Our Mission
Helping the unhoused rebuild their lives through intentional community.

Our Core Values

SAFETY
PATIENCE & UNDERSTANDING
SELF-CARE
TRAUMA AWARENESS
INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY
SIMPLICITY

communitysupportedshelters.org
541-683-0836  community@cssoregon.org
As we celebrate a decade of Community Supported Shelters in 2023, we reflect on the significance of returning to our origins. Our fundamental mission remains unchanged: helping the unhoused rebuild their lives through intentional community. Emphasizing the importance of nurturing the Communities and the individuals we shelter, we empower our clients to embark on a journey toward better health, stability, and a sense of purpose.

As our clients start to stabilize and heal, we offer them opportunities to be involved with our CSS Team. We’ve expanded our client volunteer opportunities, starting with a few hours a week, with the potential of leading to full-time jobs. We’re thrilled that some of our clients have joined our Maintenance and Service Teams as staff members this year!

We take pride in amplifying client voices within our organization. Former and present clients provide valuable insights based on lived experiences, taking roles on our Board of Directors, in management positions, and on the Client Action Committee.

Staying true to our roots as a client-centered organization, we look forward to sharing more stories of client growth in the coming months. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the larger community for their unwavering support, enabling the existence of over 140 shelter beds in our community. Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey with us.

CSS Co-Directors
Tabitha & Heather
“CSS gave me a life.”

Zech Boesman spent five years on the streets of Eugene before he got a spot in CSS’s Expressway Community a little more than two years ago. “I wasn’t really living; I was surviving,” he says. “I was comfortable living on the streets because I didn’t think I deserved anything better.”

Now, Zech is a paid staff member of the CSS Maintenance Crew and is living in a Hut in the ReBoot Community.

“CSS was so patient, showing us that it was OK to make mistakes but you have to own them and continue on,” he says. “CSS gave me a life. I don’t think about suicide anymore. It’s not perfect, but it’s better. I’m so grateful to CSS for the love and grace that has been shown to me.”
Measuring Success

CLIENTS SERVED
JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

213

77% EXPERIENCED INCREASED SAFETY

85% DECREASED INTERACTION WITH POLICE

90% HAD NO INCREASE IN DRUG USE

28 Have pets

75 Over age 55

132 Chronically homeless

81 Experienced domestic violence

20 Veterans

136 Reported mental health disorders

Cost Effective Shelter Support

Average Cost to Taxpayers of a Person Experiencing Homelessness*

$40,000/yr

or

Cost to Support 1 CSS Client

$7000/yr

*United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2017
The Journey of CSS

2012
The beginning of the de Buhr’s Conestoga Hut vision

2013
CSS incorporated as a nonprofit and opened its first Safe Spot Community

2014
Opened a Safe Spot Community for Veterans

2017
Built the first wheelchair-accessible Hut

2020
Opened five new Safe Spot Communities to address the needs of the unhoused during the COVID crisis

2022
Added shower and laundry programs

2023
CSS has grown to over 33 dedicated staff members, 14 Safe Spot Communities, and 252 Conestoga Huts
Learning to Smile Again

Tera Sprague, a CSS Support Worker, remembers a client who was addicted to meth: “She never smiled. She was depressed all the time.” Now, that woman is in treatment and volunteers for CSS. “She gets up to go to her appointments and rides her bike to do her volunteer work.” And she smiles.

“I just love working with them,” Tera says of CSS clients. Tera has been unhoused and was a drug and alcohol addict but is now more than seven years sober. “I’m able to show them that I’ve changed my life and plant those seeds in them.”

Compassion is key to CSS success, she says. “Every person is so different. We’re able to see people where they’re at and help them and show them that we truly care. I feel good about that.”

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Revenues
Total $1,297,000

- Donations $403,000 (31%)
- Rent (Shields House) $19,000 (1%)
- Grants $250,500 (19%)
- Huts, Manuals, & Refurbishing $22,000 (2%)
- Contracts (City & County) $555,000 (43%)
- Events $47,500 (4%)

Expenses
Total $1,292,000

- Safe Spot Communities $692,000 (54%)
- Building & Maintenance $181,500 (14%)
- Administrative $240,000 (19%)
- Fundraising $135,000 (10%)
- Huts $43,500 (3%)
Ways to Get Involved

VOLUNTEER
Our volunteers have built Conestoga Huts, prepared food for fundraising events, put on musical performances for clients, and more.

JOIN OUR BOARD
We’re seeking diverse, energized professionals to serve on our Board of Directors. Responsibilities include attending monthly meetings, attending fundraising events, and 3-year board terms.
STAY INFORMED
Subscribe to our newsletter to stay connected with our growing community of supporters and partners. You can also follow us on social media to get the scoop on all of our latest news and upcoming events.

TAKE A TOUR
Visit one of our Safe Spot Communities in Eugene, Oregon, for an opportunity to see what we do firsthand, step into a Conestoga Hut, and speak with staff and current clients.

BECOME A BUSINESS PARTNER
From hosting a fundraising event to becoming a CSS sponsor, there are many partnership opportunities.

To learn more about opportunities to get involved, visit communitiesupportedshelters.org/get-involved