



NEW VISIONS
HOMELESS SERVICES

Envisioning Change Where It's Needed Most

18-MONTH IMPACT REPORT • JANUARY 2023-JUNE 2024



Hello. Friends!



The last 18 months at New Visions Homeless Services (NVHS) have been marked by extraordinary strides in advancing our mission: to serve individuals and families experiencing hunger and homelessness in our community.

We've strengthened our partnerships and expanded our services for veterans, street-outreach, food security, and education/employment programs. We've invested in lasting solutions to homelessness. We have done all this while responding to the critical needs of families who lost housing and stability due to the devastating tornados, storms, and flooding we've experienced in our region.

As I stepped into my second year of leadership at NVHS, I realized how far we have come as an organization. We have diversified our Board of Directors so that our leadership now includes a wealth of talent and lived experiences that represent the individuals we serve. We have retained 95% of our staff and even added several positions. We have been working to grow our scope of service and meet community needs while laying the groundwork for the necessary infrastructure that will serve our community for decades to come.

Most importantly, we have had an IMPACT!

As homelessness increased throughout our nation in 2023, NVHS stood strong, providing innovative solutions and stronger community partnerships to provide a pathway out of homelessness and -- wherever possible -- to prevent it all together. Our Board of Directors and staff have created a new strategic plan that will guide us into the future while identifying core values we can use as a light to remember why we do this important work.

I am pleased to present to you our latest Impact Report. I hope you will enjoy reading about recent milestones, accomplishments, and upcoming projects, as well as testimonials from some of our clients about the effect NVHS has had on their lives. All of this illustrates the effect that our programs are having on solving hunger and homelessness in our community.

In Extreme Gratitude for Your Support,

Brandy Wallar
President & CEO
New Visions Homeless Services

NVHS VALUES

- Empowering Growth with Authenticity
- Vibrant and Joyful Atmosphere
- Committed to Trusted Relationships
- Loving Others Through Human Kindness
- Meeting People Where They Are
- Inclusive and Diverse Place Where Everyone Belongs



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TIMELINE

2024

- Focus on Identity
- Community Engagement and Public Relations
- Personnel Governance and Oversight
- Staff/Personnel Development and Culture
- Safety and Crisis Management Program
- Veteran Capital Campaign - Omaha
- Data-Driven Decision Making

2025

- Data-Driven Decision Making Continued
- Community Engagement and Public Relations Continued
- Diversify Funding
- Break Ground on New Veteran's Campus

2026+

- Diversify Funding Continued
- Service Expansion

A LOOK BACK

Every year since our inception in 1995, New Visions Homeless Services (NVHS) has gained greater insight into furthering our mission of providing help, hope, and opportunities to our neighbors experiencing homelessness and hunger in the Council Bluffs and Omaha area.

We've built on our successes and faced our challenges. This Impact Report is a snapshot of how our programs have provided for over 20,000 low – and no-income individuals in our communities every year. Through street outreach, emergency shelter, food security, transitional and supportive housing, and prevention programming, we walk alongside the homeless and hungry as they strive forward to the next phase of their lives.

Looking back at the work accomplished by all involved with NVHS from January 2023 to June of 2024, one thing is clear – there has been significant impact on the lives of people who need and seek services. Our staff, volunteers, donors, and board members are the unsung heroes who help other heroes retain their human dignity.

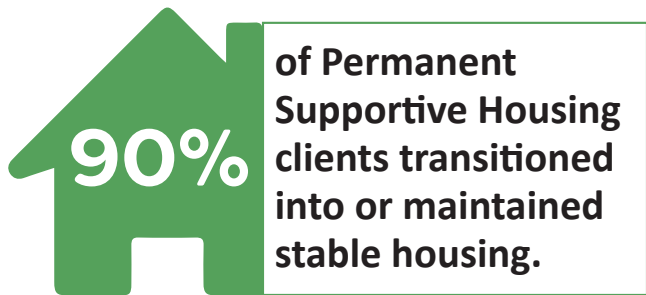


We are immensely grateful for the generosity of the Council Bluffs and Omaha communities, which only continues to grow. To all our friends who donated goods or provided hands-on outreach support – thank you for helping us give help and hope to those who may have lost sight of a stable future. Together, we all make a brighter tomorrow, today.

Thank you from the New Visions team!

FOCUSING ON TOMORROW, TODAY

New Visions Homeless Services is a leading force for ending homelessness in the Council Bluffs and Omaha areas. Our efforts help provide the basic human needs of shelter, food, clothing, and safety for individuals facing countless barriers and a lifetime of trauma. From January 2023 to June 2024, our programs, with locations in Council Bluffs and Omaha, provided the following services to those most vulnerable, helping thousands of people:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEERS



27 organizations came together to re-carpet our entire Omaha Veteran's Campus with help from our Veteran guests. Chris Beaty, the Nebraska State VFW Commander and leader of the project, laid the final carpet square to cap off this meaningful gift. Thank you!



NVHS took over hosting the Council Bluffs annual shoe drive, formerly led by 712 Initiative. Since 2015, the Council Bluffs community has rallied together each spring to collect used shoes. 7,925 pairs of shoes were collected at various sites around the city!



Our annual Holiday Event is a community-wide celebration that serves about 4,500 individuals by providing basic needs and holiday gift assistance. This way, families can continue to pour their hard-earned resources into paying for their housing.



In 2023, Share Iowa instituted a "Do Gooder of the Year" award and presented it to a group of our most faithful friends, who have come together to serve meals at our Council Bluffs site for over 10 years!

VOLUNTEERS

We are honored by the contributions of so many volunteers who contribute to our mission.

**TOTAL INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS: 1373**

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER
HOURS: 4,442**

WIDENING OUR LENS OF SUPPORT

THE DONNA PROJECT

New Visions began in 1995 with one man bringing peanut butter sandwiches to the places where food was needed most in Council Bluffs. When our founder realized how badly people also need HOPE, he named his work “Messengers of Hope Ministries, or MOHM.” Soon, he was joined by Donna Campbell (Sister Campbell) who helped him cook food and serve up HOPE to thousands of hungry people. Donna became the original “mom” of MOHM’s Place. So, in 2023, when our partnerships with the Foodbank of the Heartland and the Council Bluffs Noon Rotary brought us a food truck, we named that truck in honor of Donna. In the spring of 2024, The Donna Project made her first voyage, serving up food, showers, and resource information to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in our city. As of September 1st, 2024, The Donna Project has served 241 unique individuals and provided:

407
MEALS PROVIDED

52
SHOWERS PROVIDED

In addition, The Donna Project assisted 5 individuals in locating a safe housing destination and guided seven people to move out of street-level homelessness into a shelter.

WARMING CENTER

One of the ways we meet the challenge of growing street-level homelessness is through a winter warming center that provides shelter from the harsh elements. This day-center offers a warm meal, clothing, and access to resources for those most in need. In the winter of 2024, our Warming Center served:

264
UNDUPLICATED CLIENTS,
INCLUDING 171 MEN
AND 93 WOMEN

1,395 MEALS

1,277
HYGIENE &
CLOTHING ITEMS

100+ SHOWERS





DISASTER RELIEF

In the spring and summer of 2024, our community was devastated by tornadoes and floods. These disasters collided with rising prices of food and rent to create a catastrophe for many who were already struggling to make ends meet. Through the support of local donors like Tyson Meats and the allocation of \$85,000 in disaster relief funds from the United Way of the Midlands and the Community Foundation for Western Iowa, New Visions was able to support struggling families by providing:

- Hotel assistance
- First month's rent and deposit for families forced to relocate
- Moving costs
- Clean-up costs
- Food assistance
- Household items
- Home or auto repairs
- Gas and food gift cards

**As of September 1st, 2024,
New Visions has supported
413 families (1,119 individuals)
with disaster relief assistance.**



WIDENING OUR LENS OF SUPPORT

NEW VISIONS BRINGS NEW HOPE FOR VETERANS

In 2023, homelessness among Veterans in the United States increased by 7% as a growing number reach retirement age with a fixed income and cannot afford the skyrocketing cost of rent. To meet this challenge, New Visions has secured 9.9 acres in Omaha to build a brand-new 46-unit permanent supportive housing complex that will accommodate our aging Veterans.

In the next 10 years, homelessness among senior veterans is projected to triple due to lack of affordable housing and access. All units will be handicapped-accessible and allow veterans to age in place.

Last year, our community saw six Veterans pass away on the streets. This is unacceptable. At NVHS, we do everything we can to make sure the words homeless and veteran will no longer be uttered in the same sentence. We are designing every aspect of this facility to provide the support our Veterans, who so selflessly served our country, deserve. We will offer them a space to age in place and to die with dignity when that time comes. They will not be alone.

To support this important work for our Veterans, contact our staff.

IN ADDITION, THIS COMPLEX WILL PROVIDE:

- Dining hall with at least one community meal each day
- A “hot box” to mitigate bed bug outbreaks
- Offices to accommodate partners who also serve Veterans
- On-site access to NVHS mental health and substance abuse therapists
- Walking trails on the grounds for both the Veteran residents and the neighboring community
- A pet washroom
- Elevators and accessible units



This past year, a Veteran who used to live in the alley close to our Omaha Veteran's Campus painted this storage container as a gift to beautify our campus. This Veteran is now sober, housed, and giving back to his community in positive ways like this.



MEET STEVE

Steve's journey at New Visions Omaha began 13 years ago when he arrived as a broken soul, battling drug addiction, gambling, homelessness, and anger issues. A US Marine, Steve had been in and out of shelters and had hit rock bottom. Initially seen as a difficult case, the staff worked patiently with him, offering time and trust, which he credits as key to his transformation. Steve Roberts, the Omaha Site Director, allowed Steve to vent his anger and even provided his personal cell number for support. Over time, Steve overcame his addictions and learned to manage his anger. Now a leader on campus, Steve helps fellow veterans, drives them to appointments, and assists with conflict resolution. He reflects, "I never dreamed I'd be where I am today, and I owe so much to the staff who believed in me when I didn't believe in myself."

STRENGTHENING OUR VISION

ADVOCACY



National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington DC



Co-Responder conference strengthening community relationship - OPD Chief of Police



National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington DC



CEO Brandy Wallar graduated from Leadership Iowa

AWARDS



For the second consecutive year, NVHS named an Unbelievable Workplace by the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce



Willie Austin, NVHS Veteran's Program Officer, completed the Nonprofit Executive Institute



Recipient of the CORE Bank Community Impact Award

2023-2024 BOARD LIST

Brandy Wallar

Chief Executive Officer
New Visions Homeless Services

Chairman

Joseph Thornton

Smith Peterson Law Firm

Vice-Chairman

Rachel Lewis

Mutual of Omaha

Secretary

Kasha Wilson

Centris Federal Credit Union

Treasurer

Amy Grigsby

American National Bank

DIRECTORS

John Ashford

City of Omaha

Jason Blum

PowerTech (Veteran)

Oscar Durán

Municipal Housing
Agency of Council Bluffs

TJ Ewin

City of Omaha (Veteran)

Sandra Fueller

Vocational Rehabilitation
Specialists Inc. (Formerly
Homeless Veteran)

Stan Hawkins

Bellevue University (Veteran)

Dean Mathisen

Retired from Federal
Service - US House of
Representatives (Veteran)

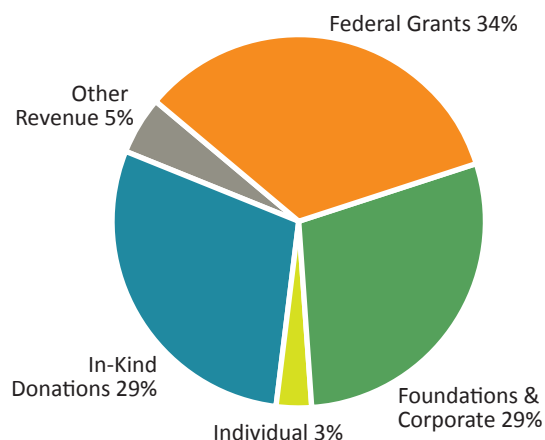
Steven Moore

Scolular

Leslie Wrinkle

Family Inc.

FINANCIALS



Federal Grants	\$ 2,188,100
Foundations & Corporate	\$ 1,826,300
Individual	\$ 172,200
In-Kind Donations	\$ 1,848,200
Other Revenue	\$ 330,700
Total	\$ 6,365,500



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

At NVHS, we work with an incredible and ever-expanding network of partners and allies to make sure that no one falls between the cracks due to lack of collaboration. We aren't exaggerating when we say there are simply too many invaluable partners to list here. We couldn't do it without our incredible donors, volunteers, and partners in social services, public housing, education, mental and physical health care, jobs training, food preparation and supply, transportation...and so much more. Thank you!



NEW VISIONS

HOMELESS SERVICES

www.newvisionshs.org



Council Bluffs Campus
1435 N. 15th St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
712-256-3940

Omaha Veteran's Campus
1425 N. 18th St.
Omaha, NE 68104
402-505-3523

