OUR VISION
A community where all families have safety, stability, and housing.
We believe that no one’s child should sleep outside.

OUR MISSION
Mary’s Place provides safe, inclusive shelter and services that support women, children and families on their journey out of homelessness.

OUR VALUES
Accountability  Love  Collaboration  Stewardship  Responsiveness  Equity

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
We acknowledge the land on which Mary’s Place operates in King County is the traditional home of the Coast Salish people, specifically the traditional home of the Duwamish, Snohomish, and Suquamish, who are, although not all recognized by the federal government, still here today.

We offer gratitude to elders and all other Coast Salish peoples, past, present, and future, who have made it possible for us to live and work in this community.

We invite each of us to seek authentic relationships with indigenous communities, continue to learn about the past and present colonial impacts, and move beyond acknowledgement to action.
Throughout this pandemic, your support made it possible for us to continue to keep families safe and help them to get back into permanent housing and thrive!

138,644
Overnight Stays

415,932
Meals Served

549
Families Moved to Stable Housing

592
Families Served

100+
Women Who Visit Our Day Center On An Average Day

1,204
Children Served

MARY’S PLACE LOCATIONS

- Women’s Day Center – downtown Seattle
- Family Center in Northshore – Kenmore
- Family Center in The Regrade – downtown Seattle
- Family Center in Burien
- Family Center in Bellevue
- Family Diversion Center – South Lake Union
- Popsicle Place House – Auburn
- Allen Family Center in Mt Baker
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was another challenging year for so many. Thanks to the generosity and compassion of our community, Mary’s Place continued to serve families and adapt to the ever-changing circumstances. Some of the changes are temporary, and we look forward to the day when our kids can play together again without masks, our families can share a meal together in community, and we can welcome in large groups for volunteer activities, events, and celebrations!

The pandemic continued to have devastating impacts on families who lost jobs, couldn’t find childcare, and weren’t able to pay rent. Despite eviction moratoriums, many families chose to leave their homes rather than accrue housing debt that would impact their future ability to find housing. And we know that there won’t be enough rental assistance available to help all the households that will need it now that the eviction moratorium has ended.

We’ve long known that the least traumatic, most cost-effective way to prevent family homelessness is to keep families in their hard-won homes. A bright side of this pandemic has been recognition of the need and funding made available to help families stay housed. With federal and state rental assistance funding, Mary’s Place, in partnership with community providers, distributed almost $5 million and helped more than 321 families keep their homes. But those funds are limited and will be gone soon - and there are many more families that need help. With the help of our community, we’ll continue to raise critical funds for our Rapid Response Fund to provide rental assistance and stability services for our families.

We’ve learned so much over the last two years that will forever change how we provide shelter and services. In December, we opened a new family center shelter in a former hotel in Bellevue, our first in east King County! The private rooms, bathrooms, and separate floors are what we need for safe, respectful family shelter.

Still, there’s not enough shelter capacity for all the families who call each night needing a safe, warm place to come inside – and some families are fearful of coming inside during this pandemic. So our mobile outreach team goes to families where they are, providing resources and flexible funds to help families move directly and quickly back into housing. We will continue to invest in this highly effective way to help more families find their way home.

Adversity has brought us closer together and shown us innovative ways to meet the urgent needs in our community. Thank you for standing beside us!
As the second year of adapting and managing through this pandemic ends, we see a light at the end of the tunnel. My admiration for Mary’s Place front-line workers knows no bounds. Our staff has sacrificed so much, including their own safety and the safety of their families, to be in shelter and out in the field working with families every day. Their commitment to the journey these families are on is inspiring, and I’m so grateful to them.

As an organization, our experiences during this pandemic have taught us lessons and shown us opportunities that we will use to improve, scale, and build over the next few years. In particular, the opportunity to really lean in to prevention work and our belief that funding is so much more effective keeping families housed.

Through much of 2021, Mary’s Place leadership, Board, and staff worked to identify strategic priorities, develop a new 3–5 year strategic plan, and department annual operating plans. At the heart of those plans is ensuring that our staff feels valued and heard, that the voices and needs of our guests are at the center of all that we do, and that we use our influence to make systemic change. We’re finalizing that work now and are excited to share the results with our supporters and community in the coming months!

On behalf of the Mary’s Place Board of Directors, thank you for standing with us through another challenging year. We are so grateful for your continued support!

Carie Fowler Antonelli,
Board Chair,
Mary’s Place
2021 HIGHLIGHTS

January
- Launched comprehensive staff equity training and reviewed staff salaries through an equity lens
- Kicked-off a new strategic planning process to define agency 3-5 year priorities

February
- Community partners make COVID-19 vaccinations available for Mary’s Place staff and guests

March
- First virtual Lunch & Learn

April
- Governor Jay Inslee and Amazon Founder and Executive Chair Jeff Bezos and his partner Lauren Sanchez visit and tour the Regrade shelter

May
- Supporters joined virtual tables at the dream BIG virtual luncheon

June

July

August
- Back to School fairs in August

September

October
- SHINE virtual gala wowed with local performers competing to be named the SHINE singing champion

November
- No Child Sleeps Outside year-end fundraising campaign raises nearly $5 million for the Rapid Response Fund

December
- Mary’s Place Holly Jolly events at shelters
- Newest and first east King County Family Center shelter opens in Bellevue
Though communities of color make up just 35% of the population of King County, nearly 73% of our guests at Mary’s Place identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.

Addressing this disproportionality and ensuring that our work and operations create a workplace and service structure that advances equity, diversity, and inclusion is a priority. We continually review our data collection techniques and program outcomes for inequities, engage our guests in program reviews and exit interviews, and work to increase our partnerships with BIPOC-led organizations to provide culturally relevant services. But we know there is more we must do.

Over the last year, the organization developed strategic priorities that move the development of an equity framework to the forefront, and each department created annual operating plans with goals to engage BIPOC partners and imbue equity and guest voice into all aspects of our work.
Despite the economic impacts of COVID on our families, in 2021, our Housing Specialists and Mobile Outreach teams helped 549 Mary’s Place families find permanent housing. We know that to reduce trauma and keep families safe, they need to be in their own homes and we use a problem-solving approach accompanied by light flexible funding to help families achieve their housing goals. Our Housing Locators assist with searches to support families with hard-to-find housing needs, such as ADA units or large units, and families with language barriers or other barriers that prevent them from searching for housing independently.

Chervonne had left an intimate partner violence situation and was in the hospital managing her son Tristan's critical medical needs. She was afraid they’d have to return to her unsafe home. She connected with Mary’s Place outreach coordinators at the hospital, who helped the family transfer to a Mary’s Place shelter. Back in housing, Chervonne’s temporary job working from home for a mortgage company ended, and Mary’s Place was able to provide rental assistance to keep the family in their apartment while she found a new job. Chervonne is so relieved to know that she can continue caring for her son in their home and his own room that he loves!

In 2021, many unhoused families remained outside in cars and tents due to a lack of shelter capacity and fears about COVID. Our Outreach team took housing services and supplies to families where they were, helping them to identify housing solutions.

Mary’s Place received 926 referrals for mobile outreach services through the Outreach Portal at marysplacesseattle.org/get-help. These requests come from the community, partner agencies, and families themselves. Our Outreach Team is really on the front line of public health and public safety. They have become a model of what can be done when engaging with communities to help families in a trusting and trauma-informed way.

Martha and her son David had been experiencing homelessness off and on for about eight years, spending most nights in their car or outdoors. Martha was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, OCD, anxiety, and suffered from migraines. As a result, she was unable to work - making it difficult for her to find permanent housing.

When the family connected to a Mary’s Place Outreach Specialist, we talked about housing solutions and were able to help them get an emergency housing voucher through Section 8. Soon after, Martha and David moved into their permanent housing in time to celebrate the Christmas holiday!
Families experiencing the challenges of homelessness are likely to have lost access to healthcare, developed new medical issues, and left existing health concerns untreated. Our Health Services team, assisted by a network of volunteer health professionals, provides consultations, acute care service, helps families with insurance enrollment and primary care connections, and provides case management for guests with complex medical needs.

During COVID, we saw an increase in guests coming to Mary's Place with high emotions, leaving a traumatic or violent situation. Over the last year, generous grant funding allowed us to increase our behavioral health staff providing increased access for our guests and a trusted health professional with skills to problem-solve family needs.

Susan and William were told their unborn baby would have multiple complications and probably not live. They stopped visiting the doctor when Susan was six months pregnant and barely left their room. Mary’s Place Behavior Health Specialists didn’t give up – they stopped by often to talk and connected the couple with Public Health Kids Plus. A few weeks later, Susan delivered a baby girl with some medical complications, but doctors told the family that the baby would have an active, healthy life. It meant so much to them to have caring and knowledgeable support.

Mary’s Place Youth Services program meets the social and developmental needs of our kids. Age-specific programming is available for toddlers, school-aged children, and teens. Our Kids Clubs provide homework help, connection to camps and outside activities, and provide fun and enriching activities while parents work on their employment and housing goals. In 2021, Youth Services was busy connecting children with laptops and hotspots to continue school remotely. Last year, we helped 224 kids transition back to in-person learning.

The pandemic has been hard for teenagers, and it was especially hard for teens who were also experiencing homelessness and confined to a shelter setting. We expanded our partnership with Childcare Resources and together, we advocated to extend these important state subsidies to include 13-18 year-olds, providing teens with structured after school enrichment programming.

Mark was a Mary’s Place teen who really benefited from our Childcare Resources partnership. He was 14 years old, on the spectrum with limited verbal skills. Due to his age, Mark didn’t qualify for a state childcare subsidy. To bridge the gap, Childcare Resources stepped in to help pay for Mark to attend Boys & Girls Club summer camp. At camp, he gained valuable social skills, had a safe, fun place to be outside of shelter, and he made friends that helped him to become more verbal.

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The Popsicle Place program provides shelter and support to families with children who have complex medical conditions. Families who have lost their jobs and homes caring for a sick child, many who are living in their cars outside hospitals to be close by for outpatient treatments. Our Health Services team works with Popsicle Place families to connect to necessary medical care, assist with follow-up and resources, and support them in shelter as they navigate their journey into housing. In 2021, we supported 137 Popsicle Place families through shelter and outreach programs, and 77 of those families moved into permanent housing.

Gathii immigrated to the US from Kenya with his four teenage children. His youngest son, Kerubo, has Down’s Syndrome and is non-verbal. The family was living in their car when they were referred to our Mobile Outreach team who brought them into shelter and our Popsicle Place program. Our compassionate nursing team cared for the family, connected them to a primary care doctor, and recently we were able to provide 7-year old Kerubo with a much-needed wheelchair.

The Women's Day Center in downtown Seattle serves women of all identities who are currently or were formerly unhoused. At the Day Center, women receive two hot meals, access showers and laundry services, visit the on-site health clinic, and get assistance with housing, employment, and benefits to help them find and maintain permanent housing. In addition, the Day Center provides an inclusive, safe community that fosters dignity, respect, and personal stability. With the help of trained staff and volunteers as well as self-improvement groups and activities, this drop-in program, in operation since 1999, has served thousands of women and transformed countless lives, like Samantha’s.

When Samantha first came into the Day Center, she faced numerous barriers. She was unhoused, disabled, didn’t have a source of income, and didn’t have any documentation. We helped her get copies of her ID and supported her housing search. We were excited when she received a Section 8 voucher for housing in Spokane. We helped her complete the required paperwork, get back to Spokane, and connect with a caseworker there. Samantha moved into her new apartment shortly after that.
While many of our food partners returned to some level of business last year, donations were still down about 60% over pre-pandemic levels. Still, thanks in part to donations and sponsored meals from local restaurants, we prepared and served over 415,932 meals to our guests last year.

One of those local restaurants is Momona Café & Restaurant. When owner Letina Tewold moved to Seattle in 2006, she knew she wanted to open a restaurant to bring her Eritrean roots and Tigrean upbringing to her new Seattle community. Momona Café opened in 2013 in South Seattle, initially just selling tea and bread, and eventually became a larger restaurant serving and catering traditional Eritrean meals.

Letina creates delicious traditional Eritrean food, and in our partnership we’re able to provide nutritious, culturally relevant food for families in our shelters. Her knowledge of religious practices means that our families can stay on their Ramadan fasting schedules while eating delicious and traditional Eritrean foods. Letina shared with us how much she loves dropping off the food and interacting with the families in their native language.

One of the most challenging impacts of this pandemic has been the loss of our incredible volunteers. We rely on individuals and groups to support our shelter staff with meals, organizing, and deep cleans, to help our warehouse staff sort in-kind donations, to work with guests on housing and job applications, and so much more.

Volunteering continued remotely through virtual sessions on computer basics, Talk Time sessions to practice English, and tutoring. Small groups and families gathered to prepare isolation & quarantine kits, new baby kits, welcome kits, and to make encouraging notes and cards.

While still far below pre-pandemic levels, in 2021, we had 1,136 volunteers and 83 groups donate more than 5,000 hours of service!

When Diane retired after 38 years with the City of Seattle, we were thrilled when she agreed to serve on the Mary’s Place Site Selection committee, a group of real estate professionals who identify empty buildings we can convert into a home-for-now for families experiencing homelessness. Diane is an invaluable contributor to that work, but before the pandemic, she and her husband Richard were regular volunteers at Mary’s Place events, and they prepared and served lunch at our Women’s Day Center at least once a week. The Day Center community is looking forward to seeing them both back very soon!
SIGNATURE EVENTS

Events were virtual again this year, and we tried some new ideas to keep them engaging, inclusive, and fun!

Your donations at our three signature events this year provided Rapid Response funding to keep families in their hard-won homes, help them move back into permanent housing quickly, and provide emergency family shelter and services.

If you missed them, you can watch videos of these events on our YouTube channel (Mary’s Place Seattle).

dream BIG luncheon
May 5, 2021

The theme of this year’s virtual live-streamed event was HOME—the biggest dream of all and the safest place for a family to be during a pandemic. Thanks to our generous community, the event raised $2.3 million with a one million dollar match from Amazon. Community leaders Janelle Shuey and Yousri Omar chaired the event.

This year’s guests joined the luncheon via the interactive platform REMO, where they table-hopped, networked, and visited with friends just like the in-person event!

Thank you to our partners:
Title sponsor Amazon; Champion level sponsors DocuSign, Kaiser Permanente, Microsoft, and Starbucks; Partner level sponsors Brides for a Cause, Columbia Bank, HNN Communities, Kroger Co Foundation, and Puget Sound Energy; Supporter level sponsors Gesa Credit Union, GLY Construction, Greystar, Seneca Group, and Vulcan Inc; and Cheerleader level sponsors Coughlin Porter Lundeen, Graphite Design Group, and McCormick Communities.
SHINE Virtual Gala
October 1, 2021

The gala was produced again this year by the team at Microsoft Studios, led by Microsoft Vice President Bob Bejan and emceed by auctioneer Matt Lorch together with Tiernan Madorno, Microsoft. Hundreds of technical and creative partners volunteered their time to make this event another big success!

This year’s gala featured a live auction along with four local performers and a trio of celebrity judges, including Michael Wansley “Wanz”. The 2021 SHINE Champion is artist and musical soul Ivory Solomon.

Donors contributed just over one million dollars at the gala to support the Rapid Response Fund to keep families safely housed.

Thank you to our partners:
Creative and Technical Partner, Microsoft; Believer Level sponsors Amazon, Starbucks, and Gemdale USA; Advocate Level sponsor Pacific Program Management; Partner Level sponsor, HNN Communities; Supporter Level Sponsors, QLY Construction and Seneca Group; Exclusive Wine Sponsor, Tinte Cellars; and Official Airline Sponsor, Alaska Airlines.

No Child Sleeps Outside
November/December 2021

We kicked off this campaign in mid-November with a goal to raise $2 million. Thanks to the incredible generosity of nearly 6,000 individuals, hundreds of businesses, and over 50 corporate sponsors, we raised $4.9 million for the Rapid Response Fund. Thank you to our campaign chairs, Minou Reisinger and Fawn Spady!

The timing was critical. Family shelters in King County were full and turning families away. In December, a former hotel in downtown Bellevue became available and the overwhelming success of the No Child Sleeps Outside campaign helped to bring 200 additional families inside to safety. The new shelter began welcoming families on December 27, just as snow and sub-freezing temperatures hit.

Thank you to our partners:
Mary’s Place
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Contributions and Grants:

- Individuals $12,239,809
- Congregations $84,752
- Foundations* $1,788,302
- Government Grants $3,063,527
- Corporations $7,570,441
- Other Organizations $391,876
- In-Kind* $7,800,297
- Special Events and Projects $1,726,607
- Investment Income $408,206

Total Support and Revenue $35,073,817

Expenses:

- Program Services $20,701,079
- Management and General $2,576,985
- Fundraising $1,906,743

Total Expenses $25,184,807
2021 BOARD MEMBERS

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