
Geographically
Targeted Housing
Outreach
Stakeholder Report

10.24.23

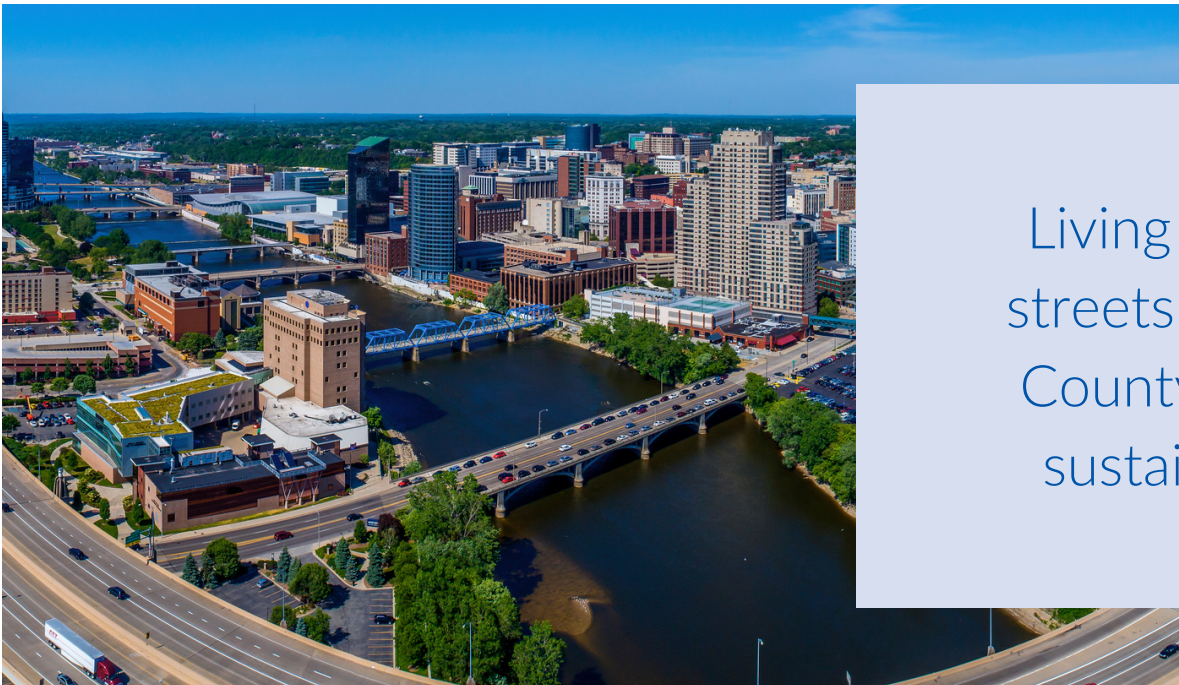
A MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY REBUILDERS

The streets of Kent County were never meant to be homes.

Dear Esteemed Partners and Community Members,

Welcome to our inaugural Quarterly Review for the Geographically Targeted Housing Outreach (GTHO) project. This report encapsulates our collective journey —a comprehensive snapshot of our most recent achievements, financial data, demographic information, and insights about this collaborative community initiative. Our commitment to openness, result-driven strategies, and impactful community change is evident in every page. As we progress towards our goal of eradicating homelessness, we value and invite your continued collaboration and support.

Warmly,
Vera Beech
Executive Director



Living on the
streets in Kent
County is not
sustainable!

INTRODUCTION.....01
 The Geographically Targeted Housing Outreach (GTHO) project, led by Community Rebuilders, aims to transition individuals from the streets to stable housing, restoring one geographic area at a time.

OBJECTIVE.....01
 The primary goal is to ensure that living on the streets is seen as neither safe nor sustainable, to swiftly transition individuals to permanent housing, and to restore the streets of our community to their intended purpose.

APPROACH.....03
Contacts: Housing Focused Outreach efforts recorded that aim at guiding individuals from streets to homes.
Engagement: Symbolizes a mutual commitment to actively pursue housing.

TYPES OF HOUSING SOLUTIONS.....04
Bridge Housing: An interim step between street living and permanent housing, it offers individuals a safe, temporary place where they can focus on their health, well-being, and steps toward finding permanent housing.
Permanent Housing: A long-term housing solution without time constraints.
Rapid Re-housing: Offers immediate housing with short-term assistance.
Permanent Supportive Housing: A long-term solution coupled with supportive services tailored to individual with high service needs.

COST OF CARE.....06
 The project ensures transparent sharing of the investments made to transition individuals from streets to homes.

DEMOGRAPHICS.....06
 The project serves a diverse range of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

PRIORITY AREAS.....07
 Monroe Center and Rosa Parks Circle have been recognized as pivotal locations requiring immediate interventions due to the impact on local businesses and vulnerabilities faced by those residing there. It is the first targeted area.

SUCCESS STORY.....08
 Vince and Alisha, who once resided at Rosa Parks Circle, transitioned from streets to bridge housing and finally to their own apartment, marking a new beginning.

PARTNERSHIPS.....09
 The project underscores the significance of public-private partnerships in ending homelessness and emphasizes the potential impact of monetary support from partners and stakeholders dedicated to reducing unsheltered homelessness.

CONCLUSION.....09
 The GTHO project showcases that collective efforts can bring about transformative changes. Through strategic initiatives and partnerships, the project has made significant strides in its mission to end homelessness. As we continue our journey, we invite further collaboration and support from the community to amplify our impact.

GTHO: A PATH TO PERMANENT HOUSING

Navigating life on the streets can be a daunting challenge filled with uncertainty. Our street outreach workers are dedicated to emphasizing a crucial message: living on the streets is neither safe nor sustainable. With a genuine concern for individuals' health and well-being, they approach with a singular goal – to swiftly connect them to permanent housing, thus ending their experience with homelessness.

FROM STREETS TO STABILITY

Each interaction, labeled as "Contacts" in our records, isn't about making life on the streets bearable. It's a focused effort to transition someone from the unpredictable environment of the streets to the safety and comfort of a home. These pivotal interactions are carefully noted in our HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) as contacts.

ACTION BEYOND WORDS

There's a transformative moment when the individual and our outreach worker align on a shared mission: securing stable housing. We call this "Engagement." The date this commitment is made gets a special note in our HMIS, marking the beginning of a focused journey towards permanent housing.

IN SUMMARY:

Contacts: Direct efforts to guide individuals from the streets to the security of a home.
Engagement: The mutual commitment between our team and the individual to actively pursue stable housing.

Enrolled: Clients currently receiving services from the project.

	Q1 June - Sept	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total number of enrolled persons	14			
Total number of enrolled households	12			
Average length of stay in Outreach (leavers)	13 days			
Average length of stay in Outreach (stayers)	104 days			
Number of engagements recorded	12			
Total contacts made through outreach	21			
% of engaged households	100%			

Leaver: Client who have exited the project

Stayer: Client who is still in the project

BRIDGING THE GAP

While 'Engagement' marks a pivotal moment, it's often just the beginning of a nuanced journey. For many individuals, the path from the streets to permanent housing is most often paved with an important interim step: bridge housing.

BRIDGE HOUSING

Bridge housing is like a brief pause on one's journey toward lasting stability. While short-lived, it offers a vital reprieve from the unpredictability of the streets. Here, individuals regain control over the simple yet profound rhythms of life: when to eat, sleep, work, and relax. It's a space where they can find respite, focus on their well-being, and, most importantly, actively work towards their ultimate goal: securing permanent housing. Think of bridge housing not as a destination, but as a secure platform from which to confidently stride forward to a future home.

The journey to stable housing isn't always linear. Some days have witnessed great progress, while others see familiar retreats to the streets. Through it all, we remain steadfast, harnessing a strengths-based approach. Recognizing the profound challenges of this transition, we persistently re-engage with understanding and empathy. Every step, forward or back, we're there, committed to guiding each individual home. When challenges have happened we often reach out to our partners on the City of Grand Rapids Homeless Outreach Team to help locate and guide the individual back toward their housing resource specialist and the goal of permanent housing.



Our teams have worked tirelessly, understanding each individual's unique circumstances and crafting tailored plans. Whether it's trauma-informed care, health services, or regular goal setting we strive to ensure that every individual's specific needs are met.

IDENTIFYING HOUSING NEEDS AND OPTIONS

In bridge housing, individuals prepare for their chosen permanent home. It's no easy task to find and secure permanent housing. Throughout the project, we are carefully coordinating with community partners to ensure efficient and effective use of the coordinated entry system and the permanent supportive housing opportunities in our community. We are seeking landlords, working on preventing future episodes of homelessness, and rallying the strengths of each individual to achieve their goal of permanent housing. Many will need long-term housing solutions such as permanent supportive housing, some will utilize rapid re-housing to quickly secure a place to stay while others may benefit from permanent housing that doesn't include supportive services.

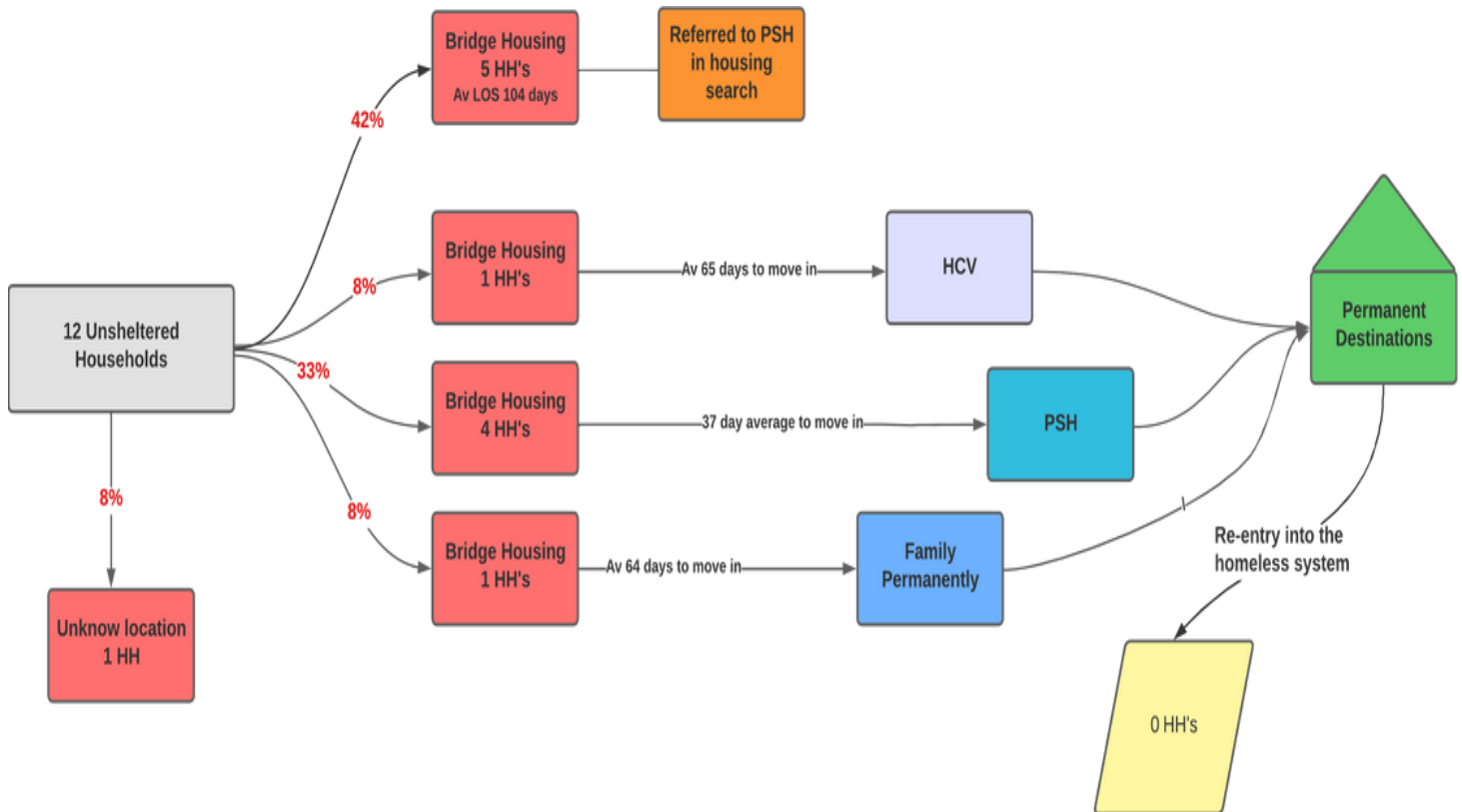
TYPE OF HOUSING UTILIZED

Bridge Housing: Bridge housing is a brief, secure respite from the streets, empowering individuals to regain life's rhythms and focus on their ultimate goal of securing permanent housing

Rapid Re-housing (RRH): It's like a helping hand for housing. Not only does it provide folks with a home quickly, but it also offers short-term help, like rent assistance and voluntary supportive services to ensure they transition smoothly and stay stably housed. This is most suitable for persons who will be able to stabilize in permanent housing with short-term assistance.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): It's permanent housing but with an added bonus! Beyond a stable place to live, individuals also receive supportive services tailored to their needs, ensuring they have the best chance to thrive in their new home.

Other Permanent Housing (PH): A long-term housing solution that doesn't impose time limits, allowing individuals to have a stable place they can call home indefinitely.



Data Source: HMIS, Community Rebuilders
Date Range: 6/1/23-10/15/23
Population: Unsheltered Homeless, GTO

UNDERSTANDING THE INVESTMENT: THE COST OF CARE

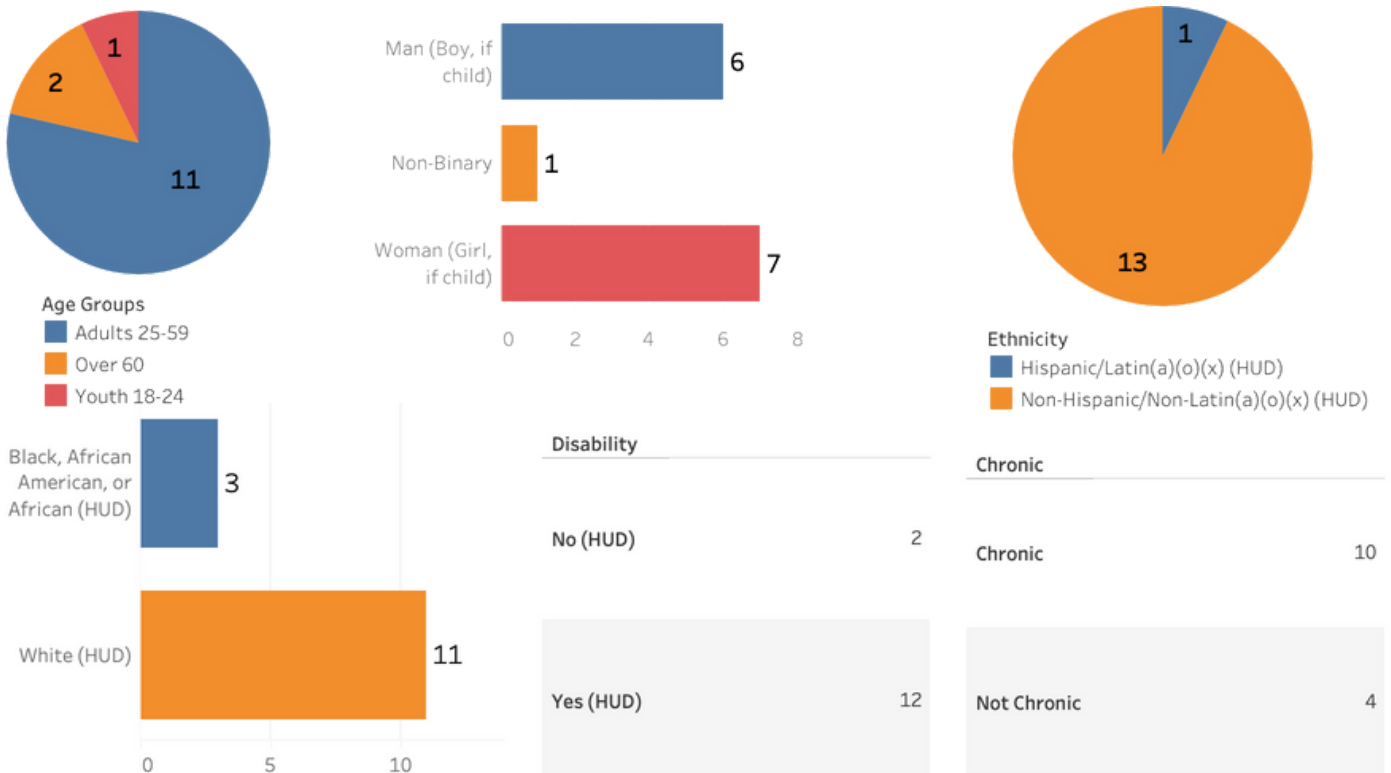
Every individual we serve is unique, and so are their needs. As we work diligently to provide a bridge from the streets to a stable home, it's important to transparently share the investment behind these efforts. The following section breaks down the costs associated with serving our community members to date. By understanding these figures, we can better appreciate the value of each step taken towards a brighter, more stable future for all.

AVERAGE COST PER PERSON

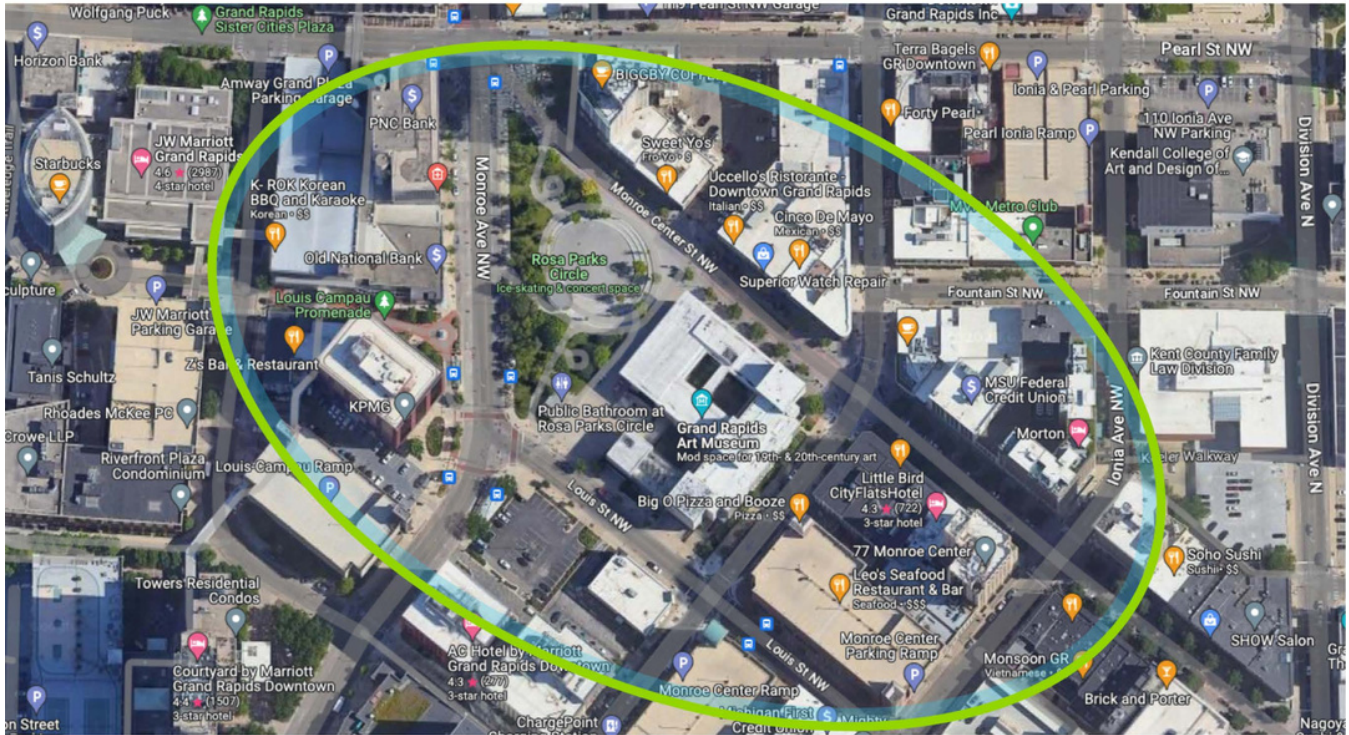
	Q1 June - Sept	Q2	Q3	Q4
Bridge Housing	\$1,677			
Rapid Re-housing	\$108			
Other Direct Financial Assistance	\$86			
Supportive Service (Staffing/OH)	\$4,661			
Totals	\$6,532			

A CLOSER LOOK: WHO ARE WE SERVING?

Beyond the numbers and financials, it's crucial to understand the faces and stories behind our costs. As we break down our expenditure, let's also shed light on the diverse range of individuals we've had the privilege to serve. Their backgrounds, experiences, and needs provide context to our investments and illuminate the real, human impact of our work.



ZOOMING IN: PRIORITIZING MONROE CENTER AND ROSA PARKS CIRCLE



Every community has its unique challenges and strengths. Monroe Center and Rosa Parks Circle are no exception. These areas have been identified as priority regions due to the significant community impact and the vulnerabilities faced by those residing there. Local businesses have felt the ripple effects, underscoring the urgent need for intervention. By directing our focus towards these pivotal locations, we not only address immediate concerns but are also investing in the future vibrancy and resilience of the area.

Monroe Center and Rosa Parks Circle have seen a remarkable transformation as of September 24th. Thanks to our dedicated efforts, the area is now ready for its next phase of rejuvenation. Local businesses have noticed and appreciated the changes. We eagerly await the city's next steps to uphold this progress, confident in our joint mission to enhance our community and identify next priority areas where we can restore the streets to their intended purpose in recognition of the strengths and needs of all community members.

THE HUMAN PRIORITY

After detailing the broader efforts in Monroe Center and Rosa Parks Circle, it's essential to remember the real, individual impacts of our work. Every face tells a story; every interaction can lead to a new chapter.



Meet Vince and Alisha

These two were a familiar sight at Rosa Parks Circle, with their makeshift bed on the cold, hard sidewalk. Their story, like so many, is laced with challenges and hesitations. Alisha's persistent illness, intensified as they had spent more than a year of nights on the concrete, and Vince's part-time job earnings painted a bleak picture of their futures. They had hesitations and fears and courage! The couple accepted an offer of Bridge housing within the first week that they spoke to our housing-focused outreach team. Their progress didn't stop there. Within two weeks, with the support of Community Rebuilders' Shelter Plus Care program, they had signed a lease for their own apartment, marking the end of their homelessness journey and the start of a new, stable chapter. From the moment they turned the key to their new home, Vince and Alisha were relieved to have found a place of their own to call home and they consider it a place of new beginnings ready to start achieving their dreams! They have overcome the most daunting challenges and their story is an inspiration to those who face adversity and a testament to the power of community in creating a brighter future.

*names and images changed for confidentiality

Each step of this journey, from the first outreach contact to settling into permanent housing, is filled with stories of resilience, hope, and transformation. We're proud to be part of these stories, making a tangible difference in countless lives every day.

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
TO END HOMELESSNESS

This Quarterly Progress Report is a testament to our unwavering commitment to the GTHO project and the community we cherish. Our success owes much to the collaborative spirit of our community. To our partners, stakeholders, and community members, your unwavering support has been our backbone. Now, we extend an invitation to others: seize the opportunity to join us in this transformative journey. Your monetary contributions can propel this work further, ensuring that each street we restore brings hope to countless individuals. Together, we can write the next chapter of transformation and recovery for our community. Seize this opportunity to make a lasting difference.

We thank our current partners for your continued effort to end homelessness in our community.

City of Grand Rapids | Kent County | Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. |
Downtown Grand Rapids Businesses | Grand Rapids Area Coalition to
End Homelessness

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