In 2022...

65,000 people
accessed housing, food, transportation, and other vital services.

30,883 riders
were safely transported to critical appointments and stayed connected with their support systems.

942 tenants
avoided eviction and housing loss through rental assistance and case management.

775 people
were housed after experiencing homelessness.

1,722 renters
increased their understanding of tenants’ rights.

154 households
got legal support to obtain and maintain their public benefits.

3,109 people
added to their toolkits to get involved in improving conditions in their own communities.

634 cooking class participants
increased their cooking and nutrition skills and knowledge.

593 youth
visited our Marra Farm Giving Garden for sustainable gardening education and experiences.

140 children and youth
made academic progress through Solid Ground tutoring and mentorship.

1,978 people
expanded their support networks of those they can call on in times of need.

883 program participants
reported feeling more in control over their current circumstances.
Dear friends,

For nearly 50 years, Solid Ground has worked to build stronger communities in Seattle and King County by meeting the basic needs of our neighbors and empowering them to pursue their dreams. Much has changed since 1974, but one thing that hasn’t is our foundational belief that communities are strongest when everyone has the resources they need to thrive.

We also believe that people experiencing poverty know best what they need to overcome it, which is why we look to the wisdom and leadership of the Solid Ground community as we build a new strategic plan to guide our work of solving poverty into the next half century.

Our 2022 Community Needs Assessment found that even middle-income families in King County are living on the edge, unable to save for unexpected expenses let alone invest in their futures. We also heard that:

- Housing, childcare, transportation, health care, and other basic survival costs are increasingly out of reach for many of our neighbors, even those working full time or more.
- The gap between living costs and wages has forced many to move to more affordable communities that lack the jobs, services, and resources that people living on low incomes need.
- While hope lives in every human soul, people increasingly have trouble finding it. Our neighbors need better access to behavioral health care, family counseling, and other services.

In response, we strive to make it easier for people who’ve experienced the trauma of homelessness to access behavioral health support. We support development of new community infrastructure to improve access to food and build a more just local food system. And we advocate for public policy solutions that help people stay in their homes and create innovative models for affordable housing.

Some of this work was made possible by federal pandemic dollars, nearly all of which has now dried up. As a community, we face the challenge of continuing to meet the growing needs of our neighbors without this federal investment.

We also know that our own staff and other essential workers across the human services sector continue to be underpaid because of contracts and grants that historically undervalue their work. Together with a coalition of partners, we’re talking with funders about the existential threat of wage inequity and the need for funding that provides living wages for the people who support our most vulnerable neighbors.

As we prepare for Solid Ground’s 50th anniversary in 2024, we look to celebrate the hundreds of thousands of people we’ve served without losing sight of the difficult work ahead. Whether you joined this community as a volunteer, donor, participant, or advocate, we thank you for your partnership as we confront these challenges together.

In community and solidarity,

Shalimar Gonzales  
Solid Ground CEO

Heidi Eisenstein  
Board Chair
Stories

It’s easy to despair at the way our country and society have responded to the pandemic over the last three years, but this period of collective suffering and trauma also demonstrates one indisputable fact that gives us tremendous hope.

We, as a nation, have the means to solve poverty today – if we choose to.

That’s the place from which Solid Ground draws its strength and inspiration. In 2022, we shared some amazing stories with you about how that hope and inspiration are visible in our services and the lives of program participants. The following is a selection of stories from our blog published throughout the year. Even if you read them when they came out, we encourage you to follow the links and revisit these stories. They describe the roadmap we’ve traveled together in 2022 and the bright future to which we aspire.

A ‘blueprint’ for healing at Broadview

Tiffany Brownlee is a mom first and foremost. But she’s also a fierce advocate, domestic violence survivor, and self-taught social safety net navigator who found healing and growth while living at our Broadview Shelter and Transitional Housing. In this supportive, judgment-free community, she allowed herself to be vulnerable. “I thought I wasn’t like other women. And when I heard the other women’s stories, I saw myself in them,” she says. Broadview gave her the space and community to focus on her own needs so she can better meet her childrens’.

“Solid Ground taught me to advocate for myself – to be my own best advocate.” — Tiffany Brownlee

READ TIFFANY’S STORY: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/BLUEPRINT-FOR-HEALING

Understanding stress can heal relationships between parent and child

At the heart of Broadview parenting coach Betty Peralta’s work is an understanding that children’s unwanted behavior is the result of unwanted stress. “The screaming is good,” she tells parents. “Love the screaming, because if you are listening and caring while they’re doing it, it’s healing your child.” Broadview’s comprehensive trauma-informed programming for parents and kids allows them to drain the emotions they’ve been holding inside to better understand and accept their feelings, build trust, and begin to heal.

“The transformation starts with the parent not feeling like they’re doing a horrible job.” — Betty Peralta

READ BETTY’S STORY: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/ PARENT-CHILD-HEALING
For this priestess of puns, a little stability went a long ‘whey’

Before Pun Intended Punslam producer Forest Ember connected with our Benefits Legal Assistance (BLA) program, she felt “livid and completely baffled” by the hoops and hurdles the public benefits system threw in the paths of people like her who couldn’t work due to debilitating injury. BLA attorneys helped restore her access to the benefits program she relied on – and also made her “feel seen and heard and cared for” – enabling her to go to college, get work she can physically handle, build a tiny home, and restore her stability and hope.

“My life completely turned around after I connected with Solid Ground. It just made me feel like I had someone in my corner who had my back.” — Forest Ember

READ FOREST’S STORY: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/PRIESTESS-OF-PUNS

You don’t need magic to overcome homelessness – but it doesn’t hurt

Before magician and real estate agent Douglas Converse experienced it himself, he didn’t understand how easy it is to fall into homelessness. “But in reality,” he says, “it can happen to anyone.” Like the sleight of hand behind the magic trick, it can be difficult to see the reality of homelessness behind our own perceptions. As a Santos Place resident on our Sand Point Housing campus, Douglas found support and community to create a new life for himself. Today, he shares his experiences to help dispel myths about what it looks like to be homeless.

“It’s the greatest act of kindness and compassion I’ve ever experienced. Solid Ground has given me everything I need. It’s up to me now.”

— Douglas Converse

READ DOUGLAS’S STORY: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/MAGIC-OF-HOUSING
Stories

Growing healthier communities with farm-to-clinic fruits and vegetables

FARMacia – a play on the Spanish word for pharmacy and the idea of food as medicine – is the name of a growing partnership between Solid Ground’s Giving Garden at Marra Farm and Sea Mar Community Health Centers in South Park and White Center. These free farm stands get fresh fruits and vegetables into the hands and stomachs of people with diet-related health conditions like high blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes. Sea Mar patient Javier says, “I’m so glad you’re doing this for the community, because we really need it. I hope this continues forever.”

“When I screen patients for food insecurity and they say they worry about running out of food – or they truly have run out before being able to buy more – it’s really great to have this resource right here to get them fresh produce.”

— Maddi Rinehart, Sea Mar health educator

READ MORE: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/FARMACIA-PARTNERSHIP

Why Solid Ground supports the Duwamish fight for federal recognition

At Solid Ground, we know that to solve poverty, we must recognize the systemic oppression and institutional barriers that rob people of their agency and keep them from thriving. For some peoples, oppression spans decades or centuries, the harm compounded with each new generation. Our work starts with acknowledging that harm. We’re proud to stand with the Duwamish – the first people of Seattle – in their decades-long fight for federal recognition.

“The government, when we signed that treaty, was supposed to take care of the health, welfare, and education of the Duwamish. Those are the reasons we are looking to be recognized: the health, welfare, and education of our people.”

— James Rasmussen, tribal council member

READ MORE: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/SUPPORT-DUWAMISH
Community Needs Assessment helps Solid Ground provide more responsive, impactful services

Solid Ground conducts a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years, because we believe that people know best what support they need to create the lives they want to live. Our 2022 CNA both underscores the mounting challenges for local communities and suggests opportunities for new, improved ways of providing services and doing business that have the potential to greatly contribute to solving poverty across Seattle, King County, and Washington state.

“For regular people, there are rarely any living wage jobs one can find that will allow you to make enough to afford housing.” — 2022 CNA respondent

SEE OUR CNA LEARNINGS: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/2022-CNA

I-135 and the promise of a more inclusive Seattle

Solid Ground enthusiastically joined nearly 100 other organizations to support the House Our Neighbors-led ballot Initiative 135, which Seattle voters resoundingly passed. The ordinance creates a new public agency, the Seattle Social Housing Developer, which will buy, build, and maintain permanently affordable housing for people at various income levels. This “social housing” will be publicly owned, and residents will have democratic decision-making power. No one will pay more than 30% of their income in rent, and rent paid by people with greater resources will subsidize the rent of those with less.

“Social housing gives us a new tool – unlike any that we already have – to build more housing more quickly, so we can move one step closer to solving our homelessness crisis.”

— Shalimar Gonzales, Solid Ground CEO

READ MORE: SOLID-GROUND.ORG/I-135-SOCIAL-HOUSING
2022 Organizational Donors

Adobe Employee Community Fund
Adobe Inc.
Aerospace Machinist Industrial District Lodge #751
AIG
Alaska Airlines
Alliance for a Just Society
Alston, Courtinage & Bassetti LLP
Alves-Creech Family Charitable Fund
American Civil Liberties Union of Washington
American Endowment Foundation
Ameriprise Financial
The Andover Company, Inc.
Apple Inc.
Arcora Foundation
Asset Funders Network
ATS Automation
Aven Foundation
Ayush Herbs®, Inc.
Ballista Consulting, LLC
Bank of America
BECU
BECU Foundation
The Biella Foundation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Binyon Vision Center
Birthday Dreams
BMGI Group
Boeing
Bright Funds Foundation
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Foundation
Cambia Health Solutions
Campion Foundation
CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
Carter Subaru
Cave Moon Press
Chamberlain Family Foundation
Charles Schwab Foundation
Cogan Family Foundation
The CoHo Team of Windermere Agents
Columbia Bank
Comcast Cable
Community Catalyst
Community Tattoo Collective
Costco Wholesale Corporation
Crane Jewelers LTD
Dana’s Giving Fund
DCG ONE
Delightful Communications
DewYou Skin Spa
Douglas & Maria Bayer Foundation
eBay Foundation
Economic Security Project
The Ellis Foundation
Employees Community Fund of Boeing (Puget Sound)
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Epic Games
Ernest R. & Audrey M. Turner Foundation
Evelyn H. Fuldner Foundation
F5 Networks
Facebook
Fales Foundation Trust
Fifth Generation
Finance of America Cares
First Federal
FrontStream
Gates Archive, LLC
GE Foundation
George & Dragon Pub
George Ostrow
Getty Images, Inc.
Give Lively Foundation
Google
Halperin Family Foundation
Hanson Family Foundation
Highland Ice Arena
HomeStreet Bank
Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation
Ike Nizam Foundation
Inatai Foundation (Formerly Group Health Foundation)
Instacart
J&HW Mission International
James C. Allen Charitable Foundation
Jean K. Lafromboise Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
King County Employee Giving Program
Kohl Construction & Remodeling Inc.
KPMG – Gives
The Kroger Co. Foundation
Lasley Violins
Legal Foundation of Washington
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Lindhorst Wallace Fund
Lucky Seven Foundation
Mental Wellness Foundation
Mercedes-Benz Research & Development North America, Inc.
Microsoft
Miller Hull Partnership

Moccasin Lake Foundation, G3 Committee
Molina Healthcare, Inc.

Motorola Solutions Foundation
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
MUFG Union Bank Foundation
National Football League (NFL)

Network for Good
Nordstrom

North Star Charitable Foundation
Northwest Harvest
Northwest Plan Services

NW Children’s Foundation
Okta

Optimism Brewing Company
Oracle Corporation
Pasadena Community Foundation

PayPal Charitable Giving
PCC Community Markets
Philadelphia Insurance Companies - Northwest Region
Phinney Neighborhood Association

Pivotal Ventures LLC
PlayStation
Project Cool
Project Linus
Prosperity Now
Puget Sound Energy Foundation

Pun Intended Punslam
Pure Barre

The Quaker Hill Foundation
Raman Family Foundation
Raymond James Financial, Inc.

Renah Blair Rietzke Family & Community Foundation
Rutter Family Philanthropy Fund

Safeco Insurance Fund
Sage Foundation

Salesforce.com
The Same Cloth
Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Seattle Academy of Arts & Sciences
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Seattle Education Association
Seattle Foundation

Seattle Seahawks
SEIU Local 49

Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church
Skyline at First Hill Residents Association
Soapbox Project

Social Justice Fund Northwest
Sound Credit Union
South Park Redevelopment Committee

Spotify
Sprague Israel Giles, Inc.
Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation

Starbucks Corporation
State Farm
Swedish Health Services

Symetra Financial
TCK Investments LTD
TEGNA Foundation

TisBest Philanthropy
T-Mobile
Toys for Kids

TreeLine Foundation
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

U.S. Bank
U.S. Bank Foundation

UFCW Local 3000
Umpqua Bank

United Way of King County
United Way of the Columbia-Willamette

United Way Suncoast
University Christian Church Legacy Foundation
Verizon
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

Walsh Construction Co.
Washington Federal Foundation
Washington Progress Fund
Washington State Budget & Policy Center

Washington State Combined Fund Drive (CFD)
Washington Women’s Foundation
Wells Fargo
WestSide Baby

Weyerhaeuser Company
Whole Foods Market
Windermere Foundation
Woodland Park Zoo
Wyman Youth Trust

Donor Key
2022 Financials

Operating Support & Revenue

Government Contracts & Grants $22,701,545
Private Grants & Contributions $4,503,876
In-Kind Contributions $210,638
Earned & Other Revenue $1,488,957
Administrative Fee Charged $2,954,628
Total Operating Support & Revenue $31,859,644

Operating Expenses

Program Expenses
Transportation $11,537,202
Homelessness Prevention $4,913,304
Housing & Services $4,335,498
Hunger & Food Resources $4,118,733
Advocacy $1,583,945
Management & General $3,805,215
Retired & Senior Volunteers $382,981
Fundraising $1,439,663
Total Operating Expenses $32,116,541

NET INCOME $(256,897)

Balance Sheet

Current Assets $12,507,332
Fixed Assets $4,228,850
Other Assets $8,430,157
Total Assets $25,166,339

Current Liabilities $1,726,538
Long-term Liabilities $3,157,567
Total Liabilities $4,884,105

Shareholder Equity $20,282,234

Total Liabilities & Net Assets $25,166,339
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LINKEDIN  solid-ground
TWITTER  SolidGround
YOUTUBE  SolidGroundWA

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