

In Our BACKYARD



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Building a welcoming community to provide safe interim homes and connections to resources for our unhoused senior neighbors.



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Looking back over the past year, perusing photos, and reflecting on all the learning opportunities, I am once again overwhelmed with what we have accomplished together. We could not have done it without all the support of the community and those magical moments when windows opened after a door was shut. When feeling discouraged after discovering so many things I didn't know, I was comforted by the words of Alan Graham who wrote in his book, *Welcome Homeless*, "God equips the called, but he doesn't call the equipped." While we had so many very capable people who answered the call to engineer, plan, build, volunteer, stand beside, and show compassion for others, the part that says, "equips the called," sure rang true because I had no idea, nor did the Board, what all would be required when we said, "Let's do this." From financial donations and grants, to the expertise that was evident in the volunteers, the called truly were equipped to make the dream a reality.

Our future goals now include connecting to city water, burying the propane line to the trailer, building a shed and raised garden beds, landscaping with indigenous plants, adding a cabin for meeting and cooking, installing a common outdoor grill for guest use, and mentoring guests as they move into their permanent homes.

Loaves & Fishes,

JULIE GREENE-GRAHAM
BOARD CHAIR



ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

Building a welcoming community to provide safe interim homes and connections to resources for our unhoused senior neighbors.

OUR VISION

Creating a community where everyone is housed.



In Our Backyard is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by members of Central Lutheran Church in Anchorage, Alaska. As a community, we are called to share God's love with all. We believe in living out God's abundant grace and love through worship, learning, fellowship and service. This project is an opportunity to be proactive in addressing the needs of our unhoused neighbors. With support from multiple faith-based organizations, community groups, nonprofits, and local agencies, we are working to:

- Create modular housing shelters and supporting site infrastructure
- Provide connections to social services and related resources
- Engage a community volunteer network
- Transition people to permanent housing
- Deliver a replicable small-scale shelter model for other Anchorage organizations



ABOUT US



BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Greene-Graham, *Chair*

Steve Lambert, *Vice Chair*

Betsy Baker, *Secretary*

Betty Hertz

Carla Gage

Brad Erickson

SUPPORTING TEAM

Carol Norquist, *Treasurer*

Zach Manzella, *Special Advisor*



ACHIEVEMENTS



YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY 2, 2024

501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT STATUS ESTABLISHED



SPRING - SUMMER 2024

BOARD MEETINGS, PLANNING W/ARCHITECTS ETC., CAPITAL FUNDRAISING



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024

BATH TRAILER ARRIVES, SITE PREP, FENCING COMPLETED, SIP PANELS DELIVERED



LATE OCTOBER 2024

SHELTERS CONSTRUCTED



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

CONNECT UTILITIES, PLAN FOR GUEST INTERVIEWS, MEALS, VOLUNTEER TEAMS



MID-DECEMBER 2024

WELCOME FIRST GUESTS

FINANCES

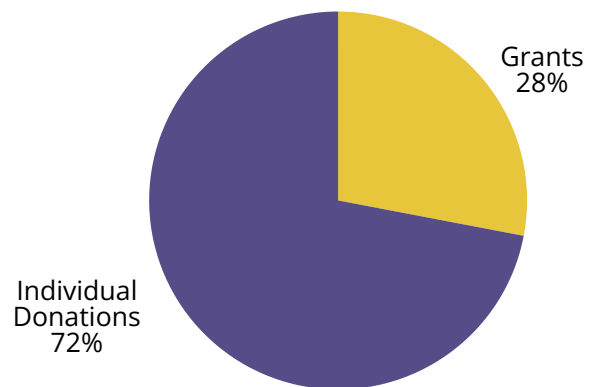
TOTAL REVENUE: \$507,796

DONATIONS / INDIVIDUALS

\$367,296

GRANTS

\$140,500



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$357,911

ADMINISTRATION

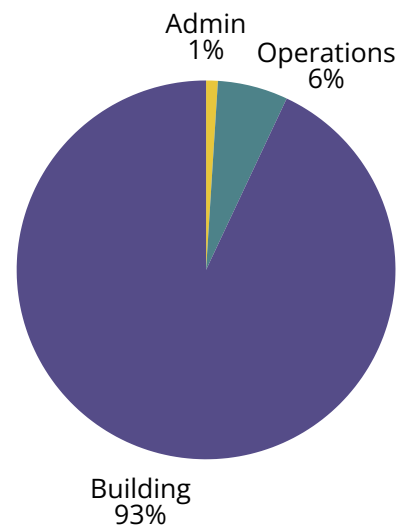
\$2,979

OPERATIONS

\$21,149

BUILDING

\$333,783



SUPPORTERS

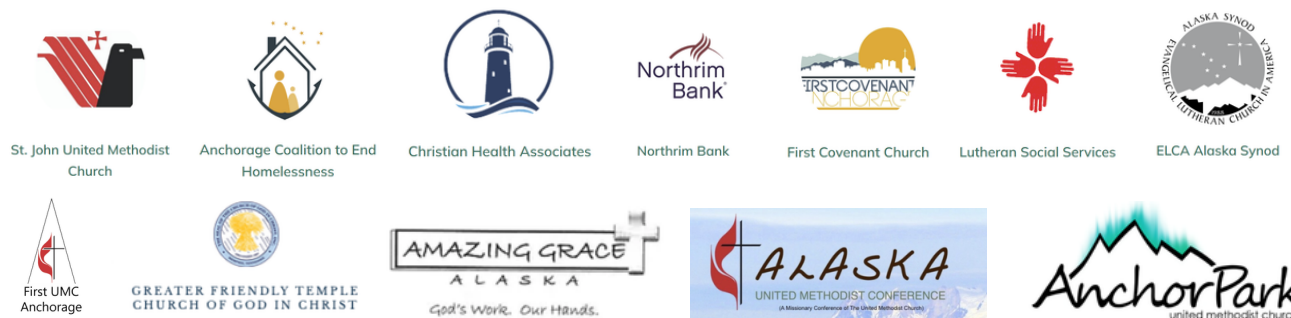
GRANTS

RASMUSON FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT
DEACONESS FOUNDATION GIFT OF ABUNDANCE GRANT
ALASKA SYNOD TEAM GRANT
ANCHORAGE MUNICIPALITY OPERATING MODULAR UNITS TRANSITIONAL GRANT

IN-KIND SERVICES

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES	KODIAK ELECTRIC
BBFM ENGINEERING	LIONS CLUB
BEAN'S CAFE	MATSON SHIPPING
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES	NVISION ARCHITECTURE
CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	RESTORATIVE & RENTRY SERVICES
GRACE GRAHAM, DESIGN SERVICES	SOURDOUGH CONSULTING
HENNING, INC.	

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



250+ INDIVIDUAL DONORS



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In Our Backyard would never have happened without all the amazing volunteers and the hours put forth in every aspect of the project. From design, construction, donations of supplies, running errands, making lunches, creating quilts, presenting at civic and faith based groups, to welcoming guests and numerous other tasks, over 60 volunteers have stepped up. Volunteers also cleaned the cabins and shower trailer, purchased and washed linens and helped clear snow.

Special thanks to our Home Team, a small group of volunteers committed to working with guests for a year, launching with Saturday coffee time in December, 2024.

Board members also spent countless hours in grant writing, discussions, fundraising, designing, and more meetings than anyone ever anticipated. This truly is the beauty of In Our Backyard, people coming together to help their neighbors.

Thank you to all!



CONTACT US



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[facebook.com/InOurBackyardAK](https://www.facebook.com/InOurBackyardAK)



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