteen months to maximize their stability plan. We believe that all families deserve to feel safe, sheltered, and warm as they work their way back to self-sufficiency.

We are very much engaged as an organization in solving the intractable problem of homelessness, and there is a lot of joy and happiness that occurs along the way. We regularly plan holiday events for back to school, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations are also eagerly anticipated. We identify birthdays for the little ones, teen events such as graduation and prom, and a host of other smaller events that let our families know they are very much cared for and at the center of our thoughts and actions.

We invite you all to become a part of these celebratory activities and problem-solving! We can think of few other causes that can be so rewarding and that remind each and every one of us about the importance of family and home.


Executive Director


Board Chairperson

About FUSION

OUR PURPOSE

Founded in 1993, FUSION is professionally staffed and volunteer supported. The organization owns and operates 20 transitional homes in King and Pierce counties and a 90-bed emergency shelter for families with minor children in their care.

FUSION also runs the FUSION Décor Boutique which sells gently-used furnishings, as well as Poverty Bay Café, with a plan to reopen in 2022.

These businesses provide funding for FUSION programs, create community awareness of the mission, and engage new volunteers.

OUR MISSION

To provide housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness in our community so they will have a safe, secure environment as they work toward self-sufficiency.

**FUSION helps
unsheltered
families become
self-sufficient
through services
tailored to meet the
unique needs of our
families in our
community.**

Our Value Statements



WHY

We believe

Children require a safe and stable home to thrive.

HOW

We believe

In building partnerships that create access to services and improve outcomes for disadvantaged families.

WHO

We believe

In supporting families to identify and develop their skills toward self-sufficiency.

Our Strategy

The goal for families in our shelter and transitional housing programs is to secure livable wage employment and a permanent home. FUSION provides dedicated case management and support services from professional advocates as keys to this success.

PROGRAMS	DETAILS
Transitional Housing	FUSION provides furnished homes with professional case management and support services for resident families. More than 85% successfully move on to permanent housing.
The Pete Andersen FUSION Family Center	"The Pete" in Federal Way shelters families in 31 private rooms. A professional support team provides crisis care and assists in securing employment and permanent housing.
FUSION Décor Boutique	Our upscale resale home furnishings store operating since 2014 is a unique shopping experience. All gently-used merchandise is donated. All staff are volunteers.
Poverty Bay Café by FUSION	Planning to reopen in 2022, this popular bistro adjacent to our Boutique store features great food, camaraderie, and award-winning coffee beverages. Job skills training will provide employment opportunities for low-income adults.

23

Families resided in FUSION homes in 2021

43

Adults were served in 2021

53

Children were served in 2021

\$11,750

Average cost to house one family for one year.

3

Families went from homelessness to homeownership upon exiting the FUSION program

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

FUSION owns and operates twenty transitional housing units in King and Pierce Counties with plans to acquire additional units in 2022 and 2023.

Dedicated case management assists resident families in reaching the stability of employment and a permanent home in their progression to self-sufficiency.

What client families say speaks volumes about the programs you help support:

"My children have advanced in school during this time, so much that one child has advanced an entire grade. This wouldn't have happened without FUSION's housing support."

"I'm overwhelmed, so thankful and grateful."

"I knew if I needed something, I could count on FUSION and they would help me find a way to get through it."

"Having a safe home means security for my family."

With a proven track record of families successfully transitioning from the FUSION Transitional Housing Program into permanent housing, FUSION is proud to announce that three families since 2019 have transitioned from homelessness to homeownership.

Families like these three, take advantage of every opportunity to better themselves, improve their income, and thrive in the programs designed to to serve the underserved.

7,995

Bed nights provided
to families in 2021

101

Families served
in 2021

317

Individuals served in
2021

147

Children under
the age of 5 sheltered
in 2021

36

Families helped to find
permanent housing in 2021

THE PETE ANDERSEN FUSION FAMILY CENTER

"The Pete" is a 90-bed emergency shelter for families with minor children in their care. The facility was opened on Christmas Eve in 2020 with the very first family moving in just before the holiday.



Located in Federal Way, the center offers crisis care with secure private rooms and a professional support team to families coming from all over King and Pierce Counties.

Our shelter program has transformed lives:

"The Pete Andersen FUSION Family Center offered my family a true opportunity to begin our lives again after experiencing trauma and displacement due to domestic abuse. The hardest decision I ever had to make was to flee, but the smartest was getting connected with FUSION."

"From the very first time I walked up to the doors of the center, I felt relief. Something I hadn't felt in a very long time. I feel embraced and supported while I get back on my feet. And just as important as that, my kids are safe, in a place where they can just be kids again."

A unique FUSION-created Finally Home Fund disbursed \$15,000 to 11 families for application fees, first month's rent, utility deposits and other immediate expenses for moving into permanent housing in 2021.

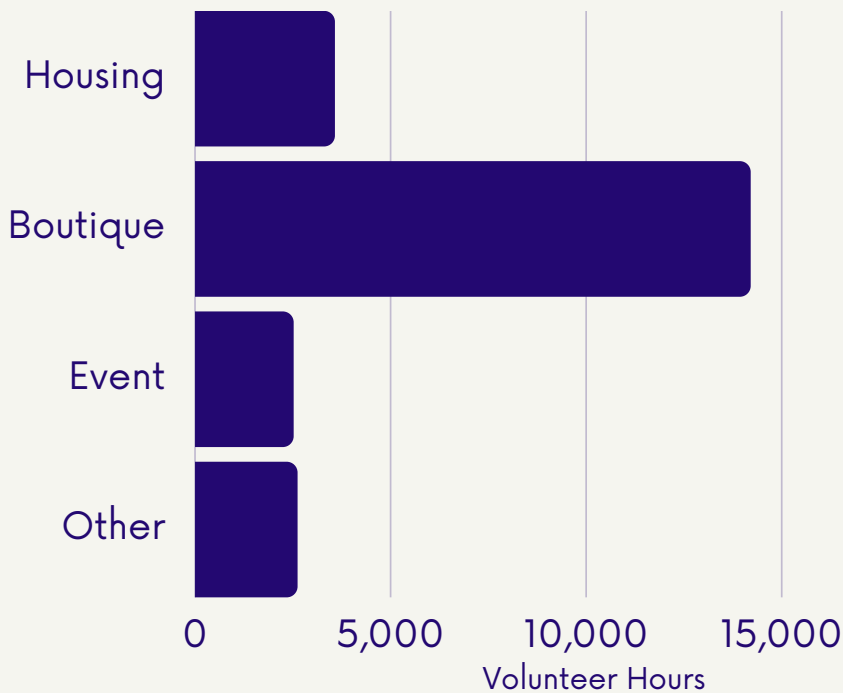
VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of FUSION.

Growth and achievements of FUSION are directly related to the dedication of its volunteer force.

Our 240 active volunteers contributed nearly 23,000 hours of service in 2021. The minimum wage equivalent for the time and work that was donated to the FUSION organization is equal to approximately \$360,000.

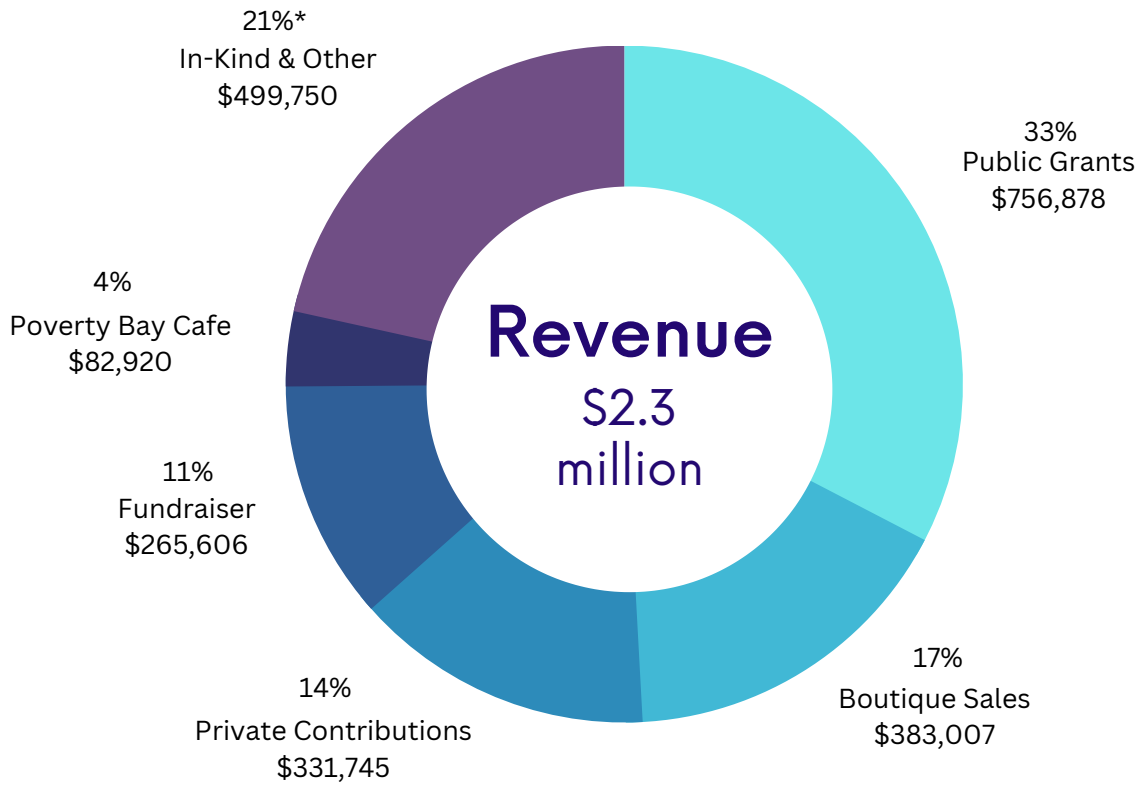
Local businesses, civic organizations, and church groups contributed priceless hours in service.



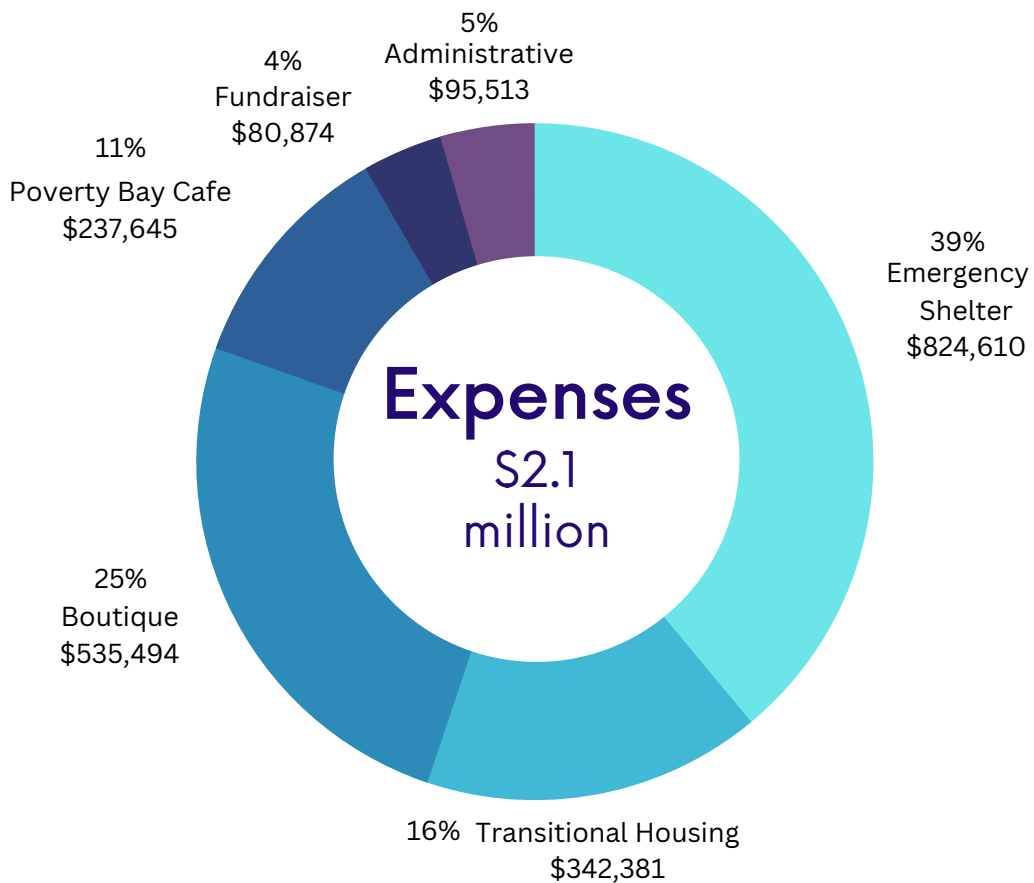
- 23 Housing Team volunteers spent 3,555 hours cleaning, repairing, and furnishing 11 transitional homes for families.
- 54 Décor Boutique volunteers devoted 14,185 hours picking up donations, staging furniture, and assisting customers in the store.
- Dozens of volunteers contributed 2,500 hours planning, organizing, and contributing to our 2021 Garden of the Gods Summer Art Event.
- Additional volunteers gave 2,600 hours of service to the Family Center, Poverty Bay Café, and Operations Team.

Financials

(Audited for the year ending December 31, 2021)



*Including Boutique in-kind net, rents, investment earnings, and Transitional Housing program fees.



Assets & Liabilities

2021 Statement of Financial Position

(Audited for the year ending December 31, 2021)

Assets		Liabilities & Net Assets	
Current Assets	\$2,071,599	Liabilities	\$5,384,994
Fixed Assets	\$7,899,176	Net Assets	\$4,585,781
Total	\$9,970,775	Total	\$9,970,775

Acknowledgements

We are living in turbulent and challenging times that call for a community to come together and serve disadvantaged families with children that are experiencing homelessness in our own neighborhoods.

The generous support of our volunteers, supporters, board members, advisory council, founders, and staff truly amplifies the work FUSION can do. Thank you for your investment in helping transform society and building a more sheltered world where children genuinely thrive.

Thank you to all the contributors who give essential support to our organization through legal services, cooking meals, reading books, cleaning and repairing homes, decorating homes, retail sales in the Boutique, financial contributions, by spreading the word and mission of FUSION, and in countless other ways.

We thank you for your continued support in our programs.



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