



St. Francis House

Creating New Futures

for women and families with children experiencing
homelessness in Gainesville and Alachua County



2024 Annual Report

2024: IN REVIEW

"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees."

Although 2024 had many challenges for the most vulnerable in our community, St. Francis House continued to provide safe shelter, essential support, and hope for a new future for women and families with children experiencing homelessness because of the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and the dedicated community we are fortunate to be part of.



Former St. Francis House guest in her new home

Our 2024 Reasons for Gratitude

In July, we had the honor of hosting our 3rd Annual Community Appreciation Breakfast at **The Woolly**. Thank you to everyone who joined us to learn more about our programs and help us recognize our essential community who are the reason why we are able to provide assistance to those most in need in our community. A heartfelt thank you to our event sponsors **Bart Birdsall & Tim Garren, Jonesville Business Group, and ConnectSmart Systems!**

In December, we held our 3rd Annual "A Night for the Future" Jazz Gala fundraiser at the **Cade Museum for Creativity & Invention**. We are so grateful to everyone who attended the event, donated to the silent auction, and sponsored this meaningful event – your support is the reason why this event is such a success every year! A special thank all our incredible event sponsors – **Wayne Smith & Mitzi Austin, Clarity Wealth, PNC Bank, Renasant Bank, Schneider & Associates Insurance Agencies, Gainesville CBS/NBC, TOSH Events & Catering, AMSOIL; Suwannee Oil Company, Campus USA, ConnectSmart Systems, First Federal Bank, First Magnitude Brewing Company, Godwin Green Roofing, Jonesville Business Group, Kerry Ward with Darr Schackow Insurance, My IT Masters, Our Town Magazine, Reagan K. Potts with Edward Jones, Santa Fe Tree Company, Sky Palm Studios, The Best Restoration, Thrivent NCF Group, Tri Eagle Sales, Truist Bank and WUFT Media!**

St. Francis House, Inc. 2024 Board of Directors

President:

Robert Atwood

Vice President:

Walter (Tony) Rosenbaum

Secretary:

John (Jack) Mecholsky, Jr., PhD

Treasurer:

Charles (Al) Cockrell, Jr.

Board Members:

Betsy Suda

Brenda Cesar-Banales

Charles Rickie

Conor Flynn

Eric Ligman

Pam Worsham

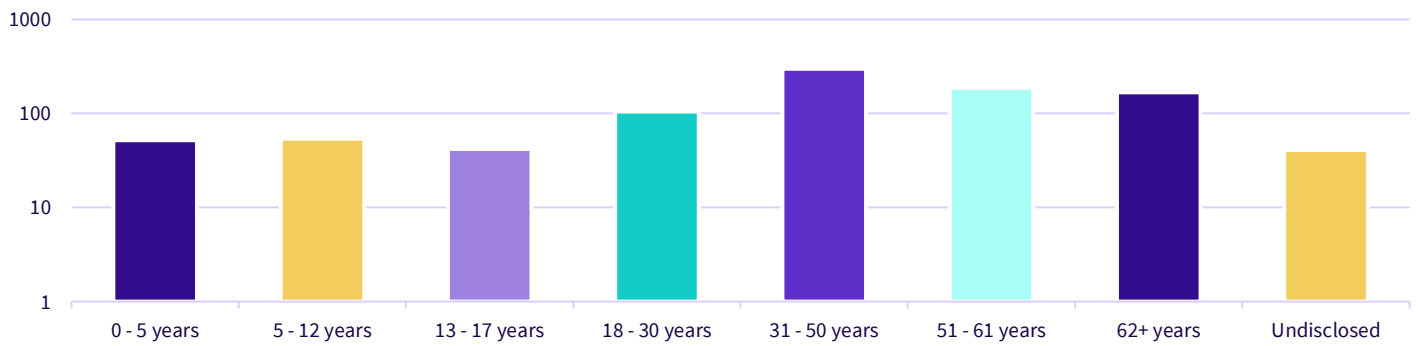


St. Francis House Board Members at the 2024 Jazz Gala

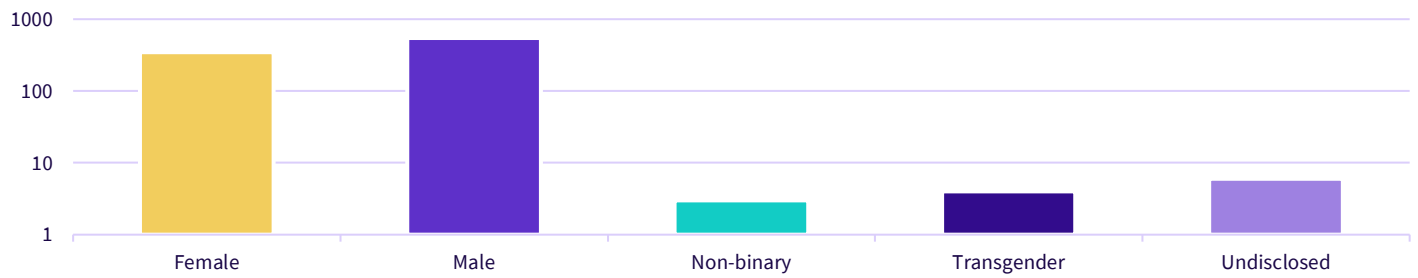
(L-R: Worsham, Ligman, Suda, Mecholsky, Rosenbaum, Flynn, Atwood, Cesar-Banales, Rickie, Cockrell)

HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

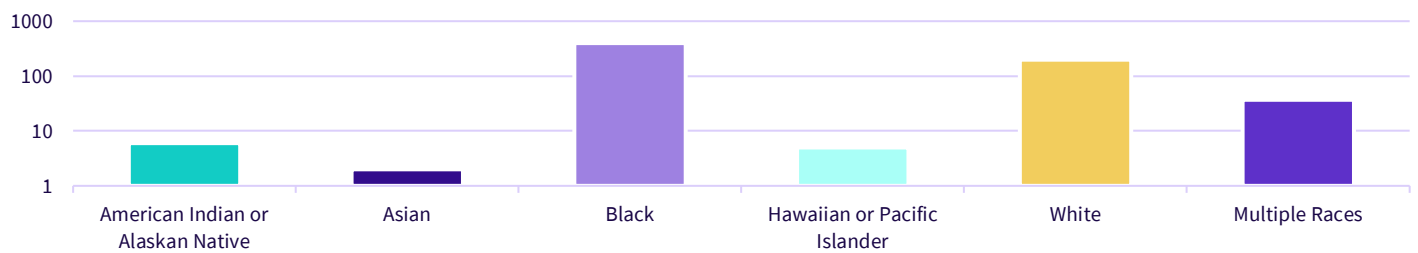
Age



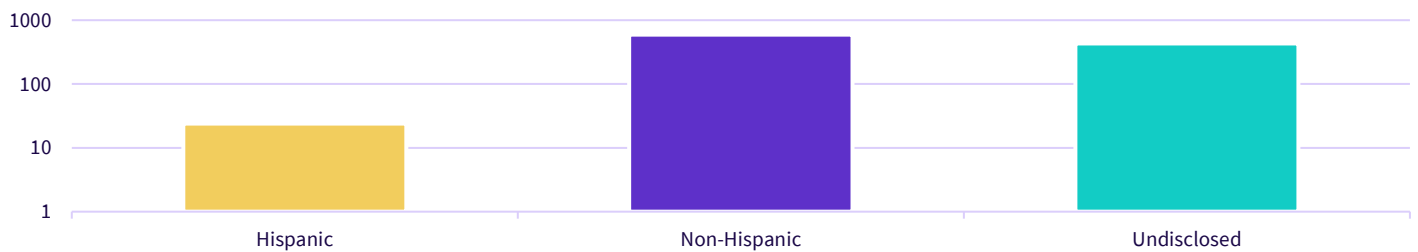
Gender



Race



Ethnicity

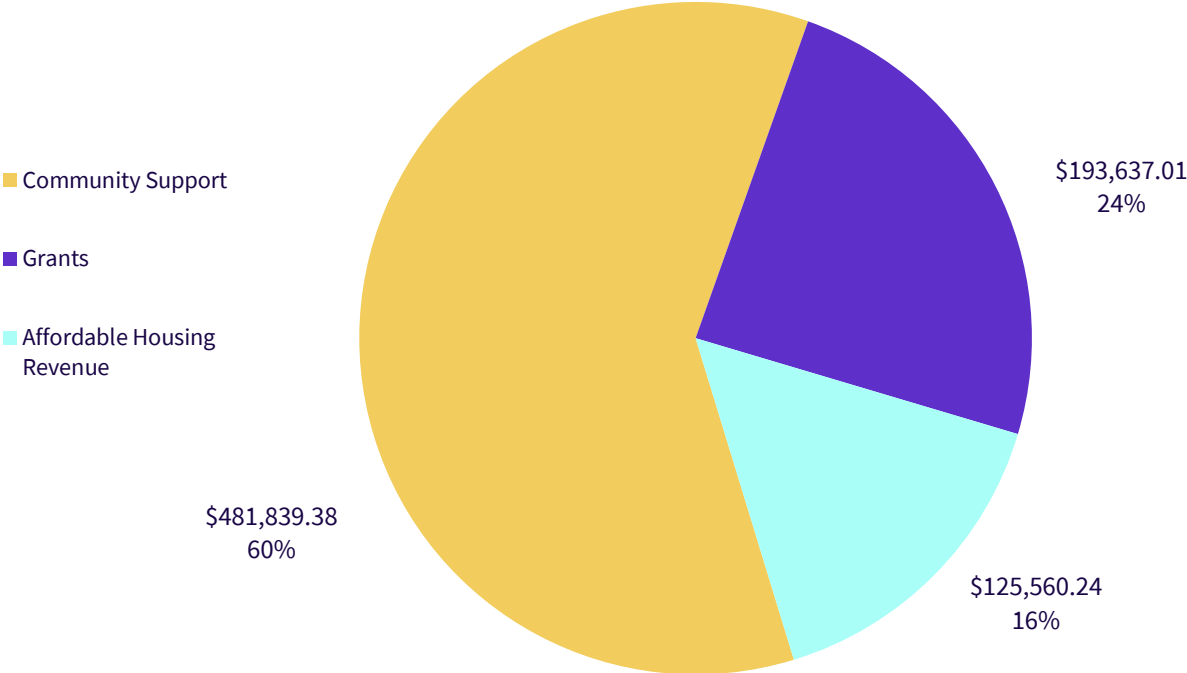


**based on clients & guests served by St. Francis House in 2024*

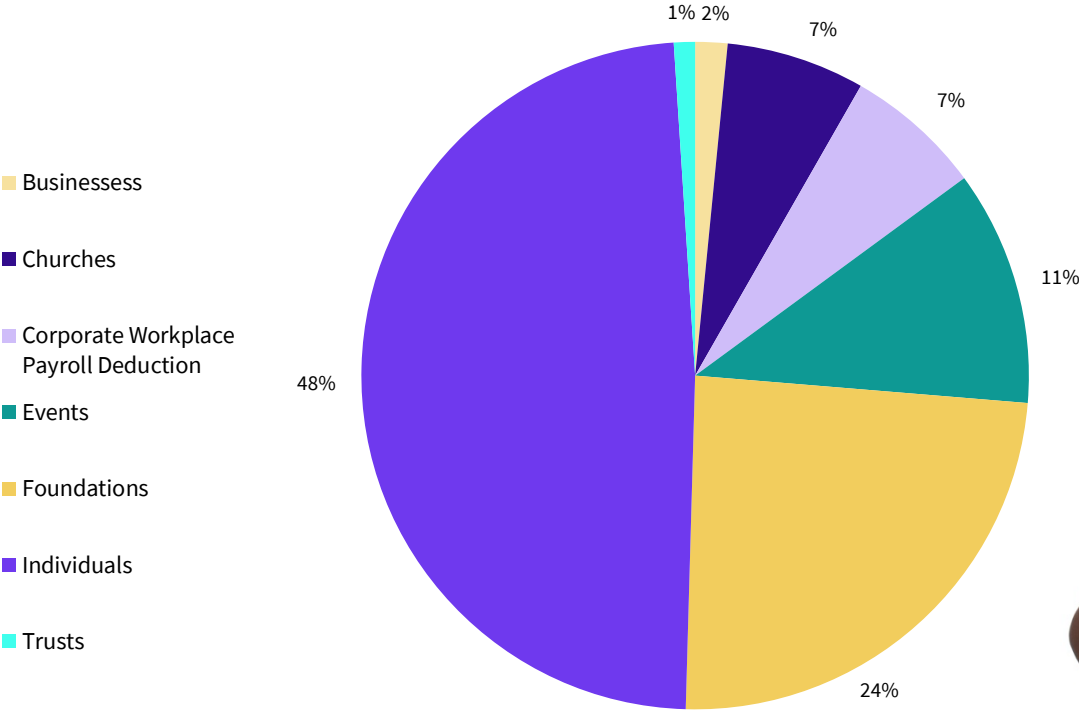


FINANCIALS

Total Revenue



Community Support





COMMUNITY IMPACT



**696
ADULTS**

received case management services and essential needs support



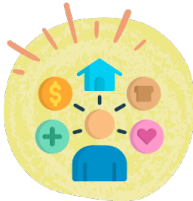
**73 FAMILIES &
205 CHILDREN**

connected with community resources and housing opportunities



**92%
OF FAMILIES**

remain in permanent housing more than a year after program participation



**54,218
BASIC NEEDS**

services and referrals provided to guests, residents, and clients



**80,633
MEALS**

meals served to shelter guests and community members



**14,832
NIGHTS**

of safe, secure shelter for single women and families

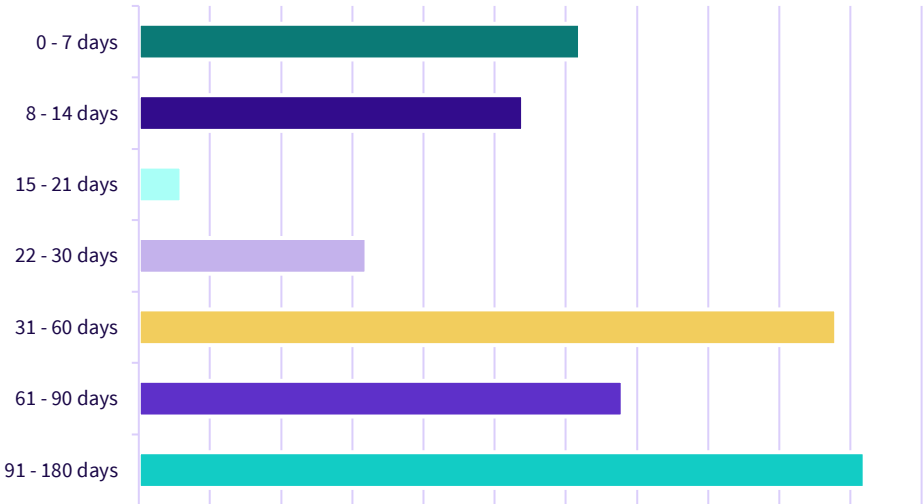
DID YOU KNOW?

National studies show that...

- A typical homeless family is comprised of a single mother with two young children
- Almost **84%** of all families experiencing homelessness are headed by single mothers
- An estimated **186,084** people in families, or **57,563** households, experienced homelessness on a single night
- Adults and children in families make up more than **37% of the total homeless population**

(Statistics from HUD & Nation Alliance to End Homelessness, January 2023)

Families who received services from St. Francis House obtained stable housing within:





SUCCESS STORY



When Sarah, a determined and hardworking young single mother, arrived at St. Francis House in the summer, she was facing one of the most challenging times of her life. Pregnant with her second child and accompanied by her 2-year-old daughter, Emma, Sarah had been working full-time but was still unable to make ends meet. She was overwhelmed with anxiety about how she would provide for her growing family and desperately needed a place to turn for help.

Sarah's journey to St. Francis House began after months of searching tirelessly for a second job or higher-paying work. Despite her dedication and persistence, she was unable to secure the additional income needed to cover her family's basic needs. With her savings depleted and nowhere else to turn, Sarah arrived at St. Francis House feeling hopeless and vulnerable but also determined to find a way to create a better future for her children.

After meeting with the compassionate staff at St. Francis House, Sarah was introduced to the Arbor House program, which provides safe, supportive housing for mothers like her. She and Emma were welcomed into a warm and nurturing environment where they no longer had to worry about the uncertainty of where they would sleep or how they would get through the next day.

At Arbor House, Sarah gained access to individualized case management, community resources, and referrals tailored to her needs. She also benefited from affordable rent, which gave her the financial breathing room to focus on her goals. With the help of St. Francis House, Sarah received not just shelter but also the stability and encouragement she needed to regain her confidence and move forward. One of the most significant ways the community rallied around Sarah was by helping her prepare for the arrival of her baby. Thanks to generous donations, she was able to gather essential items, such as baby clothes, diapers, a crib, and supplies for her newborn.

In October, Sarah welcomed her beautiful baby boy, James, into the world. Born healthy at 6 pounds 5 ounces, James was a source of immense joy for Sarah and Emma, who was thrilled to become a big sister. This milestone marked a new chapter for the family, one filled with hope and renewed determination. Not long after James was born, Sarah's hard work paid off when she secured a better-paying job that allowed her to provide more effectively for her family. The stability of her new income, combined with the support from St. Francis House, gave Sarah the opportunity to start planning for her family's next step: moving into a new home.

Today, Sarah, Emma, and James are thriving. Sarah is excited to provide her children with a safe and stable environment where they can grow and flourish. She often reflects on how far they've come, filled with gratitude for the support, compassion, and encouragement she received at St. Francis House. Sarah's story is a testament to the power of community and the life-changing impact of programs like Arbor House. It's a reminder that with the right resources and a network of people who care, even the most daunting challenges can be overcome.

Together, we can continue making a difference - one family at a time. Thank you for helping us **create new futures!**

**all names are fictional*



ST. FRANCIS HOUSE IN 2024



BOARD PRESIDENT, ROBERT ATWOOD, SPEAKING AT OUR ANNUAL JAZZ GALA FUNDRAISER



SHELTER GUESTS OPENING THEIR PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING



FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS PRESENTED BY TRUIST BANK AND ONE OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS, BRENDA CESAR-BANALES



GUEST ENJOYING GAME NIGHT WITH STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



GETTING READY FOR THE NEW YEAR DURING OUR "BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH"



ST. FRANCIS HOUSE STAFF ACCEPTING A GENEROUS GRANT FROM MEMBERS OF TD BANK



AGENTS OF CHANGE



BECOME AN AGENT OF CHANGE TODAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Our Agents of Change partners are an essential, developing collection of sustaining donors who are integral to helping us meet the ever-growing needs of our community. We have established a comprehensive membership program with different levels of giving, all in support of St. Francis House's mission to *Create New Futures* for homeless women and families with children. Thank you for helping us end and prevent homelessness in our community!



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

St. Francis House offers different membership levels with annual pledges, with the convenience of auto-payments and the option to amortize payments monthly. We also recognize the generosity of in-kind donations from your business.



BELIEVERS

\$600 - \$1199 annually
or \$800 - \$1399 in-kind

- Recognition on website
- Recognition in annual reports
- Invitations to St. Francis House events



INNOVATORS

\$1200- \$2399 annually
or \$1400 - \$2599 in-kind

- Recognition on website
- Recognition in annual reports
- Recognition on social media
- Invitations to St. Francis House events



CREATORS

\$2400+ annually
or \$2600+ in-kind

- Recognition on website
- Recognition in annual reports
- Recognition on social media
- Invitations to St. Francis House events
- Recognition on signage at all St. Francis House events

THANK YOU TO OUR AGENTS OF CHANGE!

CREATORS



INNOVATORS



BELIEVERS



...AND SO MANY MORE!



MORE TO COME IN 2025...

St. Francis House is forever thankful for the community support we receive throughout the year. Because of you, we are able to make a difference in the lives of those most vulnerable in our community. To stay up to date with the latest information regarding volunteer opportunities, donations, events, and more – please make sure to follow us on social media ([@sfhgnv](#) on all platforms) and visit our website (stfrancishousegnv.com).



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS





St. Francis House

Creating New Futures

for women and families with children experiencing homelessness in Gainesville and Alachua County

"We are so grateful for St. Francis House; they helped us during a time of need when all hope seemed lost. Now, several years later, our family is thriving. My husband has a full-time job, I've enrolled back in college, and our kids are so happy in our new home. We cannot thank the team at St. Francis House enough for the support they gave and the love they have shown us."



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stfrancishousegnv.com | [@sfhgnv](https://www.instagram.com/sfhgnv)