



455 Gold Pass Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

MON.-FRI., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM  
719-473-8890  
PARTNERSINHOUSING.ORG

WINTER 2021



hope and  
Partners in Housing

1991 - 2021

Supporting Colorado Springs  
Families for 30 Years

**AS YOU PLAN FOR YOUR 2021 GIVING, PLEASE REMEMBER PARTNERS IN HOUSING.  
OUR FAMILIES CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.**

## ENTERPRISE ZONE

- **WHAT IS IT?** Partners in Housing is eligible for the El Paso County Enterprise Zone, a 25% state tax credit.
- **HOW DO I QUALIFY?** Donations for this tax credit must be made in the form of a check. Please donate a minimum of \$250 made payable to "El Paso County Enterprise Zone" with Partners in Housing and the last four digits of your social security number in the memo line. Send your check in the enclosed, addressed envelope to Partners in Housing.
- **WHAT IS THE IMPACT?** Individual or corporate contributions help 120 families in need move forward out of homelessness AND has the additional benefit of reducing your state tax liability.

## TWO TAX CREDIT BENEFITS CHILDCARE CONTRIBUTION TAX CREDIT

- **WHAT IS IT?** A gift to Partners in Housing's Child Enrichment Center offers the greatest return! Your gift of \$500 or more is eligible for a Childcare Contribution Credit on your Colorado state taxes of up to 50% of your gift.
- **HOW DO I QUALIFY?** Please donate a minimum of \$500, payable to "Partners in Housing" using the enclosed envelope. Write "Child Enrichment Center" on the memo line.
- **WHAT IS THE IMPACT?** Your individual or corporate contribution to the Child Enrichment Center has a direct impact on the lives of over 250 children each year AND it has the additional benefit of reducing your state tax liability.
- **WHY GIVE?** With our current resources, we can only serve 120 families per year, but we receive almost 1000 applications every year. The need is great, but TOGETHER we can make a difference.
- **TO GIVE?** Visit [partnersinhousing.org/give-help](http://partnersinhousing.org/give-help) today.



**While 2020 brought many unexpected changes, 2021 brings a wonderful celebration for Partners in Housing as we recognize our 30th anniversary of assisting families in need, in the Pikes Peak Region.**

Looking back at Partners in Housing historic organizational documents, we were reminded of the hard work leading up to the formation of Partners in Housing. In the late 1980s, a group of community leaders began researching local needs, and programs in other communities, supporting families who were experiencing homelessness. Among this group were Bishop Richard Hanifen of the Diocese of Colorado Springs and the Executive Director of Catholic Community Services, Sr Lucille Kripple.

Partners in Housing was then started as a program of Catholic Community Services, but quickly was incorporated as a separate, but connected, nonprofit in November 1991.

The original mission statement when formed: Partners in Housing is to provide safe transitional housing for families with children who are homeless or soon to be homeless. The Board of Directors and staff of Partners in Housing have made changes to the mission statement a few times over our 30 years, but the core message remains the same. Our current mission statement: Partners in Housing guides families in housing crisis from insecurity to stability, self-reliance and prosperity maintains our ultimate goal of assisting families with children to have stable, safe housing and the knowledge and resources to move forward.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate Partners in Housing milestones and travel through history from November 1991 leading up to November 2021 by signing up for our email distribution list. Signing up for our 30th anniversary content is as easy as visiting our website, [www.partnersinhousing.org](http://www.partnersinhousing.org), and filling out the newsletter popup window that will appear on your screen. You can unsubscribe at any time. If you have questions about signing up, please contact Jillian at [jbirchmeier@partnersinhousing.org](mailto:jbirchmeier@partnersinhousing.org) or (719) 325-5830.



**OUR MISSION.** Partners in Housing guides families in housing crisis from insecurity to stability, self-reliance and prosperity.

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR CAUSE BY DONATING AT PARTNERSINHOUSING.ORG.**

# TEAM WORK!

## HOW EXCITING WHEN PLANS COME TOGETHER!



As reported in our last newsletter, Partners in Housing was able to make progress toward reducing the “digital divide” with purchases of computers and installation of internet in our properties, to be billed directly to the agency. Our employment program, Work It!, assists our Partners in career assessment, interests and goals for achieving livable wage work. Our amazing staff and volunteers help with training, applications, resume writing and interview skills. Health and Wellness Consultants (HAWC) donates funds to be used for employment related needs, to include training fees, supplies and other resources. Through participation in the Work It! Program, two Partner clients recently used the technology we provided, along with staff guidance and funds from HAWC to receive online training. With our connection to the training source, the fees were discounted. We are proud to announce they have both achieved Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification. They are now employed in their chosen medical field, with many opportunities for growth, and on their way to successful careers! All these factors came together, with their efforts, to make this possible.

## Newest Program Offering – HOUSING NAVIGATION

At Partners in Housing, we strive to see every family in our program successfully move out of crisis and to a place of stability. We guide families on their self-sufficiency journey by providing a year of transitional housing, personalized case management, budget and credit counseling, career readiness workshops, life skills classes, and access to our free Donation Centers. We are proud to announce our latest program offering – housing navigation.

When budgets are tight, navigating the housing market can be difficult for anyone. Factor in that 50% of Partners in Housing families have an eviction on their record and things quickly become more complicated.

We hired Sarah Seales as our full-time Housing Navigator in January to assist families on their search for housing beyond our program. Sarah is giving families the greatest chance for success by having one-on-one meetings and walking through a variety of documents such as the documentation required to apply for housing, the key factors landlords are looking at when reviewing applications like income, employment history, rental history, credit score, and criminal background, and determining what properties make the most sense to apply to based on budget, eligibility, needs, and preferences.

In addition to meeting with the families, Sarah is an advocate, building relationships with landlords and property managers and showing that the families we recommend can be trusted to pay



their rent on-time and take good care of their property. Landlords and property managers don't have to look any further than Sarah for proof of program success. Sarah and her two daughters were in the Partners in Housing program in 2012. A divorce left Sarah, a stay-at-home mom, high and dry, without a home, without a job, and without the time to find a job that paid well enough to support her and her two kids. Sarah turned to the Partners in Housing program in an effort to give her daughters a place to call home while she figured out her next steps. Sarah worked incredibly hard and successfully moving onto stable housing upon graduating from the program. Nine years later, Sarah is back, this time as a Partners in Housing employee, advocating for families and giving them the best chance at success.

**Stay tuned for Sarah's full story in our next newsletter!**

## Thank You, St. Michael's Episcopal Church!

We want to give a big thank you to the parishioners of St. Michael's Episcopal Church for their unwavering support of Partners in Housing throughout the years. Prior to COVID-19, St. Michael's parishioners regularly donated snacks to our Child Enrichment Center and ensured our Pantry was stocked. When the pandemic hit, the congregation doubled down on their support with monetary donations. We are incredibly thankful for the generosity and steadfast commitment of St. Michael's parishioners to bettering the lives of local families experiencing homelessness.



St. Michael's  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

## PARTNER FAMILIES PROVIDED ON-SITE COVID-19 TESTING

In November 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) reached out to Partners in Housing with a remarkable offer – they could send a team to our facility to test our families and staff as often as we needed, for free. We've since held testing events in December, January, and February, and are appreciative of the opportunity to better our chances of identifying asymptomatic individuals and proactively stop the spread of COVID-19!



## Board of Directors

Barbara Harris, Board President  
Keri Ellen White, Board Vice President  
Judith Barthel, Board Secretary  
Brenda Lammers, Board Treasurer  
Bill Barnett  
Andy Barton  
Pam Bruni  
Krystina Freeman  
Sharon Tunson  
Mike Waters  
Bob White  
Mark White  
Brendan Zahl  
Maggie Zamboroski

*We are especially proud to have 3 former Partners on our Board of Directors, giving a client-centered perspective on agency decision making. All Board members made financial contributions to PIH in FY19-20.*

## Staff

Abel Tovar, Housing Operations Director  
Andrew Claxton, Family Caseworker  
Angela Terrazas, Intake and Referral Services Mgr  
Carolena Jackson, On-Call Support Specialist  
Cheryl Nygaard, Data and Software Analyst  
Dovey French, Program Manager  
Eric Evans, Family Services Director  
Hannah Blessing, Individual Services Mgr  
Jenni Cornella, In-Kind Donation Coord and Dev Associate  
Jillian Birchmeier, Volunteer Mgr and HR Specialist  
Karen Powner, Housing and Leasing Coordinator  
Kattee Nelson, Support Specialist and CEC Lead  
Kayley Weber, Grants and Web Presence Manager  
Kimberley Jones, On-Call Support Specialist  
Leslie Salinas, Family Caseworker  
Linda Phillips, Intake and Referral Administrator  
Mary Stegner, Executive Director  
Megan Brown, Intake Assessor  
Michelle Jackson, On-Call Support Specialist  
Nina Grant, Family Caseworker  
Rebecca Cordova, Certified Credit Counselor  
Ron Smith, Housing Maintenance Coordinator  
Sarah Seales, Housing Navigator  
Shauna Jackson, Intake and Referral Administrator  
Yvonne Kelton, Accounting Clerk