

2024 Annual Report

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Who We Are

Since 1993, we have been Union County's leading organization dedicated to ending homelessness and hunger. Through innovative programs, compassionate care, and strategic partnerships, we provide comprehensive services that empower individuals and families to achieve stability and rebuild their lives. Our commitment to the community is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves a safe home and access to the resources they need to thrive.

By collaborating with local partners, we ensure that those we serve can transition from crisis to long-term stability. Our mission is to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in Union County.

Our Mission

The Community Shelter of Union County provides Emergency Shelter, Food, and Rehousing. Our low-barrier services support equitable opportunities because safe, affordable housing and access to food are basic human rights.

Our Programs

The Community Shelter of Union County's programs are thoughtfully designed to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of our community members. Through our crisis response efforts, we provide critical services such as Emergency Shelter, meals through our Soup Kitchen and Drive Thru Pantries, and essential resources like bicycles through the Step It Up initiative. These bicycles are more than just transportation—they are a lifeline that helps individuals secure and maintain employment in areas where public transit is unavailable. By addressing urgent needs with compassion and efficiency, we aim to stabilize individuals and families during their most vulnerable moments.

In addition to crisis intervention, we focus on long-term solutions that foster stability and self-sufficiency. Our **Economic Mobility** programs offer pathways to greater financial independence, while **Rapid Rehousing** services help transition individuals and families from homelessness to permanent housing. To support this transition, the **Home Again** program provides essential furniture and household items, ensuring those moving into new homes have what they need to thrive. Together, these interconnected programs create a holistic support system that empowers people to rebuild their lives and sustain long-term housing stability.

What We Achieved



Our Impact in Numbers

545

Emergency Shelter Clients

Our Emergency Shelter offers crucial support, providing neighbors with a safe place to stay during their need. This program is essential to our mission of helping individuals regain stability and transition toward long-term housing solutions.

Our Food programs provide essential nourishment to neighbors facing hunger, ensuring they have access to nutritious meals during challenging times. This service is critical to our mission to support individuals and families in their journey toward stability and self-sufficiency.

248,865

Meals Provided

117
Individuals
Housed

Our Rapid Rehousing program helps individuals and families quickly transition from homelessness to stable, independent housing. This service is a key component of our mission to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring in our community.





Our Volunteers

The success of our programs and services is a true reflection of the strong support we continuously receive from the community. Last year alone, the equivalent of 21,337 volunteer hours was generously contributed by dedicated individuals who believe deeply in our mission. To put this into perspective, that's the same as having an additional 10 full-time employees working every single day to further our cause. These volunteers have become the backbone of many of our key initiatives, offering hands-on assistance in diverse areas.

Volunteers help bridge critical gaps in our organization, offering valuable time, expertise, and passion that allow us to continue serving those most in need. Whether it's helping to sort donated items, assisting clients in job readiness programs, or organizing community outreach efforts, these individuals are indispensable in carrying out our mission. We are continually inspired by their willingness to step up and engage in such meaningful work.

The generosity and unwavering commitment from every corner of Union County affirm that our work is not only valued but essential to the fabric of this community. By working hand-in-hand with our volunteers, supporters, and partners, we are able to provide critical services that help individuals and families move from crisis to stability. Our shared belief in ending hunger and homelessness is what fuels our efforts, and together, we are creating a brighter future for all. Every contribution, no matter how small, plays a role in transforming lives, and for that, we are deeply grateful. Our work would simply not be possible without the steadfast support of our community, which continues to rally behind us with incredible dedication year after year.

Advancing our Strategic Plan

This year, we made significant strides toward the goals outlined in our 24-27 Strategic Plan. To enhance client success, we expanded shelter and rehousing programs and strengthened partnerships to ensure faster access to essential services. Our efforts are aimed to make homelessness brief, rare, and one time only for those we serve.

We focused on building financial reserves and diversifying funding through successful events like the Golf Tournament and Boots & the Ballroom, which secured vital support. Advocacy for affordable housing has been a major focus, as we bringing community partners together to push for policy changes. We continue to collaborate with key stakeholders to increase access to safe, stable housing while working on solutions to address the housing crisis in Union County.

To support our staff and volunteers, we implemented wellness initiatives, increased wages, expanded volunteer roles, and enhanced DEI training. These efforts promote a healthy workplace and ensure we can continue delivering high-quality services to our community. We are proud of this year's progress and look forward to advancing our mission with ongoing community support.

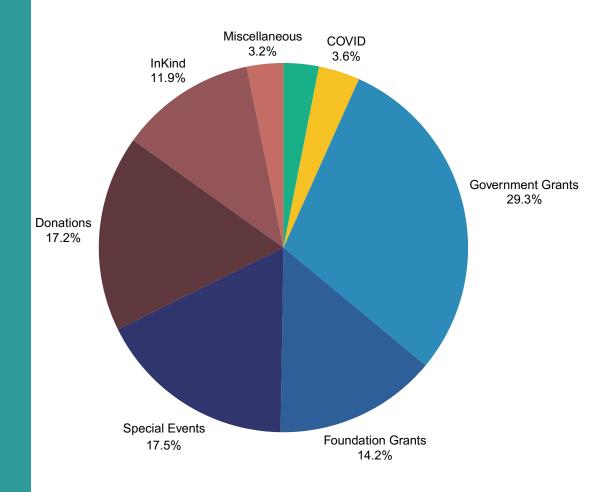
Our Financials

At the Community Shelter of Union County, we are committed to being responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We take this responsibility seriously, ensuring that every dollar is used efficiently to further our mission of ending hunger and homelessness. Our financial practices are overseen by a dedicated Board of Directors, who provide guidance and accountability to maintain transparency and integrity in all we do.

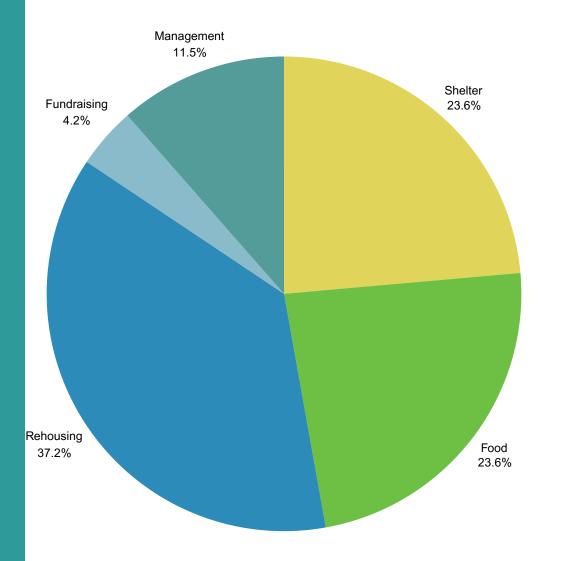
In the past year, our largest expense was Rehousing, which made up 36.6% of our total expenses. Food and Shelter expenses were 23.6% and 23.1%, respectively. Overall, 83.3% of our total expenses were directly invested in our programs, while management and general expenses made up the remaining balance.

Through prudent financial management, strategic fundraising efforts, and the support of our donors, we deliver impactful services while ensuring the long-term sustainability of our programs. We remain grateful for the trust placed in us and continue to uphold the highest standards of fiscal responsibility.

Revenue Breakdown



Expense Breakdown



What We Envision

Our vision for the future is one where everyone in our community can access safe, stable, affordable housing and where hunger and homelessness are effectively addressed. We are committed to meeting the growing demand for our services while advocating for affordable housing initiatives and fair wages that support a living wage. By collaborating with local partners and policymakers, we strive to create lasting solutions tackling the root causes of homelessness and hunger. Additionally, we are dedicated to combating the stigma associated with homelessness and promoting understanding and compassion throughout our community. Through these comprehensive efforts, we envision a future where all individuals and families have the resources and support they need to achieve lasting stability.



Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at info@unionshelter.org.

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