

WELCOME HOME

Andrea K. Urton
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Chief Executive Officer



Partners & Stakeholders,

Growth and investment are two words which come to mind for this past fiscal year. We have been intentional about making time to plan and discuss how our business develops to meet the changing needs of our communities. We have made space for new partnerships and doubled down on reviewing internal systems.

This purposeful stretch of our work has led us to new tables of conversation in Sonoma County, expanded some long-standing relationships, and sparked a wave of excitement for our teams. Across the agency, we have been digging deep and talking about how to do more – serve more than we ever imagined 40+ years ago.

OUR FY22 SERVICE DATA*



5,218 Individuals



606 Children



536 Seniors



499 Veterans

Our continued belief that everyone deserves a home rises to every occasion – it is our guide for each decision made. We say this often, it is our truth - we could not travel this path without you! Every moment you give to us means we are one step closer to fulfilling our mission.

In Partnership,

Andrea K. Urton



HOMEGROWN

With an agency focus on infrastructure and systems excellence, our team had an opportunity to deliver on these strategies in a broad scale when we stepped into Sonoma County. For this project we switched from being service delivery experts to apply our knowledge in building equity to access and care.

PLANTING SEEDS & GROWING ROOTS

In any community you visit in the United States, the local Coordinated Entry System is the central pathway through which people experiencing homelessness can access permanent housing. These efforts include facilitating the efforts of the many partnering agencies and staff to connect vulnerable people to housing programs. HomeFirst was awarded the contract to operate the Coordinated Entry System (CES) in Sonoma County beginning in April 2022.

When we entered the community, we saw immediately that much needed to be done and we got to work, reaching several milestones in the first 10 months:

- Hiring an all-star team to ensure the over 250 staff engaging with the system are trained, our data provides the community with actionable analysis, and the day-to-day operations throughout the system flow smoothly.
- We redeveloped the official Sonoma County CES Policies and Procedures with a focus on nationwide best practices, and a Vision Statement based on the voices of community stakeholders.
- To reach every region of the county, we engaged 21 brand new partner organizations to join as "front door" system access points.
- We increased access for BIPOC and youth populations.
- To match highly vulnerable people to permanent housing resources, our team leads a weekly case review meeting of about 50 staff from participating agencies.
- In the last quarter alone we provided 32 organized trainings on a range of topics and almost 30 hours of 1-on-1 consulting services to community providers.
- We produced a deep-dive data report that uncovered system inequalities to support the Continuum of Care in reducing barriers.
- We became primary contributors to the county-wide effort to reach "functional zero" through Builtfor-Zero, which is a nationally proven methodology to measurably end homelessness*.

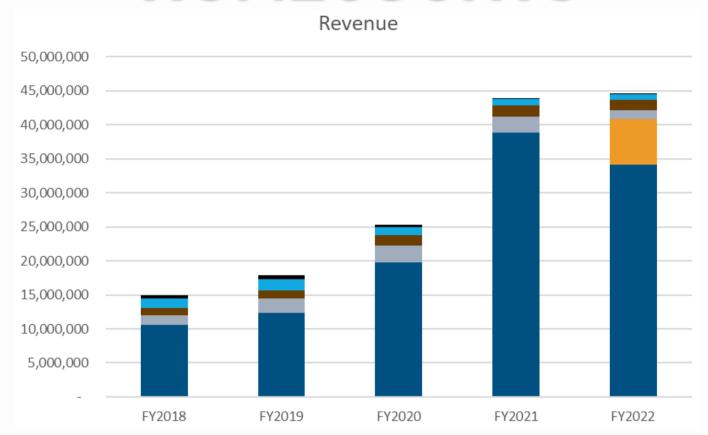
Through these efforts, 559 people have moved into permanent housing. We are so appreciative of the many organizations that have placed trust in us through all the changes, and look forward to continuous system leadership opportunities in the year to come!

Our roots in Sonoma County deepened towards the end of FY22- with the award of the HomeKey Project for Labath Landing. Scan the QR code from more program information.





HOMECOUNTS







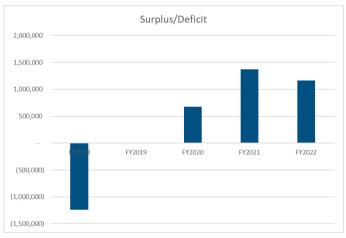


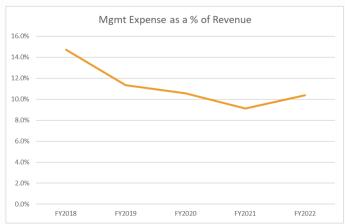






A snapshot of our budget demonstrates we are not just talking the talk when we drop nuggets like growth and investment. Our portfolio of support was more diverse in FY22 than in the previous four financial years. As we have maintained some positive working capital for new programs, while managing low-overhead expense.







HOMEMADE

You are a critical ingredient to helping create success stories like Chris & Millinh. It is an honor to be a part of the journey of someone traveling the path of homeless to housed. Their stories are the heart of this community.



Chris was homeless, living on the street, and addicted to drugs.

The HomeFirst Outreach Team encountered Chris, provided him with a Hygiene Kit-donated to HomeFirst by an area non-profit-and talked to him. Over the years, Chris had been to several different Bay Area shelters. His experiences there had not been positive, so he was reluctant to move into another shelter.



Through his on-going relationship with the HomeFirst Outreach Team, Chris was willing to give HomeFirst a try and moved into BHC - Mabury.

Chris was afraid to be alone. So afraid, in fact, that some nights he slept in the Mabury Common Area instead of his room. One night, a HomeFirst employee connected with Chris, and Chris began to trust the employee and to believe that this employee truly cared. They soon began to discuss Chris' addiction, and eventually, Chris agreed to start working with a therapist who visits HomeFirst sites weekly to meet with participants.

When your goal each day is to find a place to sleep, when your goal is to find sustenance, and when your goal is to survive to the next day, how can you focus on long-term goals like sobriety and permanent housing?

Over time through his work with HomeFirst staff and his therapist, Chris became an upbeat, responsible, model participant. He also gained sobriety and began to focus on personal goals, one of which was to get a job, so he signed up for HomeFirst's, "Employment Week" at Mabury BHC, a week-long event organized by staff at Mabury BHC and the Community Engagement Team. Participants work with professional volunteers and staff to create resumes, conduct mock interviews, and select clothing to wear to interviews.

Chris expressed to staff his anxiety about how his past could impact employers' impressions of him. The Community Engagement Coordinator helped Chris develop answers to questions that might arise and helped Chris see that overcoming adversity is a positive trait many employers seek. At the end of the sessions, Chris said, "I feel like I am hirable, and I am ready to go interview and get a job right now!" Chris was offered a job with three different employers. He accepted an offer from Tesla.

Chris moved into his new apartment in July 2022. The transition was made easier thanks to an Exit-to-Housing Kit provided by donors and volunteers. The Kit included a sheet and comforter set, kitchen and bath towel sets, cleaning supplies, dishware, flatware, and cookware.

Chris said, "My life has changed since I got an apartment. I get to worry about myself, but in the right way. I feel safer. I know how to care about stuff again."





Millinh

Like so many other immigrants, Millinh's family came to the United States seeking a better life. When Millinh's father, an engineer, lost his job, Millinh and her family lost their housing. They lived on the streets. The lived in a U-Haul truck. They lived in other inhospitable places.

Millinh remembers that time in her life. "Everyone thinks, 'Oh, it must be so nice in California. Palm trees and sun.' But I couldn't enjoy that because I'm homeless."

As a student, my problem should just be my homework, but instead, my problem is, "Am I going to sleep in a bed tonight or on the street?" Millinh was experiencing the trauma so many homeless individuals experience. She came to school one day, crying, and begged the school for resources to help her. The school provided the phone number for the Here4You Hotline, and Millinh's family were connected to HomeFirst.

HomeFirst found a spot for Millinh's family in the Sunnyvale Shelter, one of the few that accepts children as well as adults. For the first time in awhile, they had regular hot meals, a place to wash and dry their clothes for school, a shower, and a bed. Donors provided backpacks filled with needed school supplies to Millinh and her younger brother.

When Millinh's father found a new job, HomeFirst Housing Specialists helped them find an affordable housing apartment. HomeFirst donors gave the family Exit-to-Housing Kits to help their transition back to permanent housing. Upon moving in, Millinh began to find a renewed stability.

She graduated high school and enrolled at San Jose State University, pursuing the same field as her father, engineering. Last semester, Millinh had the opportunity to develop technical, professional, and networking skills during her internship at Sanmina Corporation, a Fortune 500 company.

Millinh said, "How far can I look ahead now that I don't have to think about homelessness, and I don't have to think about not being able to go to college? Now, there are a lot more possibilities."

In the future, Millinh and her younger brother want to be able to give back to organizations like HomeFirst. "It's a nice way to give thanks."

HOMETOWN

HomeFirst offers more than 40 programs and services to unhoused individuals and those experiencing housing insecurity to fulfill our mission to end homelessness. More than 600 individuals, families, donor advised funds, community organizations, foundations, corporations, and government agencies support HomeFirst and our vision of a community in which each person has a home. Thank you for being our HomeTown supporters!

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San Jose Behavioral Health
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Sonoma County
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U.S Department of Veteran Families
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Virginia Olenak James & Margaret Shulman Peter & Gail Yessne

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Paul & Deborah Baker
Stephen & Mary Ellen Barasch
Alan & Mary Jo Bernard
Frank Biehl
Michael & Carol Lavelle
Allan & Harriet McLeod
Robert & Carol Ann Nulk
Louella Romero
Rochelle Rubenstein
Judy Stabile
Anna Marie Wichansky

SINCE 1992

Sanford & Ann Benett
Ann & Michael Blach
Daina Carbonaro
John & Paula Figini
Richard & Dolores Harbrecht

SINCE 1992 CONTINUED

Martha Johnson
Edward Nauss
Martin & Lisa Rauch
Donald & Ann Rothblatt
Prasad Saggurti
Edgar & Gail Ross Thrift
Saul & Maria Villanueva

SINCE 1993

Cora Flemate

SINCE 1994

John & Carol Bower Richard & Sandi Conniff Robert & Kathleen Dolci Linda Grevera

SINCE 1995

Linda Davis & Serge Rudaz Barry & Toby Fernald Ellie Smith Michael & Mary Van Riper

SINCE 1996

Jerome Ososkie

SINCE 1997

Peggy O'Laughlin Peter & Teresa Patron Thomas Rindfleisch

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Debra Cohen & John Swartley
Michael & Roxanne Davis
Steven Kleiman & Helen Bradley
Laura Liccardo
Thomas Miller & Barbara Rosen
Angela & Michael Szymusiak
Jeff & Catherine Thermond
Martha Young & Vincent Wolff

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Debbi & George Behrman
Elizabeth Brinkman &
Gregory Scott
Lawrence & Anne Hambly
Barton & Carrie Hechtman
Sheryl Heckmann
Earl & Donna Nichols
Bruce & Janice Peetz
Kimberly Walesh

SINCE 2000

William Benson
Gary Campanella
Robert & Sara Ellman
Ellen & Keith Kitchen
Barbara & Scott Knaster
Dawn & Herb Ko

SINCE 2000 CONTINUED

Janette Mello
Victor Ragni
Maryellen & David Saxby
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Bustamante
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Harrison
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Denise Bridgeman
Jeff LaTourrette
Don & Ulrike Perata

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Sara Hazlewood & Scott Slade
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Rosa Penns
Jeff & Laura Robbin
Elene Terry
Ronald & Ann Whyte

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Jayaraman
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Nielsen
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Li-Cheng Tai
Sheila Watt
Nancy Zurbrick

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Louella Bourgerie
Mark & Mari Donnelly
Alfred Drumm
Kenneth Guzik
David McCullough
Andrew & Nicholeen
Nagrodsky-Scott
Timothy & Suzanne
Parmentier
Ralph Torres

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Elaine Roberts
Brad & Janet Santos
Larry & Gail Smith
Glenn Telega

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SINCE 2012

Ralph Edfelt Brian & Kristin Link Brad & Laurie Vroom

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Michael Carlton
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Cathy Conk
Julie Finnigan
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Karl Kramer & Mary
Takahashi
Edward Lipinsky
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Dominique Monbureau
Martha Schumacher
Kathryn Shinnick

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Virginia Carpio
Lidwine & Francisco Da
Silva
David Doolin
William Fisher
Michelle Henninger
Virginia Hernandez
Emily & Wingo Huang
Bret & Sheryl Hydorn
Margaret Keenan
Nick & Gail Kepler
Michelle McGurk
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In From the Cold Hopse For Home

Thank you to all our sponsors and donors who supported the **2021 In From The Cold: Hope For Home** Gala! Although this event was held virtually due to the pandemic, we successfully raised over **\$200,000**! The ongoing support we receive will continue to elevate HomeFirst mission to provide a continuum of care for those who are unhoused or facing housing insecurities in the Bay Area.

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Every effort for accuracy has been made. Please report any errors to Rocio Gutierrez at (408) 539-2106 or via email at rmgutierrez@homefirstscc.org.

For more information about future events, please connect with Devyn Maugel at (408) 510-7634 or via email at dmaugel@homefirstscc.org.

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Are you interested in joining our

Board of Directors or Advisory Council?

Please connect with Sheila Lau at slau@homefirstscc.org

Thank you!