



HOME

OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Empowering

at-risk families to achieve
and maintain independence
through strength-based case
management services.

90% of families
are maintaining independence
after 5 years.

What a comfort to know there is no place like "HOME"

From the Executive Director

One of HOME's greatest strengths is our ability to be innovative. Using the foundation of our emergency shelter, our network has grown in community engagement to ensure we meet the unique needs of those we serve. We are not a one-size-fits-all approach, which enables our families to heal, cope and grow at a pace that is sustainable.

Data from the 2024 Point In Time Survey shows a 24% increase in those experiencing homelessness in Somerset County from the year before. This upward trend highlights the need for serving our at-risk households through empathy, compassion and action. Our volunteer network remains a vital support, and our staff continues to be skilled in what we are tasked to do.

2024 was a transformational year in terms of acting upon new ideas, building relationships and propelling forward with Project HOMEBase, which looks to cement the mission of HOME in the community for years to come.

To our families whom we serve: We are privileged to be trusted with your journey.

To our community: We are humbled by your generosity and shared sense of purpose.

To our staff: We have deep appreciation for your dedication and impact.

Our collaborative effort enhances all our lives, despite the many uncertainties in the world today. What a comfort it is to know that there is no place like 'HOME.'

With much gratitude,
Alyssa Martini
Executive Director



Thank you
for helping
us as we
strive
to reach
our goal.



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From the Board of Trustees

The one constant in our world is change. And we are all witnessing many changes.

So, we must all be ready to adapt, pivot and rethink our plans and priorities, whether it is the family dynamic, our career, or our quest to serve at-risk families.

In 2024, HOME struggled to find enough emergency shelter space in our interfaith network, relying for several weeks on motel rooms for our families. As we pivoted, we engaged new congregations and organizations to help us fill our need. We will continue along that path for new partners through the coming year.

As our state and communities struggle with the need to provide affordable housing, over the last year, four families moved into independent, affordable housing. These families found quality housing with the expert help of our case manager, Kayla Ellis. The change in their environment is a blessing and recognizes the commitment of our staff and volunteers to truly improve the lives of our families. We know just how important affordable housing is in our communities.

HOME's biggest change is nearing fruition. Project HOMEBase, our capital campaign, will allow us to purchase a building and more than double our office space, a long-time goal to better serve our families, staff and volunteers. Providing a home-like atmosphere along with adequate professional space has been a long-standing goal. Thank you in advance for helping us as we strive to reach our goal.

Finally, I would, as always, like to extend a personal thank you to the countless volunteers who make HOME of Somerset County - and our families - thrive.

Blessings,
Dorothy Driscoll
President, Board of Trustees



Our Volunteer Impact

In 2024, you responded to the needs of 58 families in our emergency shelter and continuum of care programs.

Shelter

- 15 Host congregations
- 22 Support congregations

Resources

- 1,152 Nights of shelter
- 10,400+ Meals

Time

- 2,500+ Volunteer hours
- Over 1,000 volunteers

Community Outreach

- Food security assistance
- Basic needs support
- Housing supplies
- Clothing and furniture
- Transportation assistance
- Tutoring services
- Back-to-school supplies
- Holiday support





Shelter

Our Emergency Shelter provides housing, meals and basic needs through interfaith congregational hosting and support. Case management, financial counseling, mental health evaluation and community resource referrals are offered to families to increase life skills and access to resources.

- 8 Families served
- 9 Adults, 10 children
- 3 Families transitioned into independent housing
- 1,384 Hours of case management

Our Continuum of Care Empowers



Transitional Housing

Sunrise House, located in Bridgewater, accommodates families who were previously in our Emergency Shelter and have prepared themselves for independence but find themselves stalled by the search for permanent, affordable housing. Individualized case plans are created, and basic needs are subsidized as families work on educational and employment goals.

- 2 Families served
- 2 Adults, 1 child
- 1 Family transitioned into permanent housing
- 276 Hours of case management



Supportive Services

Phase 2 offers 18 months of continuing case management and support to clients who have transitioned to independent housing. This fills an identified gap in services to support newly housed families and prevent relapse back into homelessness.

- 13 Families served
- 19 Adults, 20 children
- 761 Hours of case management

Sound Minds provides all clients, children and adults, with a psychiatric evaluation, mental health counseling and crisis intervention. Our counselor provides direct services to clients at our host congregations, as well as in-home counseling. All adults and children have access to mental health services and participate in consistent counseling. Ten families participated in family therapy.

Neighbors In Need provides families living independently with case management and financial counseling resources that are aimed at housing and family stability. Mental health services, basic needs and food security supplementation help these families remain independent.

- 25 Families served
- 25 Adults, 28 children
- Strong emphasis on food security and increasing stable housing
- 1038 Hours of case management

Bound Brook Families For Success provides bilingual case management to the immigrant population of Bound Brook. Collaboration between Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, Middle Earth and HOME connects families with services and resources to help eliminate barriers in the community that lead to sustainable independence.

- 10 Families served
- 20 Adults, 18 children
- Strong emphasis on basic needs and employment connection
- 1040 Hours of case management





Clients Who Inspire

Crystal's New Beginning

My journey began when I lost my car, which triggered a series of unfortunate events. Soon after, I found myself without a home. This was an incredibly difficult time for my daughter, Camille, and me, but little did I know that it would also lead us to a place of hope.

Finding the HOME community was a turning point in our lives. This wonderful organization welcomed us with open arms, and I quickly grew to trust the community. The volunteers we met were not only kindhearted, but also dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of those they served. Their genuine care and support created a safe and nurturing environment for my daughter and me. It became a place where we felt safe, valued, and understood.

After several months of being in the emergency shelter, we moved into an affordable housing apartment. Our journey, though marked by difficulty, ultimately led us to a place of renewed hope and new beginnings. With a heart full of gratitude, I look forward to the future, knowing that we are surrounded by a network of caring and wonderful individuals.



A Community That Cares

Partnerships throughout our community continued to benefit our at-risk families in 2024



The 2024 Hunterdon Polo Classic fundraising event was a fantastic time as HOME was once again honored to be named a beneficiary organization.



Smiles and full plates filled the room at our Family Pasta Dinner Fundraiser, held at Pluckemin Presbyterian Church.





Interns from Rutgers University & Hillsborough High School

provided individualized tutoring and food security support to our families.



The Cot Crew volunteered muscle and transportation to ensure that our shelter beds arrived safely between host congregations.





Share My Meals volunteers

ensured that food waste was reduced by redistributing fresh and nutritional meals that benefited HOME families.

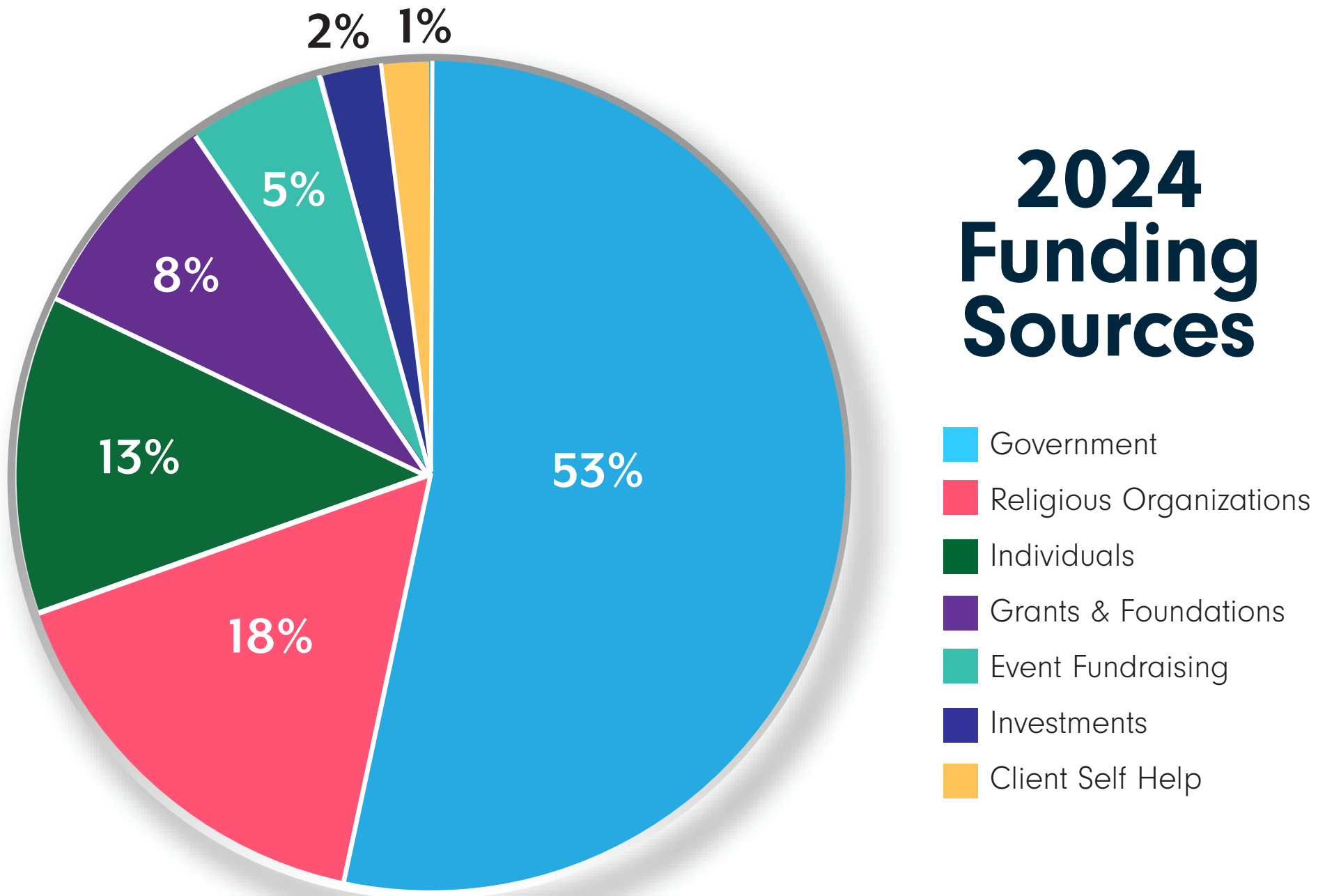
Liquid Church transformed our office and Welcome Center through their Spring Outreach Project, into a space that fosters dignity, comfort, and a true sense of belonging.



Thank You to all the groups and individuals that went above and beyond in their holiday giving, generously supporting our entire network.



2024 Funding Sources



Footnote - Capital Campaign HOMEBase fundraising is not included in this chart. As of 12/31/24, campaign assets in hand are 35% of the goal, and pledges to the campaign bring us to 51% of our HOMEBase goal.

