

2025

COMMUNITY REPORT

**Reflections
on a year of
community,
connection,
and care.**



DEAR NEIGHBORS



Shalimar Gonzales
Solid Ground CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shalimar'.



Hannah Won
Board of Directors Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Won'.

Imagine a world where we prioritize the health of our entire community rather than the wealth of individuals – where no family is left to slip through the cracks and fall into poverty. Because the reality is, when our community safety net is strong and working, we all benefit.

In our society, we're often told to "pick ourselves up by our bootstraps" – to live up to the American myth that if you keep working harder on your own, you can overcome all barriers and achieve anything. But what most people don't know is that this false belief originated in the 19th century as a joke, meant to ridicule tasks seen as absurd and impossible.

The reality is that none of us do this alone. Some are fortunate to find an open door from mentors or family connections. Others are lucky to have the financial means to pay for help – babysitters and tutors for our children, contractors to repair our homes, or medical care when we get sick.

But not all of us have access to these resources and support. Today, we see grandfathers living without heat in the winter. We see whole families evicted, walking into our offices with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We see people lined up two hours before food bank doors open.

This level of poverty in a community as wealthy as ours should be unsettling to all. When we look at household wealth, we're the richest country in the world – yet we allow such dramatic examples of harm.

The good news: The wealth is here. This means we have the ability to build on our community partnerships to solve poverty and change how we view our role as part of our community's safety net.

So join us in being poverty abolitionists!

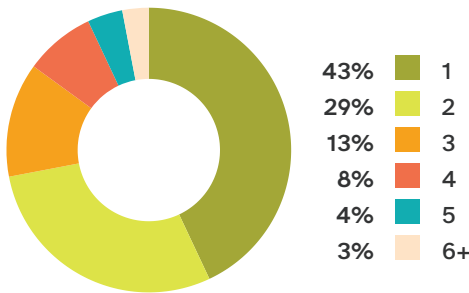
If you – like us – find poverty to be intolerable in a society of such great wealth, we invite you to stand with Solid Ground to demand a different future for our neighbors and the social movements required to make it happen.

In this report, learn more about the ways Solid Ground partners with the community to invest in the potential we see in ourselves and our neighbors. We hope you'll celebrate our progress and join in our vision for a community where the wellbeing of all of us matters.

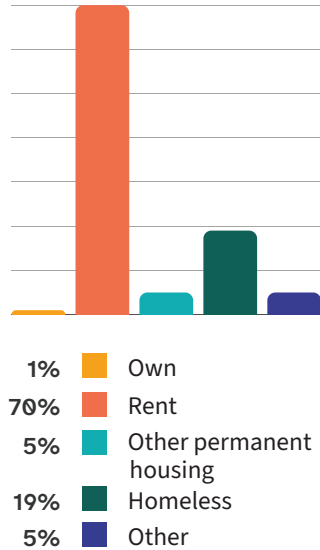
DEMOGRAPHICS & FINANCIALS

In 2025, we served more than 65,000 people.

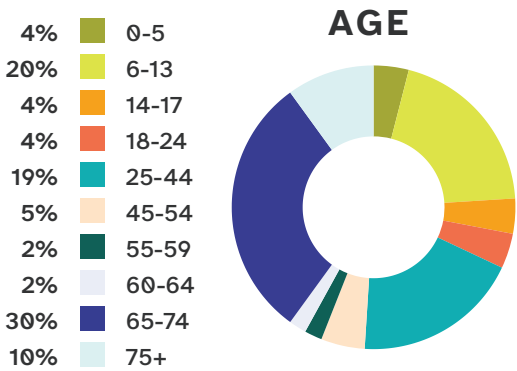
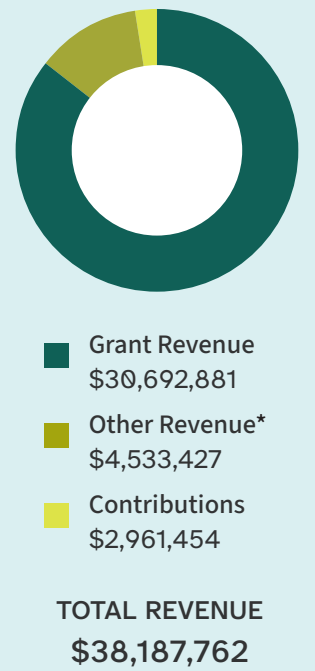
HOUSEHOLD SIZE



HOUSING TYPE

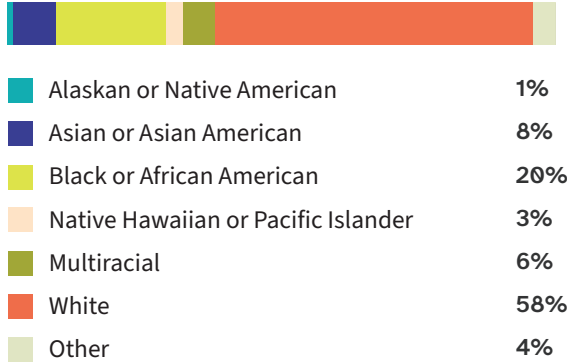


2025 REVENUE

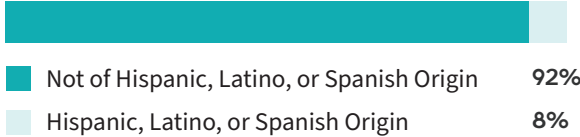


AGE

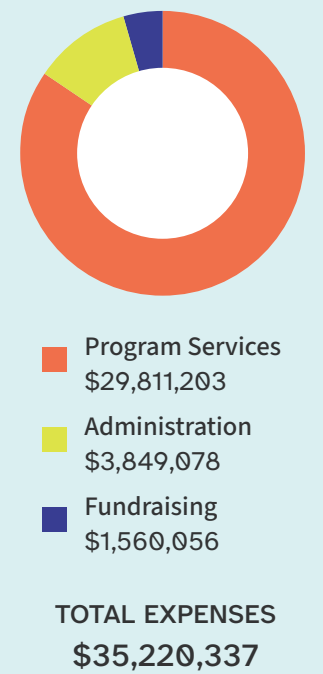
RACE



ETHNICITY



2025 EXPENSES



Based on available participant demographics, October 2024 – September 2025.

* Includes Employee Retention Tax Credit received in 2025.

HUMAN-CENTERED SOLUTIONS



*Following the lead of
the people we serve:*



Each of us thrive when we have the personalized care, attention, and resources we need to be healthy and independent in all aspects of our lives.

Our vision at Solid Ground is to make resources more effective and accessible by removing barriers – whether financial, racial, or systemic – so that people receive meaningful, trauma-informed support when they need it most. We believe solutions should be created in collaboration with the people who understand these needs best because they’ve experienced them firsthand.

“

The CAC’s role is to say, ‘Actually, that’s not the reality of what poverty is like, what not having a home is, what not eating is.’ Then [we] put it all out on the table and explain it.

– WENDY CISNEROS, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER &
FORMER COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBER

2025 PROGRESS

- 84 people from Clark, Grant, King, Pierce, and Yakima counties joined listening sessions with our Poverty Action advocacy partners, giving insight into what low-income communities need most from our state government.
- 15 Community Accountability Council (CAC) members contributed 550 service hours to guide Solid Ground programs and operations based on their own insights and experiences with poverty and homelessness.
- Nearly 4,500 individuals and families who called or walked into our offices were connected to resources and services at Solid Ground or with our community partners.
- 180,225 door-to-door rides helped get seniors and others with special needs to key services and stay connected with their support networks.

INVESTING IN YOUTH

For young people, experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, and other traumatic hardships in their formative years can have long-term ripple effects.

Children who survive trauma are far more likely to struggle with health problems, developmental delays, and behavioral health issues later in life, often leading to generational cycles of poverty. We know it's critical to disrupt these cycles at their earliest stages. From behavioral health counseling and social-emotional learning opportunities to tutoring sessions and cooking classes, we partner with youth to help them build confidence, discover passions, find belonging, and learn to believe in themselves.

2025 PROGRESS

- **342 youth in our housing programs** had access to individualized attention and onsite age-appropriate programming to support growth and healing from homelessness and other traumatic experiences.
- **748 Seattle students** learned about healthy food and gained hands-on cooking skills in the classroom.
- **61 volunteers spent more than 880 hours** helping children learn and grow through tutoring, mentoring, and nutritious summer meals.
- Through our Poverty Action advocacy partners, we provided **youth leadership development, empowerment, and advocacy training** in collaboration with community partners Build 2 Lead, OWIES (Odyssey World International Education Services), and UW's Health Equity Circle.



It's really fun learning the new skills, because before, I didn't really know how to cook. I knew how to kind of heat things up and then – at best – hopefully not let it burn.

– KEO, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT &
RECIPES FOR SUCCESS PARTICIPANT



Building skills for the kitchen and beyond:



BUILDING WELLBEING

When Solid Ground conducted our last Community Needs Assessment, we asked our neighbors what resources they needed most but were least able to access. Near the top of the list? Behavioral health care.

Untreated mental health and substance use disorders are often the biggest obstacles keeping people from moving forward in life. Because of society's disjointed and inequitable health care system, affordable and culturally appropriate behavioral health services are often out of reach for people who need them most. That's why Solid Ground develops partnerships to make culturally relevant, age-specific behavioral health and wellness care more accessible to everyone we serve.

2025 PROGRESS

- **150+ community partners** – including nonprofits, behavioral health agencies, legal aid and government organizations, schools, and many more – strengthened our ability to meet our participants' needs.
- Sand Point Housing residents received **free, onsite mental health services** – so they don't have to leave campus to get the treatment they need. We're now applying lessons learned across other services.
- We facilitated eastern Washington **listening sessions leading to mental health and wellbeing solution proposals**, including 23/7 crisis centers and local mental health professional certification programs.
- Broadview domestic violence (DV) survivors accessed **weekly therapeutic gardening sessions** in partnership with Rooted Hands Collective.



At Broadview, even dirt and seeds have the power to heal:



“

For DV survivors, the system can be so complicated. Being able to do a simple task of planting a seed and watching it grow and thinking, ‘I did that’ – it really means something.

– KIM S., BROADVIEW DV CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK

Homelessness and poverty are among the most critical issues we face as a region – and our staff is one of our most valuable assets for finding and delivering solutions.

Their passion, expertise, experiences – and the relationships they build with and within our community – are why Solid Ground continually fights for wage equity among human services workers and creates opportunities for our staff to grow and progress in rewarding careers.

“

We learn best when we learn from each other. To be able to share my knowledge with my colleagues on a platform where I can advocate, uplift, and teach others on various topics is so motivational and impactful.

– ZAKEEA PAYTON, SOLID GROUND RENTAL ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST
& INTERSECTIONS OF IDENTITY LUNCH & LEARN PRESENTER



Join our team! Visit our Careers page:



2025 PROGRESS

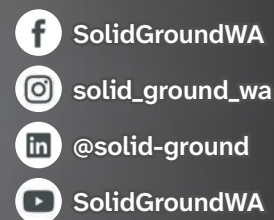
- We invested more than 1,200 training hours to provide staff with leadership, anti-racism, trauma-informed, and safety guidance.
- Our Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI) organized **monthly Intersections of Identity Lunch & Learn opportunities**, where staff presented to coworkers on topics related to their lived experience and social justice.
- Staff convened **identity-based Employee Resource Groups**, spaces to work together to **undo racism in their workplaces and lives** – and get support to heal from secondary trauma and their own lived experiences with racism.
- Solid Ground Transportation drivers received **hands-on training and valuable experience** that's led many to careers within the larger King County Metro workforce.



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