



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

FUSION  **N**
HOUSING FAMILIES IN NEED

A note from our Executive Director

In this first year of serving as Executive Director for FUSION, I am humbled, amazed, and impressed with our direct services team and the hundreds of volunteers who give passionately to support our cause of ending homelessness. I am honored to serve side by side with every one of them.

This past year has represented one of tremendous growth for FUSION. The Pete Andersen FUSION Family Center which opened on December 24, 2020 with just one family, now regularly serves up to thirty families at any given time as we work to help them return to self-sufficiency. This is in addition to the transitional homes that have formed the basis of our longstanding service to the community. Our transitional housing has enjoyed broad and deep volunteer support, starting with the original ladies seated at Peggy LaPorte's kitchen table. With all of the accomplishments we can point to, and revel in, we remain steadfast with a growth mindset that we can do more and do better, and at a time when the need has never been greater.

Operationally, we have dedicated many hours of team meetings to talk about policies, best practices, and how to realistically implement both with families who are in very dynamic and fluid situations. For our staff, it can be stressful and demanding work that requires patience, coordinated team efforts, and remaining resilient while working with families confronted with challenging circumstances at best.

It is a rewarding and uplifting experience to see families come through our doors at a low point in their lives, and then start to regain hope and forward momentum in returning their lives to stability. This is accomplished through thoughtful case management support from a myriad of service organizations and regional places of worship who are ready to jump in and lend their support. And sometimes a kind word or friendly face will help set the tone for the day. We also draw hope and inspiration from the families themselves as they navigate through uncertainty. This is the work we do at FUSION.

FUSION's mission would not be complete without talking about the Boutique which is a 100% volunteer run retail business that provides essential revenue to help underwrite the cost of running our homelessness programs. Through donated furniture from individuals and businesses like Lennar, we are able to create a synergy around "upscale recycled furniture" that positively impacts our community.

One of my primary objectives in my leadership role is to keep our team focused on outcomes and that we do everything in our power to ensure that families do not return to homelessness. It is rewarding work and sometimes not work at all. We invite you to continue on this journey with us as we work to end homelessness.


Executive Director

A note from our Board Chairperson

As I think back to 2022, FUSION experienced astounding growth. Several highlights come to mind.

First, we added two transitional homes to our inventory. These two new homes are currently undergoing much needed remodeling and repairing before they are move-in ready. Once they are habitable, a family will stay in each for up to twelve months as they save money to transition back into a permanent home. We celebrate the success rate of 90 percent of our transitional families achieving a return to permanent housing.

Second, with financial support from the City of Federal Way, FUSION organized a below-freezing weather response to get people into our shelter during frigid temperatures this winter. Similarly, our staff will lead a program if the weather turns extremely hot this summer.

And third, we hired a Fund Development Manager who is expanding our outreach and fundraising within South King County, as well as into Pierce County.

With all these achievements, the area that most excites me is the activities we provide for families. Homelessness creates trauma—not just for the adults trying to meet basic needs for their families, but also for the children who are in unstable situations. At The Pete Andersen FUSION Family Center there are many activities open to all FUSION families to remind children they are kids, and to give families the opportunity for fun together.

Holidays are a special time at FUSION. One of my favorites is Halloween Trunk or Treat. Children and adults can choose just the right costume from an extensive collection donated to the cause. Volunteers dress in themed

costumes and park their decorated cars stocked with treats to hand out in the Family Center parking lot. Children collect candy at each car, and enjoy hot dogs, popcorn, and additional goodies. They also can decorate cookies and create a special Halloween art project. Is there anything cuter than kids of all ages running from trunk to trunk or carefully decorating a cookie with an inch of frosting? Who has more fun—the kids or the volunteers?

On Thanksgiving, FUSION families are invited to assemble for a meal prepared especially for them. Last year about seventy people shared in the holiday spirit together including volunteers, FUSION board members, and staff. In December, Lennar Homes, a valued partner with FUSION, sponsored a Breakfast with Santa at the Federal Way Performing Arts Center. Children greeted Santa as he arrived in an antique fire truck, had their picture taken with him, and had a wonderful breakfast.

In July some of our teens hiked through the Olympics for three days with the help of Peak 7 Adventures, an outfitter company based in Spokane. Our Executive Director, David Harrison, hiked with the group and had wonderful stories to share upon their return. Some of these kids had never been in the woods, let alone carried all their supplies on their backs. What an “aha moment” to find out their phones did not work and couldn’t be recharged. These are the experiences that change lives.

With the sustained support from our FUSION friends, we continue to give a hand up to families experiencing homelessness, and to help enrich their lives as they return to self-sufficiency.


Sandy Huggins
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, preparing to reopen in early 2023.

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-reliant.

**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 early 2023, 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 in the near future.

FUSION Leadership

Executive Director

David Harrison

Board Chair

Julie Siegler

Vice Chair

Thomas Cameron

Secretary

Kathy Gendron

Treasurer

Cindy Piennett

Founders

Peggy LaPourte

Carl Buehring

Phil Wamba

Board Members

Kim Casey

Pat Chesebro

Katherine Festa

Byron Hiller

Andrea Hogan

Sandy Huggins

Martin Moore

Ken Schiewetz

Kathy Ward

Bob Wroblewski

17

Families resided in
FUSION homes in
2022

36

Adults were served
in 2022

32

Children were served
in 2022

\$13,000

Average cost to house
one family for one year



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

FUSION owns and operates twenty transitional housing units in King and Pierce Counties with two more being acquired in 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."



11,315

Bed nights provided
to families in 2022

149

Families served
in 2022

480

Individuals served in
2022

122

Children under
the age of 5 sheltered
in 2022

49

Families helped to find
permanent housing in 2022

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."

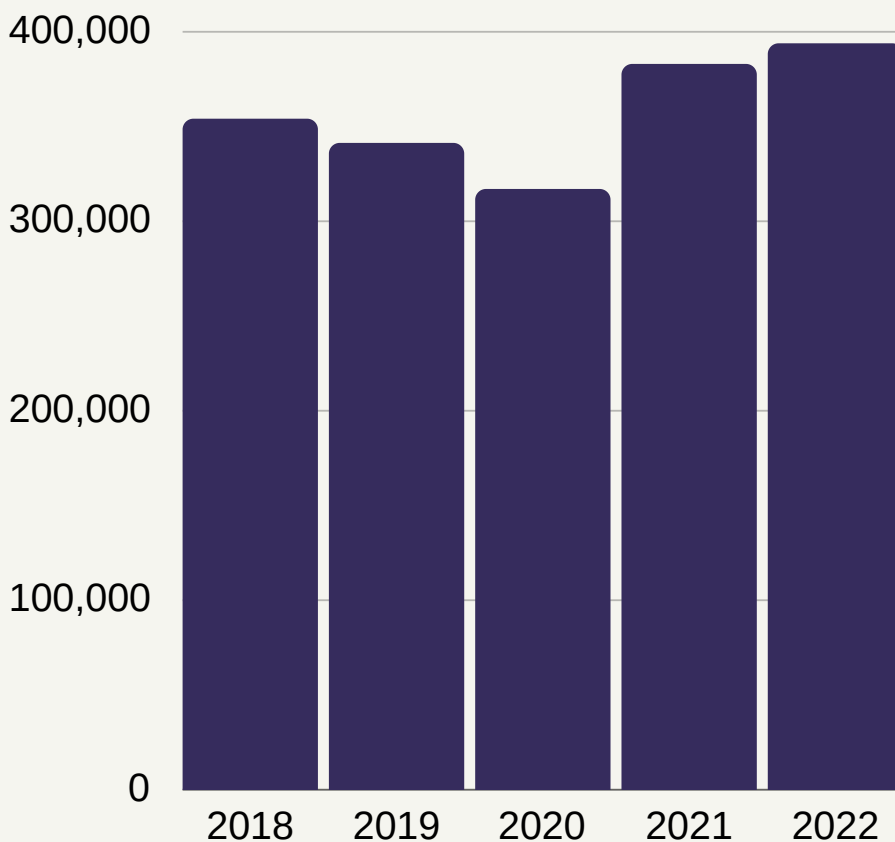
A unique FUSION-created Finally Home Fund disbursed \$20,000 to 27 families for application fees, first month's rent, utility deposits and other immediate expenses for moving into permanent housing in 2022.

FUSION DÉCOR BOUTIQUE

FUSION owns this unique retail operation that sells new, gently-used and donated furnishings. The store, operating since 2014, provides funding for FUSION programs, creates community awareness of our mission, and engages new volunteers.

ANNUAL SALES RECORD

Since 2018, gross sales have totaled \$1,789,504



11%

Sales growth
since 2018

56

Number of volunteers
who exclusively
manage the Boutique

The FUSION Décor Boutique showroom offers an incredible experience in which all merchandise is donated and all staff members are volunteers. This means 100% of the net proceeds earned by the Boutique are used to support FUSION programs.

- Volunteers donated more than 14,732 hours in 2022
- Proceeds from the Boutique make up approximately 23% of FUSION's annual revenue budget

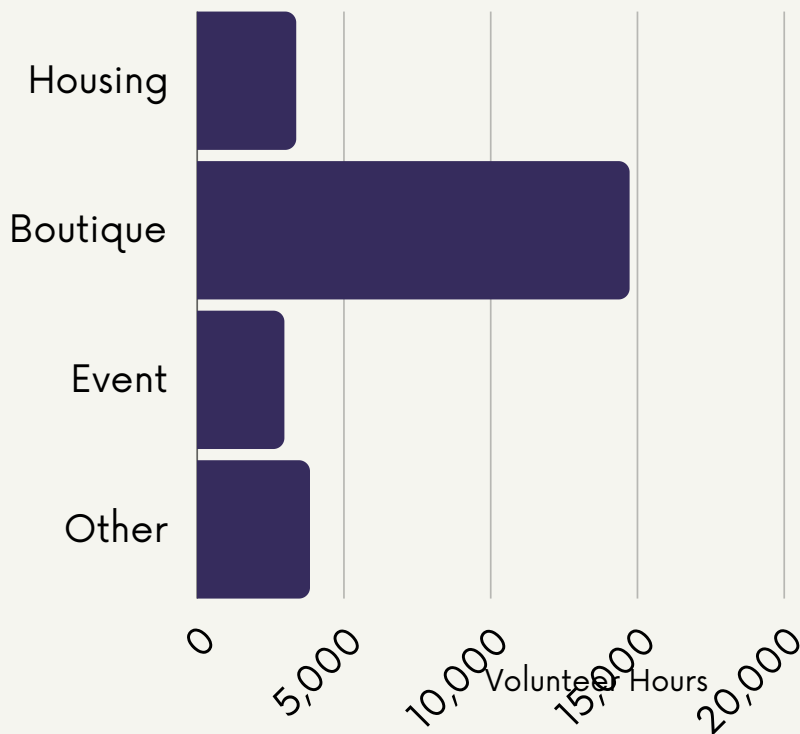
VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of FUSION.

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

Our 140+ active volunteers contributed nearly 25,000 hours of service in 2022. 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.



24

Housing Team
Volunteers

56

Décor Boutique
Volunteers

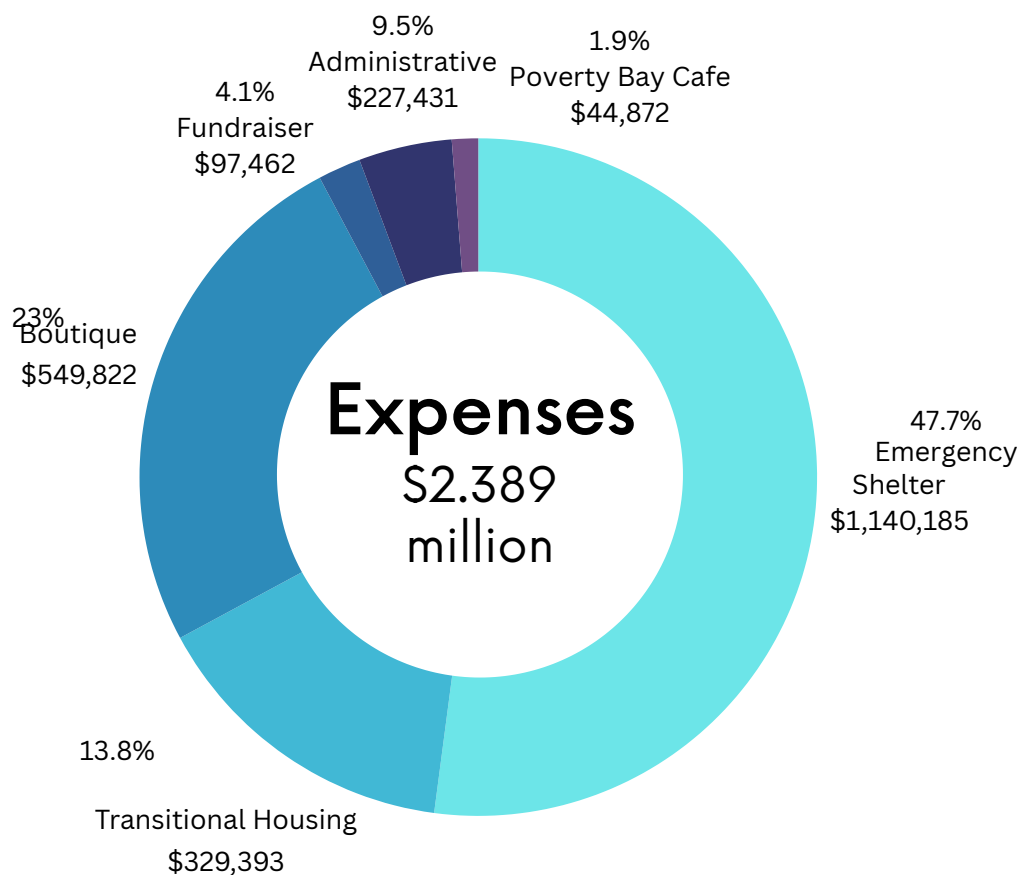
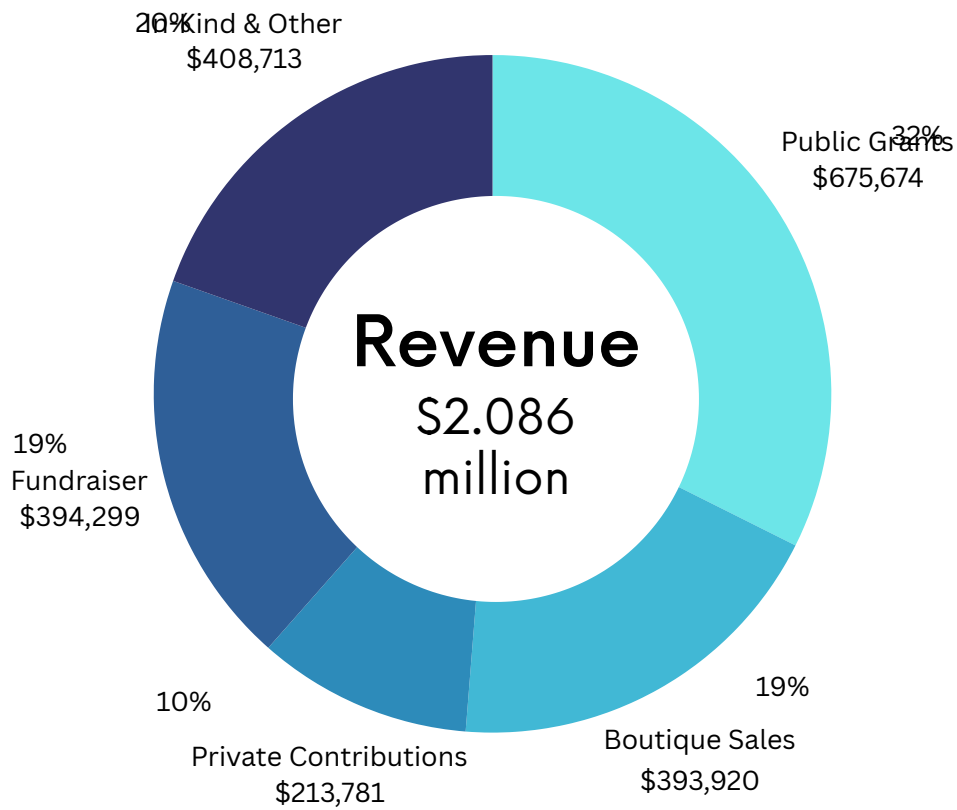
140

Active Volunteers

- 24 Housing Team volunteers spent 3,374 hours cleaning, repairing, and furnishing 11 transitional homes for families.
- 56 Décor Boutique volunteers devoted 14,732 hours picking up donations, staging furniture, and assisting customers in the store.
- Dozens of volunteers contributed 2,971 hours planning, organizing, and contributing to our 2022 Boots & Bling Summer Art Event.
- Additional volunteers gave 3,843 hours of service to the Family Center, Poverty Bay Café, and Operations Team.

Financials

(Unaudited for the year ending December 31, 2022)



Assets & Liabilities

Statement of Financial Position

(Unaudited for the year ending December 31, 2022)

Assets		Liabilities & Net Assets	
Current Assets	\$1,966,908	Liabilities	\$5,430,711
Fixed Assets	\$7,746,807	Net Assets	\$4,283,004
Total	\$9,713,715	Total	\$9,713,715

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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