



## HOUSING & HOPE

A monthly email series on housing & homelessness.

### Thank you for reading HOUSING & HOPE!

For 11 months, we explored Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services programs and philosophy around housing and homelessness through the Housing & Hope email series. At CCS/CHS, we recognize the sacredness and dignity of every person. We also recognize that the journey to housing stability is complex and nonlinear. We seek affordable, accessible, and stable housing for all, by providing a variety of services that lower barriers to housing. In the previous 10 emails, **we highlighted different CCS/CHS programs and shared individual client journeys to understand how CCS/CHS works with clients to overcome barriers to housing stability.**

Since 1918, Catholic Community Services has been supporting the most vulnerable and underserved communities in Western Washington. More than a century later, we continue to provide care through 115+ housing programs, even in the face of a devastating pandemic. During the course of this email series, we examined nine of those programs that serve diverse communities who come to CCS/CHS for support.

#### Care in Action Recap

In the first issue, we accentuated the work at [Noel House](#), which offers enhanced shelter and supportive housing for women in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. When COVID-19 hit, the staff of Noel House focused on secure, permanent housing. In only two months, 19 women were referred to permanent housing from Noel House.

The November issue explored how [race and racism](#) are tied to housing inequality. Common barriers to housing, like bad credit, a lack of savings, and unstable employment, all relate to a deeper history of institutional racism. CCS/CHS works to combat systemic racism by supporting those underserved communities.

For the final issue of 2020, we highlighted a family's journey to housing stability. The [Pregnant/Parenting Housing Program](#) supports parents struggling with chronic homelessness and substance abuse in Snohomish County by offering case workers who focus on family reunification.

The first 2021 email focused on the [Creating Future with Hope for Farmworkers](#) in Western Washington, which provides housing, social services, and community development for farmworkers in Washington State. Right now, the Farmworkers Housing Initiative is providing vaccine information and vaccine clinics to Indigenous and Latinx communities in Skagit, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties.

In February, we looked at CCS/CHS's permanent, supportive housing, by featuring the new [Thea Bowman apartments](#). Located in Kent, the apartments have 80 units, with 36 reserved for veterans, and welcomed its first residents in December 2020.

Across the Puget Sound, [Benedict House](#) is a CCS/CHS facility for unhoused men in Bremerton that opened in 2006. Usually an evening shelter, Benedict House transitioned to full-time due to COVID-19. Like many CCS/CHS programs, Benedict House is not just a place to sleep, but a community and support system for those in need.

The following month, we focused on [Communities of Concern](#) and our community-oriented solutions through Housing Initiatives. At CCS, communities of concern are poor and low-wage earners in Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic communities. Most recently, CCS and the Latino Civic Alliance [opened a new community center](#) and behavioral health clinic for youth and their families in Burien.

In May, we shared the heroic work of [CReW](#) (Counseling, Recovery, and Wellness), a CCS King County service. This program helps clients address mental health challenges that act as an obstacle to housing. Operating remotely due to COVID-19, the CReW team successfully converted to telehealth, with an over 80% attendance rate from clients and was a key resource to programs that became 24/7 enhanced shelters as a result of the pandemic.

The final email was about [COVID-19, innovative hotel programs, and new enhanced shelters](#) all across Western Washington. In King County, we opened the new Bob G shelter that currently houses the maximum 68 clients. In Puyallup, a hotel is housing CCS clients in a first-of-its-kind hybrid hotel program. As of July 2021, the Puyallup City Council is expected to extend this program for another eight months.

## Ways to Get Involved

Thank you for reading the Housing & Hope email series! We hope you feel more connected to our work of creating safe and stable housing. Our goal is to keep you informed of what CCS/CHS is doing in your community. **We would appreciate you taking four minutes to provide feedback on the Housing and Hope email series via [this survey](#).**

- **Join us online:** Sign up for a monthly CCS/CHS update at [ccsww.org/join-us](https://ccsww.org/join-us).
- **Volunteer:** Tutor youth, serve meals, help seniors, and more at [ccsww.org/volunteer](https://ccsww.org/volunteer).
- **Donate:** Give online at [ccsww.org/donate](https://ccsww.org/donate) or by phone 1 (800) 499-5979 ext 5707.
- **Read more:** Access an archive of all Housing & Hope emails at the [series homepage](#).

