

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The Gathering Place®
a refuge for rebuilding lives

OUR MISSION

The Gathering Place offers services to combat poverty and address the impacts of marginalization and oppression that often contribute to poverty or homelessness. By providing low-barrier access to a broad range of basic necessities and wraparound care options, TGP guides women, transgender folx, and children living in poverty from a place of crisis and instability to one of stability and security.



As we reflect on the past year and the history of The Gathering Place (TGP), it is very clear that this community continues to show up and address challenges head on while adapting to meet the changing and important needs of the most marginalized.

When TGP was founded in 1986, we were a small, one-room facility located on Santa Fe Drive that served 25 to 35 women a day. We provided a place for women and children experiencing homelessness to come and shelter and have a meal during the day. Fast forward to today, and we have seen exponential growth. Over the years, we have scaled our services to meet the need of the community and expanded the population we serve to include transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming folx as we have seen that these, as well as women and children, are populations that are disproportionately impacted by

poverty and homelessness. We have also grown our programming and services to not only address individuals' immediate, emergency needs, but also provide services that support people on their path to personal stability.

It is difficult to overstate the collective grief, exhaustion and trauma that Covid-19 and the impacts of the pandemic have brought. Yet, this year also brought clarity and positive growth, and instilled a renewed sense of hope and commitment to the mission of TGP and the community we all serve. Together, we can continue to grow and meet the needs of this deserving community, and our strength will be reflected in the equitable future we are forging for all.

The contributions from our collective community made all the difference this year. Thanks to a generous grant from Colorado Health Foundation, TGP was able

to expand our Education and Job Readiness program as well as our Wellness program, allowing us to serve more members. We also received two planned gifts that we are investing in building infrastructure and reserves which

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will ensure that we can maintain, and even continue to expand services during times of economic hardship, when our community needs us most.

TGP also launched an on-site early childhood development education course through the Community Based Education in Nurturing Parenting (CBENP) program's Nurturing Parenting® series for parents and caregivers. The 90- to 120-minute lessons in the series are available in English and Spanish and help caregivers replace potentially abusive and/or neglectful parenting methods with positive, nurturing skills. Topics covered include understanding and appropriately processing feelings, promoting alternatives to physical discipline, and early childhood development. When participants attend classes, they are able to access TGP's full suite of services as well as assistance with child supervision.

This past year, we shifted the way we talk about our programming to reflect the continuum of services we provide. TGP models our wraparound services and programs on the US Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) pillars of recovery: health, home, purpose, and community. With this flexible model, members are able to engage with programs and resources simultaneously to meet their needs. This tailored approach using choice-based services allows us to walk alongside and support members' choices in their journey from crisis to stability.

In order to scale programming to this level, we had to grow as a community. Throughout, 2021 TGP brought on 21 new staff positions and had 849 new donors give. With your support, we have been able to grow programming, increasing programmatic expenses by 12%.

As we look to the years ahead, I am filled with gratitude and inspiration for the dedication and commitment of this community. You continue to show up, to look towards the future, and to fight for women, transgender individuals and children to have a path to stability and equity in Denver. While we still have a lot of work to do, it's really inspiring to reflect on the impact that the collective community has had on so many lives. Please join me in taking a look at the member journey with TGP and how your support made a difference.

In gratitude and solidarity,

Julia Stewart
President and CEO
The Gathering Place

BETHANY'S JOURNEY



A Member's Journey from crisis to stability

Education, housing, healthcare and employment policies over time have led to deep inequities, racial disparities, and systemic racism among people experiencing poverty and homelessness. The most marginalized communities—Women, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC individuals—experience poverty and homelessness at disproportionately higher rates than others.

When Denver's women, transgender individuals and their children are faced with these circumstances—they turn to TGP.

While we know a person's journey isn't linear, TGP works to provide wraparound support to meet people where they are and support their choices along their path to recovery and achieving their goals. We understand that when someone is hungry, needs a shower, needs to brush their teeth, or needs a fresh pair of socks and underwear, they cannot focus on things like finding a job, enrolling in insurance, or engaging with other supports. Many members' journeys begin with accessing basic needs and continue into utilizing other long-term supports.

OCT 1, 2020

BEGINNING OF JOURNEY

Bethany was experiencing homelessness in the fall of 2020 after being laid off due to the pandemic. She came to TGP needing immediate support to meet basic needs and to regain housing and employment.

VISIT TO DAY CENTER

Our volunteers greeted Bethany at the Welcome Desk and connected her to a Resource Advocate who met with Bethany one-on-one to introduce her to our services and help her with paperwork, housing applications, shelter referrals, other local resources.

40 VISITS / \$106

TGP'S 24/7 EMERGENCY SHELTER

Bethany stayed in our 24/7 non-congregate emergency shelter, which provides residential-style shelter in a former motel for women, transgender and non-binary individuals experiencing homelessness. We strive to create a low-barrier, safe, and inclusive environment for members to promote stability and wellness.

84-DAY STAY / \$592

MEETING WITH A CASE MANAGER

Bethany also worked with a case manager to set her own goals and develop an individualized care plan to promote greater personal stability. Our case managers specialize in housing navigation and retention and help ensure members, like Bethany, obtain and retain long-term, affordable housing.

69 MEETINGS / \$2,639

WELLNESS PROGRAM

Bethany met with Denver College of Nursing two times for hypertension. Our Wellness Program provides community-based physical health, mental health and wellness and recovery supports. This is done through the Peer Recovery Program, Art Program and Wellness Navigation. We work in partnership with community providers to bring services on site and create intentional referrals and connections.

2 VISITS / \$81

MEALS & FOOD ASSISTANCE

Bethany was able to access three freshly prepared meals (breakfast, lunch and snack) every day in the community dining room. Our chefs prepare nutrient rich foods and offer vegetarian options as well as ensuring that the meals meet the daily USDA nutrition standards.

94 MEALS / \$275

JOBS & EDUCATION CASE MANAGEMENT

Through our Jobs and Education Program, Bethany was able to move from working multiple part-time jobs to a transitional employment program. After completing the program, case managers helped Bethany obtain full-time employment where she is still employed today.

13 MEETINGS / \$2,253

CLOTHING

Bethany was able to find new clothes for a job interview at Bridget's Boutique. Members can access Bridget's Boutique once every month and select from a range of tops, bottoms, accessories, jewelry, and shoes to build or supplement their wardrobe. The Boutique emphasizes providing choice in styles and sizes to ensure that, no matter why members visit, we can help meet their need.

4 ITEMS / \$87

SEPT 31, 2021 TO PRESENT DAY

WHERE SHE IS NOW

Bethany is still housed in her apartment and maintaining stable employment. She says that she is healthier and has a positive outlook for the future, having already made new savings goals for herself.

We all have the opportunity to restore hope, pride and dignity in others. The ripple effect of supporting a member's journey goes beyond the walls of TGP. When members move from a place of crisis to stability, we see them go on to support their families and communities, lifting others up and referring those in need to TGP.

Total cost of member journey

\$6,033

OUR IMPACT

Supporting health, home, purpose and community

We provide members a continuum of services, always at no cost, to support their choices as they journey from crisis to stability. This flexible model is critical in meeting members' basic needs while also providing programming and resources to support the four pillars of recovery: health, home, purpose, and community.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Our 24/7 non-congregate emergency shelter provides residential-style shelter in a former motel.

GENERAL SERVICES

Members have access to showers, hygiene supplies, laundry facilities, a nap room, mail delivery, telephones, computer lab, family area, and a rooftop playground.

NAVIGATION SERVICES

Resource Advocates are able to meet one-on-one, introduce members to services, and refer to external resources such as overnight shelter, transportation, and partner agencies.

BRIDGET'S BOUTIQUE

Our clothing bank helps members find essential seasonal clothing and work attire. Our Family Program offers clothing for infants and children, and vouchers for local thrift stores.

MEALS AND FOOD ASSISTANCE

Freshly prepared meals are served on site three times daily. Our Food Pantry also distributes bags of food. Each member can access up to 30 pounds every month, while families can access up to 90 pounds.

HOUSING-FOCUSED CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Managers address barriers to obtaining housing, and support members as they transition into stable housing.

NURTURING PARENTING® PROGRAM

Trained, certified facilitators offer education in English and Spanish. Topics include understanding and appropriately processing feelings, promoting alternatives to physical discipline, and early childhood development.

ESSENTIAL BABY PRODUCTS

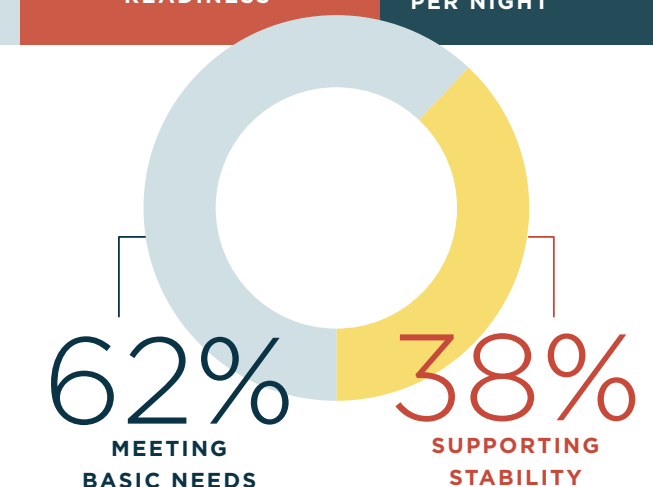
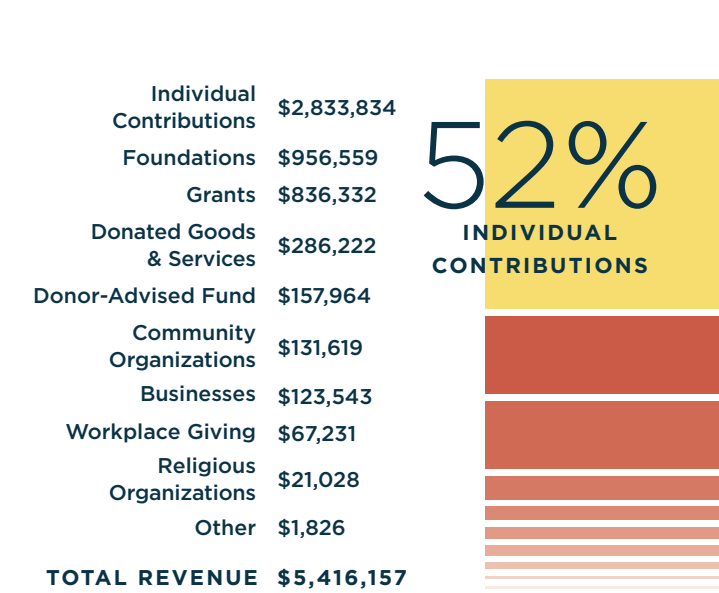
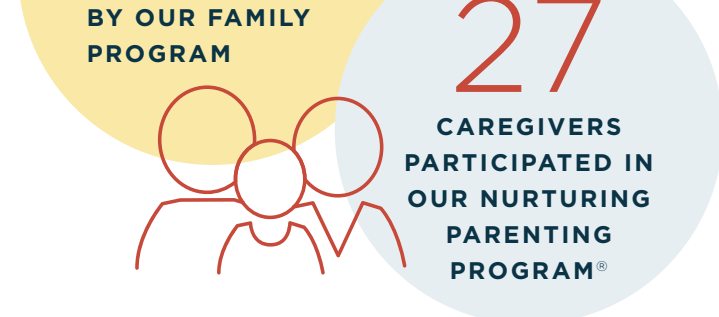
Diapers, wipes and formula are available to families, and Resource Advocates can help get car seats, strollers and other essential infant care items as needed.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

Community health partners come on site to deliver behavioral health services, preventative medical care, dental care, COVID testing and vaccines. A Peer Recovery Program and Arts and Wellness activities are also available for members.

EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS

Education and Job Readiness offers job search, resume and cover letter assistance, and hiring events, case management, and GED classes.



"TGP is a safe haven for people. It's such a good community."

—Sonja, Member and Volunteer

Board of Directors

CHAIR - Michelle Murray, Community Volunteer, Doula and Childbirth Educator

CHAIR-ELECT - Maya Wilbourn, Community Volunteer, Immigration Attorney

TREASURER - Chirag Patel, Shareholder and Treasurer, HolzerIPLaw

SECRETARY - Carlene Graham, Chief Operations Officer, Redwood Trust, Inc.

PRESIDENT - Julia Stewart, The Gathering Place

Shawnda Merriman, Senior Vice President of Post Purchase Operations, Redwood Trust, Inc.

Rick Pandorf, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Allison Panter, Associate Broker/Realtor, Corcoran Perry & Co.

Susan Rodger, Community Volunteer, Mental Health Advocate

Tasha Small, Human Services Supervisor, City and County of Denver, Department of Human Services

Elissa Soden, Impact Consultant, The New Search Collaborative

“Our kids can play,
we can support each
other, and we can
go from surviving to
thriving. It takes time,
but the community
helps so much.”

—Jennifer, Member and
former Board Member



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