

**Solid
Ground**
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ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS:

2020 was a challenging year for everyone – and especially challenging for organizations like ours. The dual pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism disproportionately impacted Solid Ground families. Families with limited income, criminal histories, poor credit and other barriers have always been extremely challenged to find affordable housing, and the pandemic only exacerbated these issues, as parents lost their jobs or put themselves at greater risk of illness while working low-skill, high-contact jobs.

Connecting with families was also challenging. We missed being able to visit with them face-to-face, as parents were busy with children who were distance learning at home, concerned with extended family members who had fallen ill, or too preoccupied by the enormous stresses of daily life in the pandemic to connect virtually.

Despite these overwhelming challenges, Solid Ground continued to move families out of homelessness and into housing and to help them maintain their homes. Our success is rooted in our Housing First approach – get people into housing first, and then provide the help they need to increase their income, address their health, and achieve academic success. We took our services and our classes virtual; distributed food, diapers and cleaning supplies to meet families' basic needs, and offered support and healing, particularly to our participants of color, as our community and the nation grappled with the impact of systemic racism.

As we write this letter in July 2021, we are pleased to continue with and augment our services, reinstating in-home visits, reestablishing community meals, and reengaging our participants and volunteers through face-to-face service. We continue to build upon our 2020-2022 strategic goals of expanding our mission, deepening our impact, and strengthening our organization with a renewed commitment to trauma-informed care knowing that the dual pandemics have left their mark on each of us.

Thank you for your continued support. As we move forward in helping families achieve economic stability, we will do so through a person-centered lens, knowing that safe, stable, and affordable housing is the foundation of healthy, successful families and thriving communities. "We're in this together" continues to be our mantra as we work to fulfill our vision to ensure every family has a safe and affordable home, where parents and children thrive and are engaged in school, work and their community and can realize their goals and dreams.






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A list of Solid Ground staff is available on our website.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

18% increase over the number of families served in 2019



45% of 24 families increased their household income at exit



97% of 114 families in Solid Ground housing achieved housing stability



88% of 24 families exiting from Solid Ground housing secured permanent housing



93% of 153 adults completed or made progress toward a self-identified goal



97% of 219 school-age children regularly attended school



WHO WE SERVE

Solid Ground served a total of 569 adults and children in 153 families with housing and housing search services in 2020. This is an increase in persons served of 18% over the previous year.

Of the total served, 114 families were housed in our site-based and scattered-site housing programs for families experiencing homelessness, and 28 families received housing search services during the year. Of these, 14 households were still in housing search at the end of the year. Another 11 families received prevention assistance through our Homework Starts with Home partnership and were able to avoid homelessness (note: these 11 households are not included in the demographics or outcome statements listed below.)

The families served by Solid Ground are very low-wealth households; 78% of families had household incomes at or below the federal poverty line, and 99% had incomes at or below 200% of poverty. Eighty percent (80%) of households were headed by single mothers; 6% were headed by single fathers; and 14% were two-parent families.

Seventy-three percent (73%) of adults and children served by Solid Ground were persons of color, primarily African American (57%). Nineteen percent (19%) of adults served were 18-24 years old; 39% were aged 25-34; 27% were aged 35-34; and 15% were age 45 and older. Thirty-four percent (34%) of children served were aged 0-5; 26% were aged 6-9; 28% were aged 10-14; and 13% were aged 15-17.



Housing Stability

Goal #1: 80% of families served secure housing with Solid Ground assistance.

Result: 80% of 142 families secured housing, and another 10% were still in housing search at year end.

Goal #2: 90% of families in Solid Ground housing achieve housing stability.

Result: 97% of 114 families in Solid Ground housing achieved housing stability.

Goal #3: 80% of families exiting from Solid Ground housing secure permanent housing upon exit.

Result: 88% of 24 families leaving Solid Ground housing secured permanent housing upon exit.

Improved Economic Stability

Goal #1: 60% of households have employment income at year-end or exit.

Result: 41% of 114 families were employed at year-end or exit.

Goal #2: 50% of households increase their income from program entrance to exit.

Result: 45% of 24 families increased their household income at exit.

Educational Advancement

Goal: 95% of school-age children have regular school attendance.

Result: 97% of 219 school-age children regularly attended school.

Improved Health & Living Skills

Goal: 80% of adults in Solid Ground housing complete or make progress on a self-identified goal (i.e. Budgeting, Parenting, Health & Wellness).

Result: 93% of 153 adults completed or made progress toward a self-identified goal.

GOALS			
	Expand Our Mission Reach	Deepen Our Impact	Strengthen Our Organization

OUR MISSION

To prevent and end homelessness for families with children in the communities we serve through housing, resources and opportunity.

OUR VISION

Every family has a safe and affordable home, where parents and children thrive in school, at work and in their community and can achieve their goals and dreams.

OUR VALUES

Person Centered • Equity & Inclusion
Integrity • Community

OUR PROGRAMS

HomeAgain

HomeAgain provides scattered-site rapid rehousing in Washington County. Families receive an average of twelve months of rental assistance and support services. **In 2020, the program served 75 adults and children (21 families).**



HomeSafe

HomeSafe provides scattered site transitional housing in Washington and suburban Ramsey Counties. Families receive monthly rental assistance, based on unit size, as well as supportive services for an average of twelve months. **In 2020, the program served 60 adults and children (19 families).**



East Metro Place

East Metro Place provides 20 units of transitional housing, located near Century College in White Bear Lake. All units receive project-based Section 8 rental assistance to make the housing affordable to families with very low incomes. A wide array of supportive services are available to adults and children, including assessment, goal planning, advocacy, basic needs assistance, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, employment services, living skills training (parenting, budgeting, etc.), after-school tutoring and educational support. **East Metro Place served 115 adults and children (29 families) in 2020.**

East Metro Place II

East Metro Place II provides 14 units of permanent supportive housing, added in late 2005 to the White Bear Lake campus. Seven units are designated for homeless families with disabilities (typically mental illness and/or chemical dependency), and seven units serve families with histories of long-term homelessness. As with the transitional housing program at East Metro Place, all 14 families in permanent housing receive Section 8 rental assistance and supportive services. **In 2020, East Metro Place II served 87 adults and children (20 families).**



HomeFront

HomeFront works with veterans experiencing homelessness, providing affordable housing and supportive services to 10 households, including eight families and two single adults, in a permanent supportive housing setting in Maplewood, MN. **In 2020, HomeFront served 32 adults and children (11 families).**



Homework Starts with Home

Homework Starts with Home provides prevention services and rehousing to families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. A collaboration with several partners, HSWH works with school districts to move families experiencing homelessness quickly out of housing instability into stable housing within the same school district communities. **In 2020, Homework Starts with Home served 160 adults and children (42 families).**

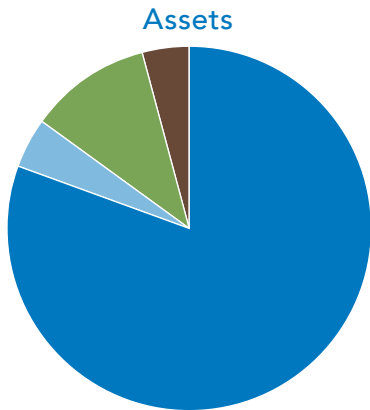


2020 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	
Current Assets	\$3,495,394
Property & Equipment	\$192,874
Investments – beneficial interest in assets held by The Saint Paul Foundation	\$474,182
Pledges receivable, net of current portion, discounts and allowances	\$175,199
Total Assets	\$4,337,649

Liabilities & Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$63,601
Net Assets	\$3,699,076
Donor Restricted Assets	\$574,972
Total	\$4,337,649



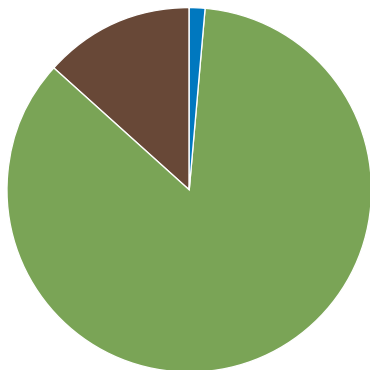
Solid Ground's complete audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available on our website.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

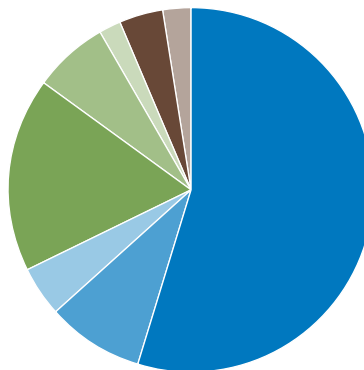
Revenue & Support	
Corporate & Foundation	\$1,987,770
Contributions	\$315,762
United Way	\$160,500
Government Grants & Contracts	\$626,964
Special Events	\$236,616
Program Services	\$72,949
Investment Income	\$143,134
In-Kind Contributions	\$81,968
Total Revenue	\$3,625,664

Expenses	
Mission Support Management	\$65,580
Mission Support Fundraising	\$124,155
East Metro Place	\$451,171
East Metro Place II	\$363,790
HomeSafe	\$225,141
HomeAgain	\$212,705
HomeFront	\$125,735
Homework Starts with Home	\$255,649
Total	\$1,823,926

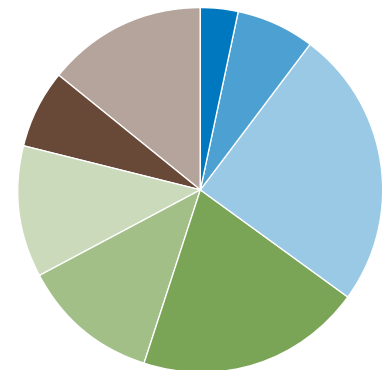
Liabilities & Net Assets



Revenue & Support



Expenses



In December 2020, Solid Ground received a transformational \$1.25 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund. The grant was recognized in 2020 as a general operating grant and time-restricted across the next three years to: (1) expand the HSWH program into Washington County schools; (2) create a Shelter Diversion pilot program in Washington County; and (3) hire a Mental and Chemical Health Counselor to serve Solid Ground families.

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In 2020, **186 volunteers** gave **3,650 hours** of service to Solid Ground. **Thank you volunteers** for your support of our mission!

"In a year that we were forced apart, our volunteers still found ways to stick together. Whether it was signing up to help meet an emergency need, attending a virtual event, sharing a newsletter or Facebook post, or simply just checking in, there was a call out for help, and our volunteers answered." Dylan McDonough, Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager

2020 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



NANCY'S STORY

"As daily life for all of us changed in March, 2020, I was contacted to help with a weekly delivery of groceries from the local food shelf to Solid Ground, and of course I said yes! For the past year I have made these weekly visits, which has been a great opportunity to help our Solid Ground neighbors. The families work so hard; and delivering groceries was an easy task. I would even try to include small notes in the grocery bags letting the families know my family was thinking about and cheering for them.

It has been a joy and an honor to meet the parents and their children – their energy and positivity is amazing! Everyone needs support to help them through tough times, and I am happy to play a small role at Solid Ground as families work to build a strong foundation. It has always been an honor to volunteer at Solid Ground and I will continue to support its mission."

– Nancy McCarty, 2020 Volunteer of the Year.



GIL'S STORY

"The last year has been a challenge. In addition to COVID-19, I retired in May 2020, so I've had to work at figuring out what to do with myself. Solid Ground has played a big part in that, and I am very grateful for the opportunity. When I saw the announcement that volunteers were needed to transport groceries from the food shelf, it seemed like an ideal opportunity to make a small contribution that would be consistent with the lockdown. Since the change from delivering from the food shelf to working the Mobile Food Market, it has been fun to meet a few of the families."

– Gil Hartley, 2020 Volunteer of the Year



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