



**INTERFAITH COALITION
OF WHATCOM COUNTY**

PARTNERS IN FAITH. CHANGING LIVES.



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

VISION

Interfaith Coalition is a community of many faiths working together to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County.

MISSION

Our member congregations collaborate to fill gaps in human services and to meet housing and other needs of marginalized people.

VALUES

All people deserve to live in a safe home.

All people have dignity and need to be treated with respect.

APPROACH

Leverage hands-on individual actions into big results.

Share abundance with people in need in Whatcom County.

Connect people of diverse beliefs to come together and serve neighbors in need.

STAFF

Devin Connolly, Executive Director
Hannah Kunde, Family Housing Director
Matt Maloy, Property Manager
Warren Meier, Maintenance Manager
Elizabeth Montoya, Communications Coordinator
Maggie Spinelli, Accounting Technician

BOARD

Rev. Kevin Park – Board President	Sue Dabney
Nathan Dwyer – Board Vice President	Renee Hoemann
Susan Jancic – Secretary	Jerome Rosen
Brian Henshaw – Treasurer	Kerrie Bauer
	Mary Chambers
	Rebekah Duffy

We would like to extend a special note of gratitude to Nathan Dwyer, who is transitioning off the Board of Directors after completing two full terms. Nathan, your dedication, expertise and encouragement of others has been an asset to the Board, and to Interfaith Coalition as a whole. Thank you for helping us continue this valuable work!



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In my Annual Report letter last year, I wrote that we were experiencing a season of transition and even upheaval. That trend has continued, and Interfaith Coalition is still seeking new equilibrium. We have faced ongoing staffing changes and we have also had to reevaluate some of our alliances with partner agencies in our community, strengthening some and moving away from others. We have already had to make some difficult decisions as we adjust our sails to the winds of change that have swept through our organization, and there are more to come.

In the midst of this organizational change, there has still been much to celebrate. Volunteers have shown up for Interfaith Coalition in a multitude of ways; providing meal kits for families in emergency shelter, lending valuable support to our Winter Coat Drive, and meeting special family needs, like diapers for the two babies born into our housing program this year. Time and again, we have felt gratitude for the vitality and variety of support we receive for our mission and the families we serve.

We are now preparing to go deeper into a season of evaluation as our Board of Directors and staff consider a multitude of options for the future of Interfaith Coalition. We will also be asking for input from our member congregations as we go through this process. Though it is unnerving at times to stare down an uncertain future, this is also a season of hope. I recently read the following reflection from Richard Rohr, which I view as especially relevant for us today;

“Hope is not primarily for the future. It’s for now! Hope is a way of seeing time and understanding the present. It’s a way of tasting and receiving the moment. It gives us the capacity to enter into the future in a new way. In that sense, we can call hope true realism, because hope takes seriously all the many possibilities that fill the moment.”

On behalf of Interfaith Coalition as we make more room for hope in this liminal space, I extend gratitude to those of you who have walked with us on this winding path. In our 42-year history, we have navigated many turns in the road while still keeping our focus on serving families in our community, and I believe we will continue to do that for many years to come.

DEVIN CONNOLLY

FAMILY SERVICES



FAMILY HOUSING

18 Families housed **42 Children housed** **72 Individuals housed**

Prevention

Keeping families facing the loss of their housing in their home through rent assistance.

- 25 families
- 67 children
- 111 individuals

Diversion

Providing rental deposit and move-in cost assistance for families who have lost their home.

- 12 families
- 28 children
- 46 individuals

Other Services

Support for families in IFC housing and the greater community

- Referrals to community services
- Needs-focused case management
- Hygiene and household supplies
- Bus passes
- Meal Kits
- Winter Coats
- Holiday gifts

This year, we strengthened our connection with Whatcom County School District Family Support Liaisons to serve more families in the further reaches of our county.

OUR VOLUNTEERS



This year, **hundreds of volunteers** lent a hand to support projects like the Winter Coat Drive, Holiday Joy, Project Warm-Up, meal kit deliveries and numerous landscaping and home improvement projects, dedicating **thousands of hours** of their own time to help families, children, and individuals in need around Whatcom County.

Families look many different ways, and all are welcome and valued in IFC housing. One intergenerational family (grandma, her adult daughter and son, and her young granddaughter) has celebrated multiple milestones since moving into IFC emergency shelter. Last summer, the granddaughter celebrated her “sweet sixteen” and has since started working her first job. Grandma has been experiencing significant health challenges and underwent two major surgeries in the past six months. And most recently, the son/brother/uncle’s application for the Housing Choice Voucher was selected by the Housing Authority so he can move into his permanent home! This family has navigated many ups and downs, and they have been able to use IFC emergency shelter as a place of respite, rejuvenation, and now a launching pad for the next steps of their journey.



HOLIDAY JOY

Providing gifts to families during the holidays

WHATCOM FAMILIES RECEIVED GIFTS

52



CHILDREN WHO GOT TO OPEN PRESENTS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

121



ORGANIZATIONS, CONGREGATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE GIFTS

29

"We hope one day we can help a family in need."
—Parent & Holiday Joy recipient



WINTER COAT DRIVE

Warm Coats for our Whatcom Winters



COATS GIVEN TO FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT WHATCOM COUNTY

1,600+



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Bellingham Food Bank
First Christian Church
St. Peter Mission Church
United Church of Ferndale
Ridwell
Ragfinery

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Thank you to every one of you who helped us give out 2,500+ free coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to 500 families and individuals around Whatcom County. Without you, many children, teens, and adults in our neighborhoods may only have a tattered and worn coat to shield them against our wet, chilly winter. With this community effort, though, hundreds of people got to “shop” for a new-to-them coat.



Our Winter Coat Drive is an effort of thousands. A dozen congregations held coat drives, Ridwell featured winter coats so their subscribers could easily donate from their front porch, Ragfinery offered space to accept donations, Brandon Nelson Partners Realtors provided their box truck, Bellingham Food Bank provided a home base to give out coats in Bellingham. Congregants and volunteers, including Marta Hand and Loretta Tedrow of United Church of Ferndale and Marie Valum of St. Peter Mission in Deming gave generously of their time and energy so we could broaden the reach of our coat drive. Ronalee Kincaid takes the helm on Project Warm-Up, organizing donations of yarn and knitted and crocheted hats and scarves year-round so these beautiful, handmade items could be given away at our winter coat distributions, as well as many other locations and outreach programs around Whatcom County.

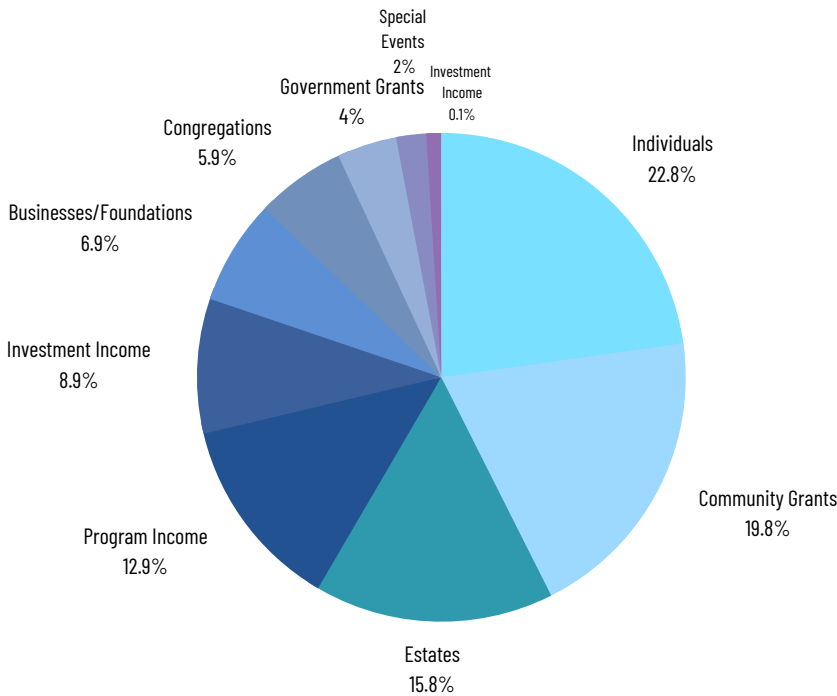


And the volunteers! Over 40 volunteers came together to sort coats and be “personal shoppers” so guests could walk away wearing the perfect coat. As disheartening it can be to see so many in our own community in need of something as simple as a coat, our volunteers create an atmosphere of joviality, filling the tent with laughter and comfort, giving a smile and respect to every single person who walks up. All of this powerful collaboration for the sake of providing one item of clothing. Imagine what else could we accomplish by coming together as a whole community.

FINANCIALS

Revenue 2022/2023

Individuals	180,117
Community Grants	150,000
Estates	126,283
Program Income	96,328
Investment Income	65,990
Businesses/Foundations	56,152
Congregations	47,626
Government Grants	28,579
Special Events	12,762
Miscellaneous Income	3,869
Total	767,706



Statement of Financial Position

September 30, 2023

ASSETS

Cash	1,038,979
Other Assets	49,375
Property & Equipment, net	1,460,400
Endowment Investments	382,435

TOTAL ASSETS

2,931,189

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES

37,482

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	2,449,845
Unrestricted - Board designated reserves	260,000
Total without donor restrictions	2,709,845

With donor restrictions	183,862
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TOTAL NET ASSETS

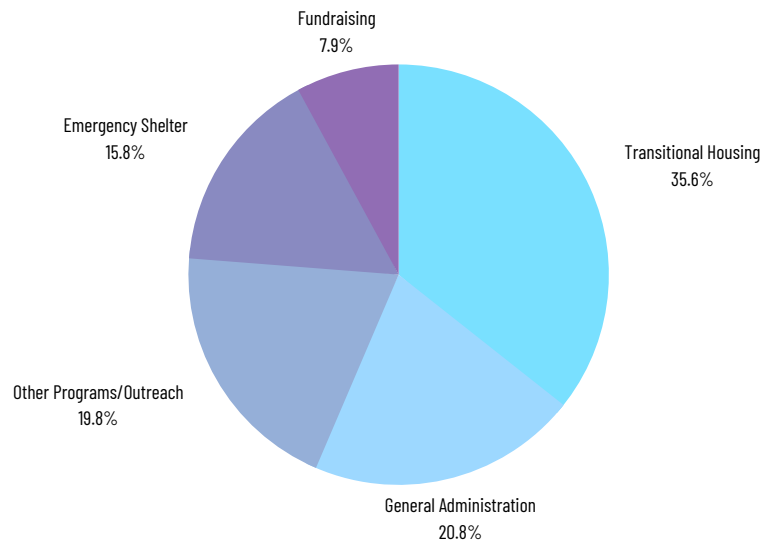
2,893,707

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

2,931,189

Expenditures 2022/2023

Transitional Housing	231,954
General Administrations	135,491
Other Programs/Outreach	132,348
Emergency Shelter (Family Promise)	100,955
Fundraising	50,090
Total	650,838

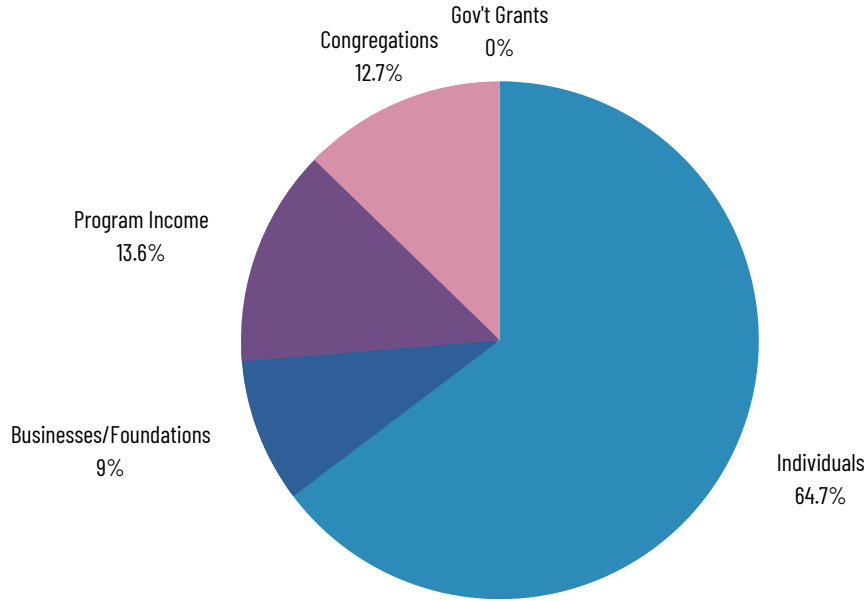


Operating Income

116,868

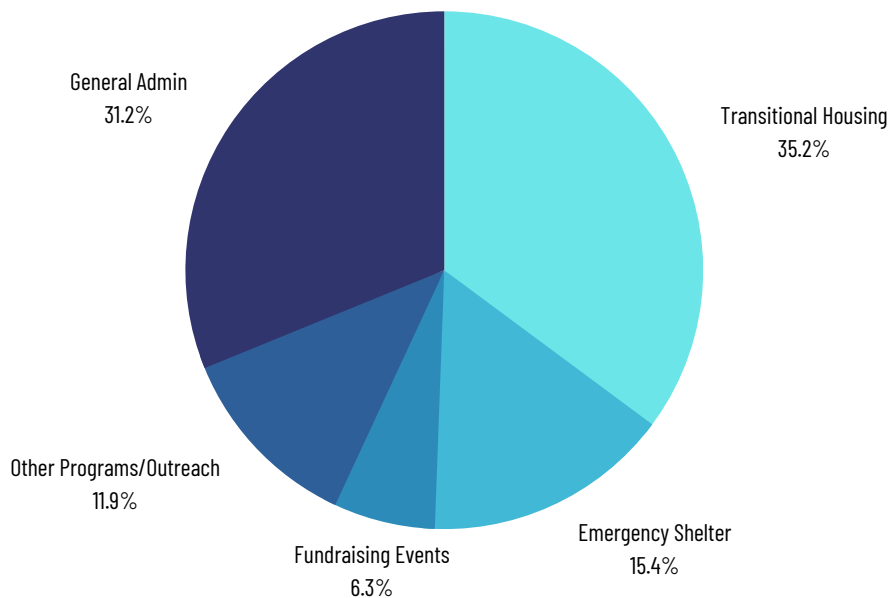
PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024 - 6-month budget

Revenue 2023/2024



Program Income	37,554
Individual Contributions	178,995
Congregations	35,196
Businesses and Foundations	24,890
Total	276,555

Expenditures 2023/2024



Transitional Housing	134,626
Emergency Shelter	59,099
Fundraising Events	24,274
Other Programs/Outreach	45,596
General Administration	119,377
Total	382,972

Operating Income -106,417

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Assumption Catholic Church
Bellingham Covenant Church
Bellingham Friends Meeting
Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Blaine Free Church Unitarian
Center for Spiritual Living, Bellingham
Central Lutheran Church
Christ Episcopal Church, Blaine
Christ Lutheran Church, Ferndale
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Congregation Beth Israel
Cordata Presbyterian Church
Custer United Methodist Church
Echoes Bellingham
Faith Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
First Congregational Church of Bellingham
First Presbyterian Church
Garden Street United Methodist Church
Grace Lutheran Church, Blaine
Hope in Christ Church
Hope Lutheran Church, Lynden
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Everson
Lummi Island Congregational Church
Lynden United Methodist Church
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Red Cedar Zen Community
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. Innocent Orthodox Church
St. James Presbyterian Church
St. John's Lutheran Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ferndale
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Lynden
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
St. Peter Mission, Deming
Trinity Lutheran Church
United Church of Christ, Blaine
United Church of Ferndale
Unity Spiritual Center of Bellingham
Zion Lutheran Church

FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS

Bellingham Friends
Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Center for Spiritual Living
Congregation Beth Israel
Cornwall Church - group ministry
Friends of Second Christian Reformed
Good News Fellowship
Hope in Christ Church
Hope Lutheran Church
Lake Whatcom Ward (Latter Day Saints)
Lynden United Methodist Church
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Red Cedar Zen Community
St. James Presbyterian Church
St. Joseph's Parish in Lynden
The Firs Retreat Center
United Church of Ferndale
Zion Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bellingham School District
Blaine School District
Brigid Collins The Parenting Academy
The Chardi Kala Project
Ferndale School District
Habitat for Humanity of Whatcom County
Lynden School District
Lydia Place
Meridian School District
Mt Baker School District
Nooksack Valley School District
Opportunity Council
PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center
The Whatcom Dream
Unity Care NW



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

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