
2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT



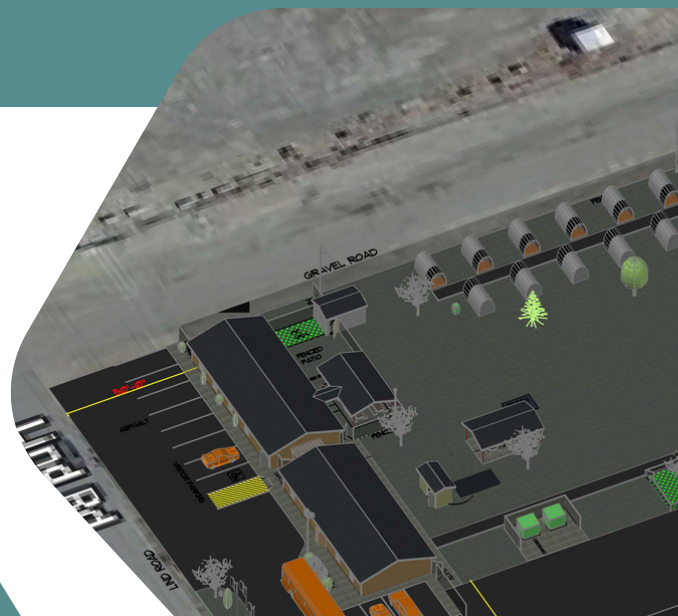
Prepared by:

Jesalyn C. Cole

ABOUT US

02

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit organization in Hermiston, Oregon that currently offers overnight emergency shelter to the homeless in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Along with the shelter and bed, a warm meal is offered daily thanks to volunteer support. Stepping Stones was selected as the contracted agency for Project PATH (Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing) by the county of Umatilla and cities of Umatilla, Hermiston, Echo, and Stanfield to oversee work based on HB 4123. PATH is one of the eight pilot projects selected in the state to provide shelter and support to those without homes. The original group of municipalities recently approved the joining of Irrigon and Boardman. A permanent location is currently being prepared for modular buildings, permanent infrastructure, and utilities. In a phased approach, Stepping Stones will soon progress to phases two and three that will include a Navigation Center which will offer resources to guests, and individual shelter units as the next step from an overnight bed in a communal space to more independence on the path to transitional housing. Stepping Stones is currently working with area organizations to prepare for the offerings at the Navigation Center based on current and future needs of guests.



OUR MISSION

To provide stepping stones – shelter, basic needs and supports that can lead to stability – to people experiencing homelessness.

OUR VISION

A community where all individuals have a safe place to shelter and have access to supports necessary to create stability.

Phase 1

Emergency overnight shelter 365 days/year. Available for anyone in need on a night to night basis. A basic evening meal is provided daily.

Phase 2

Navigation Center with needed services and access to resources available to active participants through Center staff, community partners and volunteers.

Phase 3

Individual shelter units for participants engaged in personal action plan utilizing Navigation Center resources.

OUR TEAM

04

Our volunteer board of nine oversees the work of staff members. Strong leadership is moving Stepping Stones Alliance from a lofty goal to a reality.



Cathy Lloyd
Board Chair



Chuck Barnes
Board Vice Chair



Mike Atkinson
Board Treasurer



Phil Spicerkuhn
Board Secretary



Sandy Francis
Board Member



Roger Condie
Board Member



Kire Barraza Ross
Board Member



Glenda Moyer
Board Member



Luis Ibarra
Board Member

SLEEP CENTER

05

The Sleep Center offers a low barrier solution and has been in continuous operation every night since opening in December at the 80487 Hwy 395 location.

Between night staff and volunteers, guests are transported from a downtown pick-up location, welcomed into the center, fed a basic evening meal, and given a safe place to sleep for the night.

Breakfast is served in the morning before transportation takes guests back downtown.



Cindi Jorgensen
Sleep Center Coordinator



Luke



Zack



Alejandro



Laura

Night Staff



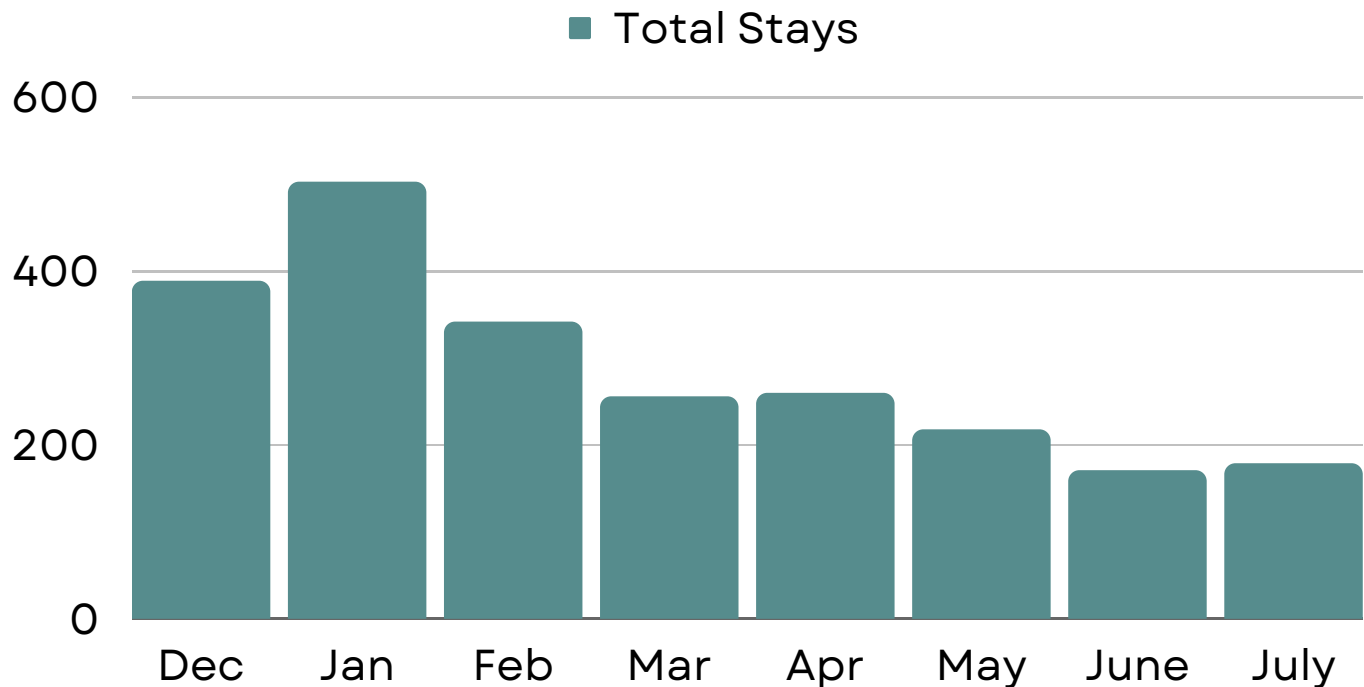
Left: Volunteer serves a guest dinner.

Bottom: Hermiston High School Next Steps program cleans the sleep center 4 days/week as life skills training.



SLEEP CENTER NUMBERS

With average nightly stays ranging from 6-16 guests on any given evening, the Sleep Center is offering a much needed service in the region. Over 2,300 night stays have occurred December-July.



Each evening there are 1-2 volunteers to help with check-in and dinner. Night staff work 10 hour shifts and get guests to and from the Sleep Center in a shuttle van. Each morning 1-2 volunteers assist with getting guests up and served breakfast before they depart.

NAVIGATION CENTER

Carolina was hired in January and continues building relationships and seeking the necessary connections that our guests will need with area resources.



Carolina Delgado
Navigation Director

A convening was held in May that brought over 40 individuals together from regional organizations. Discussion focused on what each organization offers and then where any gaps of service may lie within the area. Feedback was positive and connections were made.



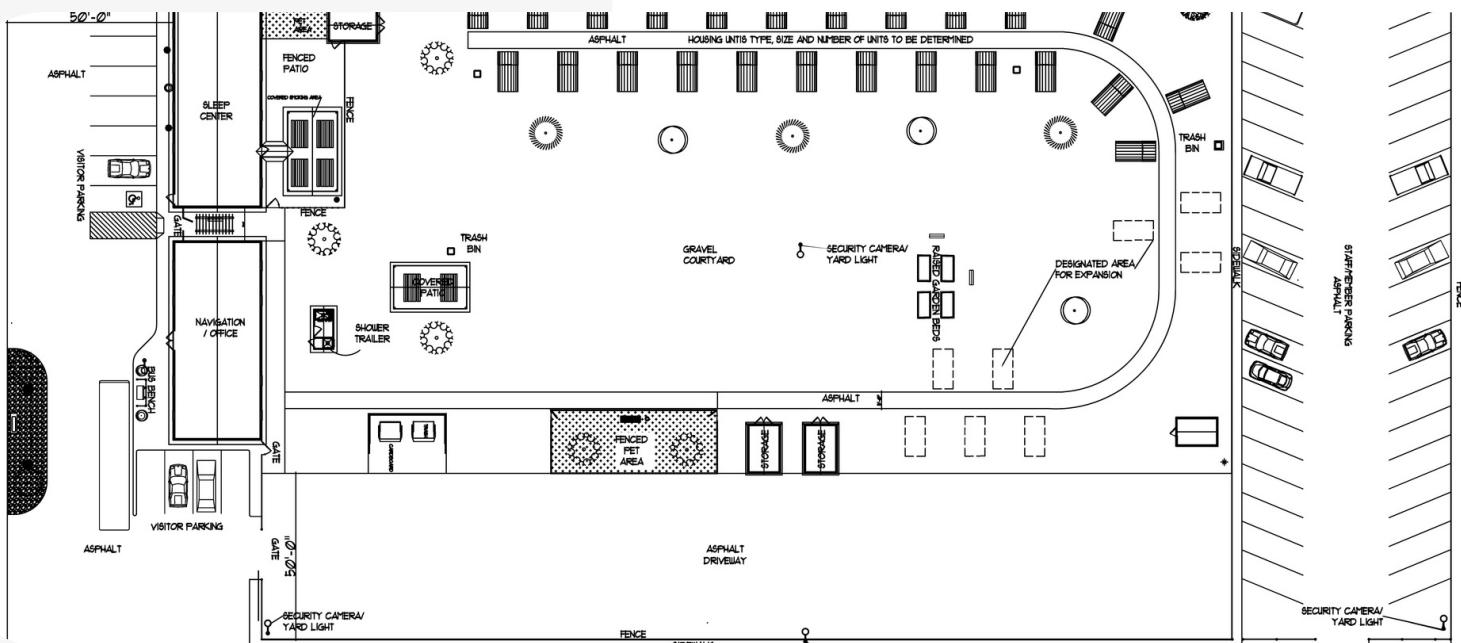
Carolina has begun outreach efforts in conjunction with other organizations to reach those in need. Meals and information are being shared with small groups in encampments within the local area.

SITE AND INDIVIDUAL SHELTER UNITS

Well over 1,000 volunteer hours have been documented on constructing the initial 21 Individual Shelter Units. Corporate assistance has come from Amazon Web Services, Marlette, and Tillamook Cheese Factory.



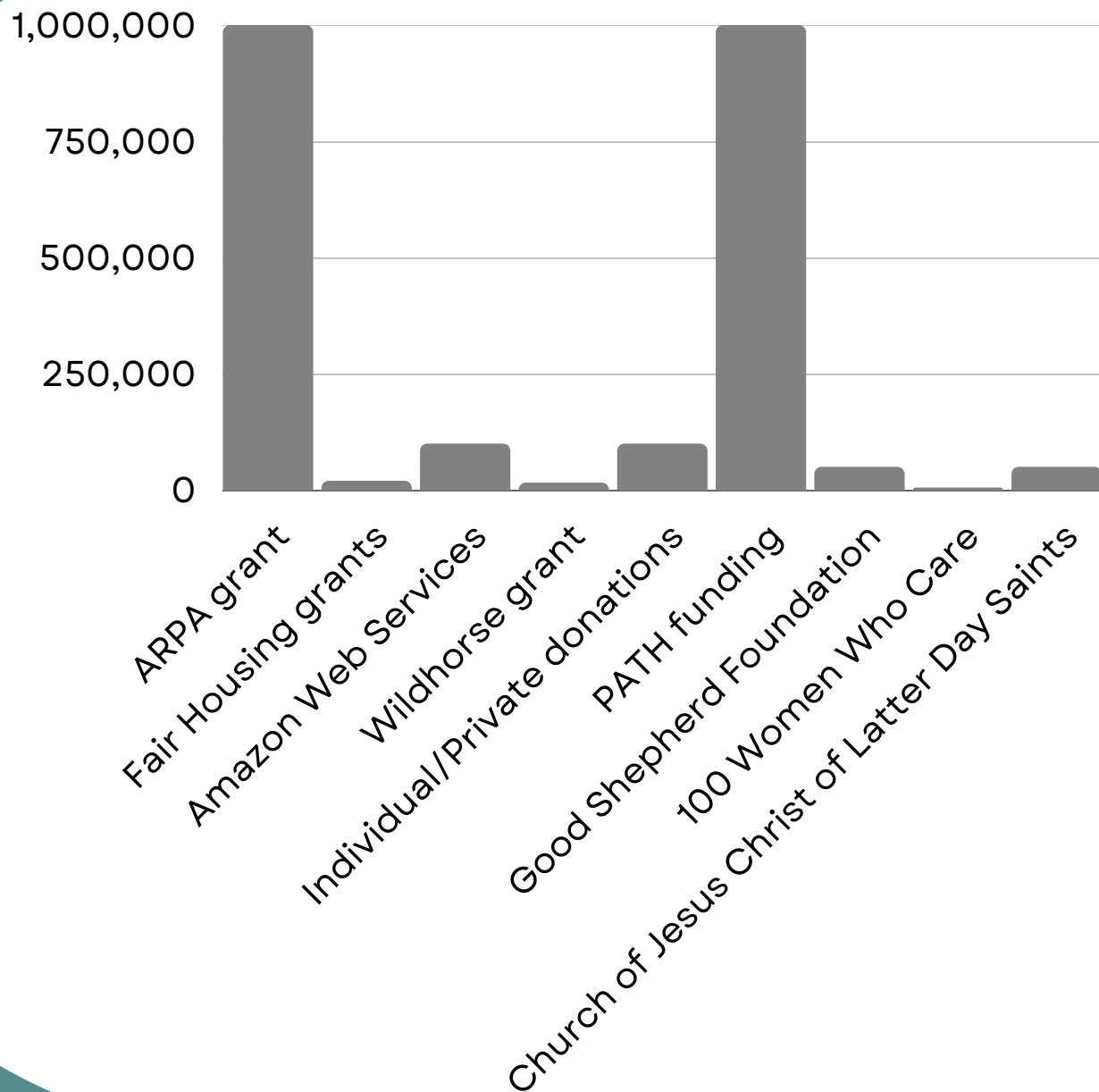
Substantial support has come from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, PATH communities. and individual citizens.



Site rendering on Lind Road.

SOURCES OF REVENUE

09



Funding opportunities for future revenue are being researched and explored. Grants, sponsorships, private donations, fundraising events are all being worked on as we continue to grow and add services.

EIN 84-4739478

OUTREACH

10



Jesalyn Cole
Executive Director

Executive Director was hired in February to oversee operations. The hiring of a summer intern in May increased the focus on social media growth with an emphasis on community outreach.



Lilly Cooke
Summer Intern



An informational table at community events, presentations at area civic organizations, meetings and presentations to congregations at churches, and sharing information throughout the area has increased public knowledge of our existence and the resources we offer.

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

This first annual report covers the initial 8 months of Stepping Stones Alliance and the progress that has been made. Our next steps and goals include:

- continued growth in partnerships with area resources
- completion of site preparation and occupancy
- financial sustainability
- transportation
- volunteer recruitment
- continued outreach through social media, community events, informational brochures
- street outreach
- assisting individuals in educational and/or vocational development
- teaching financial management



CONTACT US

**WEBSITE**

www.stepping-stones-alliance.org

**FACEBOOK**

[@steppingstonesalliance](https://www.facebook.com/steppingstonesalliance)

**INSTAGRAM**

[@steppingstonesalliance](https://www.instagram.com/steppingstonesalliance)

**PHONE**

(541) 371-1425

**EMAIL**

executivedirector@stepping-stones-alliance.org

