

2024

Impact
Report



*A place of hope & change for women
on their journey to stability.*

Dear Friends of The Sophia Way,

As we reflect on 2024, we are inspired by the progress we have made together. We served more women, engaged more volunteers, and received increased support from the community - both financially and through in-kind donations. We raised wages for our shelter staff, celebrated 15 years of service, and successfully concluded our 2021 strategic plan, *The Sophia Way Forward*. These achievements are a testament to our collective efforts and dedication.

Looking ahead to 2025, we recognize the strength of our programs. We are leaders in helping women achieve long-term housing stability, always prioritizing care and compassion in our approach. We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering the highest level of support to those we serve, knowing that our services will continue to be essential. The ongoing affordable housing crisis in our region disproportionately affects the women we support.

Our focus in 2025 will be on strengthening our organization by:

- Securing financial support to offset reductions in government funding
- Housing more women
- Ensuring staff stability through livable wages

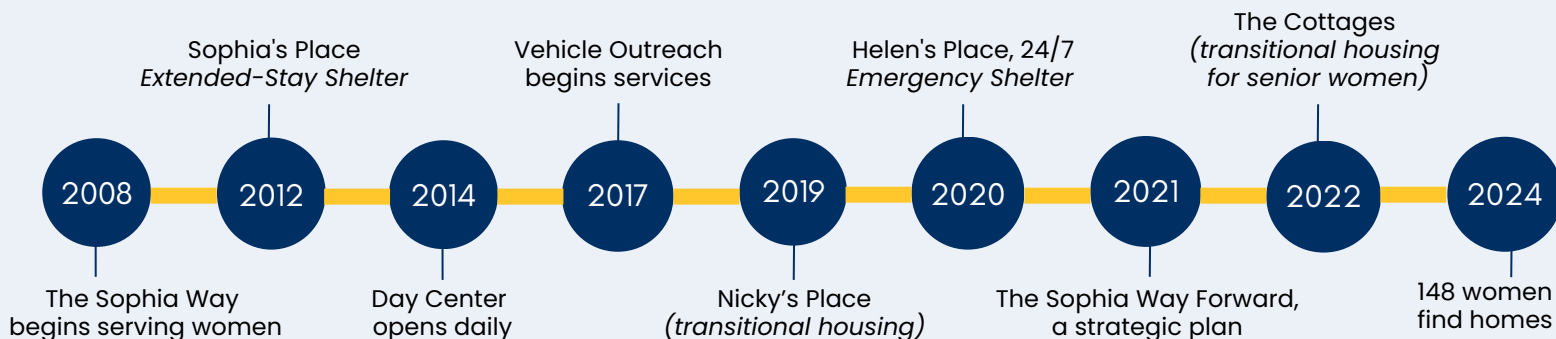
We invite you to walk alongside women experiencing homelessness and join us in our commitment to our vision: a community where all women have a place to call home.

Dietra Clayton
Executive Director

Danielle Porter
Board Chair

Our Journey

Responding to growing needs, we have continuously expanded our programs. From eight mats on the floor of a church, we now have two shelters (open 24/7), a day center, vehicle outreach, and two transitional housing programs that support over 100 women every day!



A comprehensive continuum of care, extending beyond shelter.



148 women found
a place to call home.



486 women had shelter,
safety, and stability
through our programs.

\$205,000 directly
supported women, including
\$98,000 in move-in costs.



Individuals & corporate employees
volunteered **7,711** hours.



Individuals & groups provided
36,453 nourishing meals.

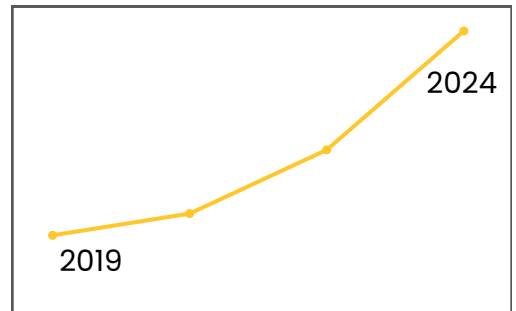


\$393,318 in
in-kind donations
provided necessities.

Homelessness is More Than Losing a Home.

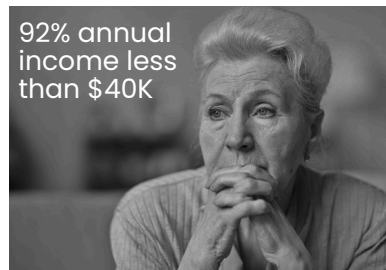
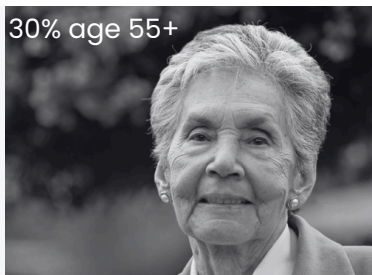
Maria never thought she'd end up alone, afraid, and with nowhere to go. Just months ago, she had a home and a family, but now unable to afford rent on the Eastside, she stayed on a friend's couch – until she outstayed her welcome. With nowhere left to turn, she found herself on the streets, navigating a world she never imagined. Every day became a battle to find a safe place to sleep, shower, and simply rest.

Homelessness can be brutal, debilitating, and traumatic. Without stable and ongoing support, the physical, mental, and emotional stressors are overwhelming.



46% increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness.
Source: KCRHA

The women we serve and you support.

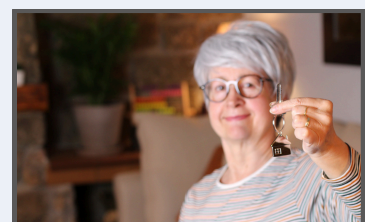
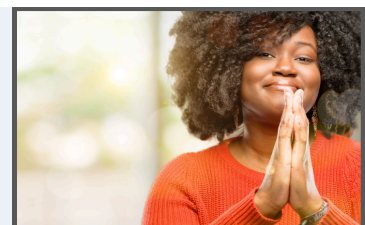


Barriers to housing

- Rising rents and lack of affordable housing
- Insufficient income
- Lack of job opportunities
- Trauma and domestic violence
- Discrimination and systemic barriers (past evictions, criminal records, or disabilities, etc.)

At the heart of our mission are three pillars: Shelter, Safety, and Stability – ensuring women have the support they need to rebuild their lives.

“The Sophia Way gave me a home and security in life. They gave me hope, peace of mind, stability, happiness.”



Shelter

Women have a place to rest and heal.

Programs

Shelters

- Helen's Place *Emergency Shelter*
- Sophia's Place *Extended-Stay Shelter*

Outreach

- Sophia's Place *Day Center*
- Vehicle Outreach

Transitional Housing

- Nicky's Place
- The Cottages

"I'm alive, and I have a roof over my head."

When Deborah's kidneys started failing, so did the life she had built. Once a successful accountant, she lost everything when declining health made working impossible. With no income, she couldn't keep her home. She needed stability to continue receiving critical medical treatment. As her kidney function dropped to just 6%, Deborah felt hopeless and alone. Then she found Sophia's Place.

At our Extended-Stay shelter, Deborah found more than a bed - she found comfort and dignity. Most importantly, she found an advocate in her case manager, whom she calls her 'earth angel', who was relentless in finding her an apartment, understanding how critical it was for her survival. Deborah also found connection in the community at Sophia's Place and no longer faced her struggles alone.

When Deborah finally moved into her own apartment, she had stability and the care she needed. She saw a better future for herself. *"I never thought I'd see 65,"* she said. *"Now I'm hopeful I'm gonna hit 80 and stride on through 90. The old dynamo in me is back!"*

- Our shelters provide a welcoming space where every woman is met with dignity, care, and respect.
- Comfortable beds for rest and recovery
- Essential services including showers, laundry, and computer access
- A community room for connection
- Secure lockers for storing personal belongings
- Toiletries and clothing donated by a generous community



A cubicle at Sophia's Place



Deborah outside her apartment

Safety

Women receive care and support.



Services

- Case management
- Mental health counseling
- Skills-building workshops
- Health and fitness classes
- Employment support
- Access to services

Jasmine's Journey Home!

For Jasmine, 42, her car had become her home. For more than a year, she lived in her vehicle at a safe parking program in Kirkland, enduring long, cold nights, constant uncertainty, and daily struggles.

One day, she reached out to our Vehicle Outreach Coordinator who supports the safe parking program with case management. Our coordinator met her with warmth and understanding, simply asking, "What do you need?" Jasmine shared her story - she had lost her job unexpectedly, and without a steady income or savings, she could no longer afford rent. With nowhere else to go, she lived in her car.

With care, our coordinator connected Jasmine to critical support services - food banks, healthcare, job training programs, and housing resources. When Jasmine felt overwhelmed, our coordinator encouraged her. When she had doubts and fear, they reassured her. Step by step, Jasmine rebuilt her foundation. Finally, Jasmine found a job and began building her savings - the first steps toward stability. Next, she focused on finding a home she could afford. Once again, with our coordinator's help and guidance, she explored housing options and finally found a place of her own.

Jasmine is no longer living in her car; she has a home and she couldn't be happier!



- Case managers provide compassionate, personalized support, empowering women with the skills and resources needed to overcome housing instability.
- They use trauma-informed principles to support healing and build resilience.
- They work tirelessly to help women secure safe, stable housing - and ensure they have the tools to sustain it.
- In our annual satisfaction survey, clients reported an average confidence level of 90% in securing housing.

Stability

Women have a place to call home

How do you rebuild your life when you lose everything at 73?

Kathy had envisioned a peaceful retirement with her husband of 40 years, but life had other plans. When he fell ill, medical bills quickly drained their savings. His passing left her not only heartbroken but also homeless. Unable to work and relying solely on Social Security, Kathy had nowhere to turn - until she arrived at Helen's Place.

Her case manager was able to find her a place at The Cottages, a community for women 55+ years, made possible by the generosity of The Carrie Lewith Trust. For the first time in months, Kathy could sleep soundly without worrying about another crisis.

"She is a very sweet and positive lady who is always smiling and loves helping others," her case manager shared. With the stability of a home, Kathy could finally plan her future. Together, she and her case manager explored long-term housing options and determined that a senior living community would be best. They visited several communities until they found one that fit her budget and her needs. With her case manager's support, Kathy furnished her new apartment and built meaningful connections with her neighbors. Being stable gave her a second chance at life, and now she is thriving!



Housing

- Project-Based Section 8
- Rental Assistance Program
- Housing Partners
 - Catholic Community Services of King County (Rapid-ReHousing Partnership)
 - Plymouth Housing
 - Imagine Housing
 - August Wilson
 - Redmond PSH
 - Salvation Army
 - Acre of Diamond
 - Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)
 - Hometown Suites

- The Client Assistance Fund supports women with application fees, deposit, move-in costs and also rental support to prevent eviction.
- Our Donation Center is stocked with clothing and household items - donated by the community - to support women setting up a home.



The Cottages

Hope

*“When I came to the Sophia Way I was just beat down... I didn't think anything would work. **Now, I have strength to go on.** Even if things don't go my way or something happens, I can pick up the pieces and never look back. They gave me that.”*

*“I've been on the street. I've lived in the back of a van that was loaned to me for a while. So, it was unbelievable that **I'd actually had a place to sleep and a hot meal.** The resources here are what opened the door for me to get back on my feet.”*

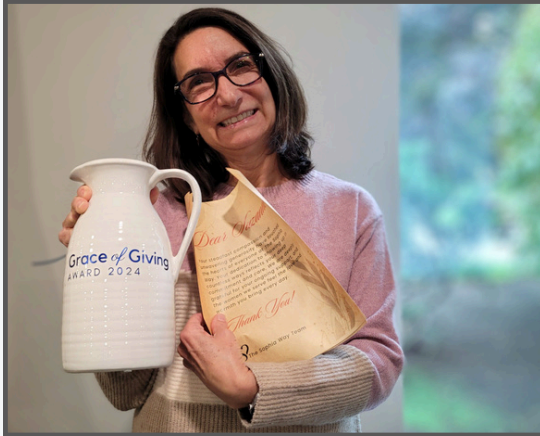
*“You don't know how easy it is to fall into a hole, where you almost can't climb out. They not only provide a roof, showers, and food but also guidance and encouragement. It was nice to take a shower and feel clean. I had my own space and the staff made sure that it was respected and quiet so that **we could relax and feel safe.**”*

*“As women get older they find themselves cast off. **The Sophia Way has been life-saving for me;** you're doing life-changing work. Thank you for staying committed to the diversity of people you serve. It takes people with heart to look out for the people who would fall through the cracks.”*

*“It's the first day of the rest of my life. And when you're 75 that's saying a lot. **I have hope and my future!**”*



Community Spotlight



Suzanne Sievert, 2024 Grace of Giving Award recipient

Suzanne's compassion and unwavering generosity have touched the lives of so many women sheltering at The Sophia Way. We are deeply grateful to Suzanne for her kindness and dedication.

Our community of volunteers are the heart of our mission, bringing compassion and dedication to everything they do. They make a tangible difference - whether its unpacking and organizing donations at our donation center or serving meals and ensuring a clean and welcoming space at the shelter. Most importantly, they dedicate time and care to cook meals that nourish and offer hope to the women we serve. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering support.



Empowering Women, Together



Community Brunches

These events in the summer and fall celebrate joy, connection, and care. Women enjoy shopping for new clothes, getting haircuts, and savoring delicious food. With lively bingo games, warm hugs, and familiar faces, these gatherings – supported by staff and volunteers – foster a true sense of belonging and care.

Holiday Gift Bags

The season shines brighter thanks to our generous community, who make women feel cherished. Donors provide gifts and gift cards, while volunteers assemble over 175 festive bags filled with winter wear, self-care treats, and a heartfelt note from the staff – ensuring every woman feels celebrated and loved.



Case managers Alyssa and Lani with our impact board showing 146 clients housed in 2024.

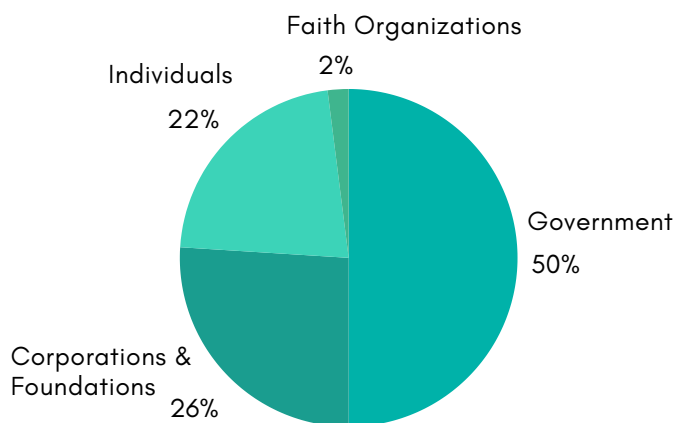
Client Assistance Fund

This vital resource helped women secure and maintain housing. In 2024, \$98,000 provided critical financial assistance for rent gaps, eviction prevention, and move-in costs. It also covered essentials like transportation, job training, and debt relief, empowering women to rebuild their lives with dignity.

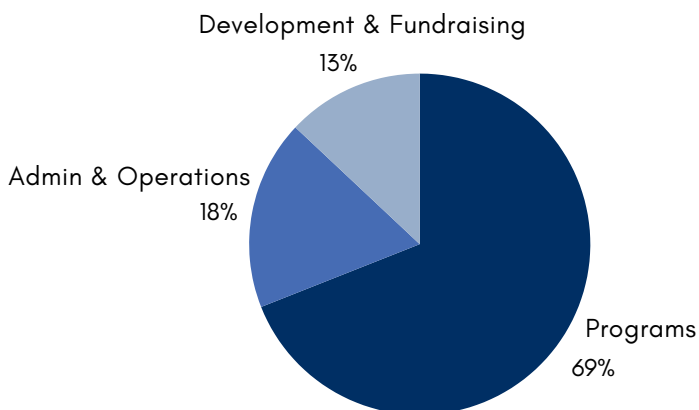
Financials

2024 unaudited figures

Revenue: \$3,785,937



Expenses: \$3,899,145



At The Sophia Way, we strive to create a welcoming and inclusive space, offering compassionate support and honoring every woman's journey.

“I've found purpose here. I love being part of a team dedicated to serving women. The Sophia Way feels like family – a place where I've grown from being a shelter staff to a case manager and now into a leadership role.

– Latasha Rilea, Shelter Lead

“As a community, it's important that we come together and take action to ensure no woman has to face homelessness alone or is without a place to call home.

– Goonj Mehrotra, Board Member

“I choose to be part of The Sophia Way because of its dedicated staff and powerful mission. The organization is more than a stepping stone beyond survival - it's a path to transformation.

– Jason Koenig, Director of Finance



Staff at the appreciation picnic

Get Involved

Make a Gift



Your generosity provides the critical funding needed to empower women on their journey to stability.

Provide a Meal



Your gift of a warm meal nourishes both the body and spirit, showing women that their community cares deeply for them.

Donate In-Kind



Your thoughtful contributions of essential items support the every day needs of women, offering comfort and dignity.

Volunteer Time



Your time and talents strengthen our programs, uplift lives, and build a community of support.

“The resources to meet our personal needs and the donations from the community are such a blessing. The staff are always inclusive, uplifting, and work hard. I find that most go above and beyond and are just super fine folks!”

