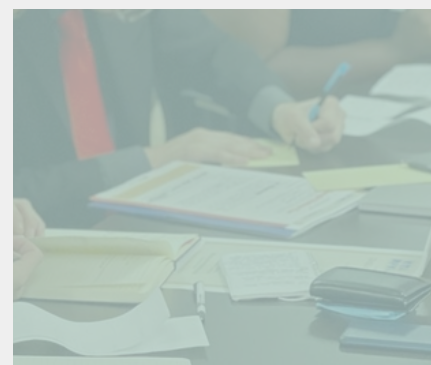
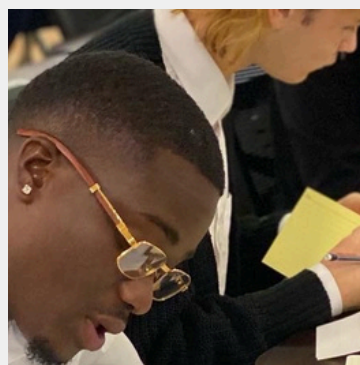
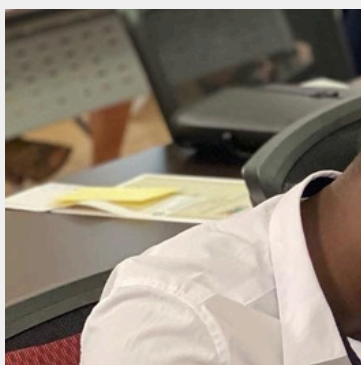
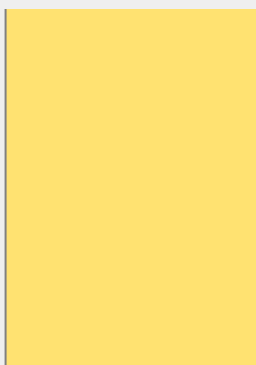


Vita Nova, Inc.

2024 Impact Report

New Life for
Homeless Youth



A Message from our CEO

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Advocates,

As I reflect on the past year my heart is filled with immense gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together at Vita Nova Inc. It is your unwavering commitment that allows us to stand as a center of excellence for young people experiencing homelessness, helping them navigate immense challenges and discover pathways to brighter futures.

This year, we are proud to report that Vita Nova Inc. directly supported over **450** homeless youth, providing them not just shelter, but also critical resources for holistic well-being. Our housing and rental assistance programs served **134** youth with stable housing solutions. We also planned and organized our new Sleep Spot initiative, which, in the following fiscal year, helped over **40** youth find a safe place to sleep—offering an alternative to the trauma of living outdoors.

These achievements are more than just statistics; they represent lives transformed. They tell the stories of young individuals who—through your support—found a safe place to sleep, access to education, an advocate to guide them, and the belief that they are capable of achieving their dreams. They are a testament to our shared belief that every young person deserves a chance to thrive.

None of this would be possible without you—our generous donors, tireless volunteers, dedicated staff, and invaluable community partners. Your trust in our mission and your investment in the lives of homeless youth are the foundation of our success.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Vita Nova Inc. family. Together, we are not just helping youth survive—we are empowering them to flourish.

With deepest gratitude,

Jeff DeMario

Chief Executive Officer



Our Mission:

Vita Nova is a safe bridge to independence for former foster care, and homeless youth through supportive housing, education, employment and life skills training.

As the voice of homeless young adults, Vita Nova is working to eliminate homelessness for youth ages 18 to 25 years old in Palm Beach County.

To learn more getting involved in our mission and helping to change the life of a young adult go to www.vitanovainc.org



Starfish Story



Let us tell you a story about a starfish.

One day, an old man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?". The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't possibly make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then smiling at the man, he said...

"I made a difference for that one."



The Difference of One



Sophia

Impact Stories



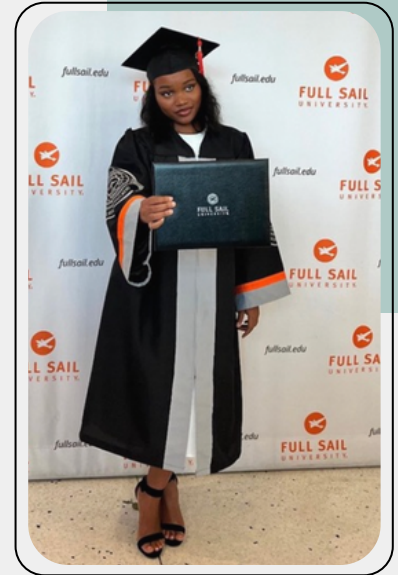
Sophia began working with Vita Nova in the Fall of 2020. At the time, Sophia was unhoused and struggling with navigating the complexities of attending college as a first-generation student with limited guidance and support. She connected with the supportive team at Vita Nova and, with their support, got back on track with school and, most importantly, established stable housing under the Fostering Youth Independence Program. Through Vita Nova, Sophia was introduced to Florida Youth SHINE, a statewide advocacy organization for those with foster care lived experience, which opened her eyes to the world of advocacy and her true passion – using her voice to bring awareness and positive change to the foster care system. Sophia has met with numerous state representatives, testified at Florida state senate and house committee hearings, is a member of multiple youth advisory boards nationally, and represented Vita Nova and Florida Youth SHINE nationally at the United States Capitol. For her commitment to advocacy, she received the 2023 Youth Advocate of the Year award from Florida’s Children First. Sophia currently resides in Palm Beach County and attends Palm Beach State College, where she is pursuing a degree in business marketing.

The Difference of One



Impact Stories

Brianca



Vita Nova first met Brianca in January 2019. She had just “aged out” of her group home in Orlando, FL, and moved into a transitional housing program. At the time, she was undocumented, which was a tremendous barrier getting in the way of her academic and employment goals. In collaboration with the Legal Aid Society, Vita Nova assisted Brianca with obtaining her permanent residency card, allowing her to work and begin saving for her future.

In the Fall of 2020, Brianca found herself in a toxic living environment, , unsure how to navigate either situation. Vita Nova assisted Bianca and her partner in with identifying and leasing an affordable apartment, navigating the application and leasing process, and getting assistance with securing donations of furniture and other household goods through connections with local agencies in her area. Fall of 2020 was also a time for big academic change in Brianca’s life. She had her heart set on attending Full Sail University, but did not have the financial means to do so.. Vita Nova also worked with Brianca and the local case management agency to identify a scholarship/grant opportunity through Full Sail University, and she was the institution ultimately awarded her a full-ride scholarship by the institution. Through Vita Nova, Brianca was also connected to the school of dreams.

Finally, Vita Nova introduced Brianca to Florida Youth SHINE to help develop supportive connections with mentors and peers. Through this connection, Brianca gained leadership experience as a 2022–2023 FYS Statewide Board Member and secured an opportunity to participate in the Embrace Families AmeriCorps program, which she successfully completed in August 2023. Brianca graduated from Full Sail University with her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science this past Fall 2023!

Living Forward Housing Efforts

Total youth
served in Vita
Nova Housing
and rental
assistance
programs.

134

Vita Nova Housing is a transformative program designed to empower youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by helping them develop the skills necessary to live independently. The program focuses on five core areas: financial literacy, social and emotional health, vocational training, educational planning, and health and wellness.



Through Vita Nova Housing, youth are connected with dedicated housing case managers and receive hands-on training in essential life skills such as cooking, cleaning, managing personal finances, preparing for employment, and maintaining physical and mental well-being.

Living Forward Housing Efforts

Key Outcomes:

Youth in Vita Nova Housing gain valuable financial literacy skills to manage their money confidently and responsibly.

Every resident receives comprehensive life skills training that prepares them for success in employment, education, housing stability, health, and overall well-being.

The Vita Nova Housing Team continues to be a beacon of hope offering not just housing, but empowerment, opportunity, and the critical tools young people need to achieve a self-sufficient future.



Impact Stories



Shaley



Shaley came to Vita Nova right after turning 18, and was experiencing hardships with securing stable housing.

She was couch-surfing, going from house to house with a trash bag of her belongings amongst many other obstacles that included not being documented and attempting to enter this adult life with very little knowledge of resources and support from others.

Since walking through the doors of Vita Nova, Shaley has been a ray of sunshine and a mentor to fellow youth in the face of her adversities. While experiencing homelessness and other life challenges, Shaley was able to graduate high school from Palm Beach Lakes Community High School, she graduated from the Recipes for Success culinary program with Extraordinary Charities, and she gained temporary employment.

Shaley is currently a resident at The Village and now has a safe place to call home while still receiving case management services and life skills training. With assistance from Palm Beach County Legal Aid, Shaley is currently pursuing higher education at Palm Beach State College and still exploring her career goals, but states “I want to be able to help people just like me”.

Shaley is brave and has a bright future ahead and we are all rooting for her!

Supportive Community

“the Spot”

**YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER
SERVED 450 YOUTH DURING
THE CURRENT YEAR**

Vita Nova operates the only drop-in center for homeless youth and youth at-risk of homelessness in the county, called the Spot. Located in West Palm Beach, the Spot is a safe and non-judgmental center for youth ages 18–25 years old.



At the Spot, a youth ages 18–25 years old can easily enter a cadre of services related to housing, healthcare, mental health, employment and education by just entering the front door.

Once a youth enters the Spot then they are met by an Intake Specialist who can conduct an assessment on immediate needs and goals for year youth. Each youth will then meet the following Spot members for follow up and services:

- Mental Health Therapist
- Employment Coordinator
- Health Care Specialist
- Education Services

In addition to supportive team members the Spot features also features a shower, laundry facilities, computer lab, music therapy room, food pantry, hygiene essentials, and clothing.

Youth Story



Tanya



When Vita Nova first met Tanya she was aging out of foster care at 18 years old. This was at a time when youth exited their group homes and foster placements by putting their worldly belongings in trash bags, and attempting to brave the new world of adulthood with very few options.

In our first meeting with Tanya she stated, “when entering foster care no one prepares youth to lose everything. We are confused and sad about leaving our parents then years later when turning 18, we lose everything all again.”

As a Vita Nova Alumni, now nearly 30 years old, Tanya says “information and resources are things Vita Nova provides every youth so they can be successful.” Tanya moved into Vita Nova Village at 18 years old and it was there where she quickly thrived. She had a safe place to call home, learned life skills that led to employment opportunities, completed school and after two years was able to move out to workforce housing.

After two years, Tanya left Vita Nova Village and obtained her dream job of working for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. Tanya has always wanted to give back and help others in crisis, and with her new position as the person people call to get help in an emergency, she can do just that!

644

Youth visited our Clothing Closet, providing them with basic clothing needs as well as appropriate apparel for job interviews and on the job requirements.

405

on site showers were provided youth in our safe and clean place to take care of their personal hygiene.

Service by Solution



Independent Living Services

Vita Nova focuses on youth ages 18 to 25 to achieve a realistic goal of ending homelessness.

We champion the formula of **Housing + Employment + Education + Supportive Living = Self Sufficiency** as a solution to deliver our youth into independent adulthood one by one.

Many services for older foster youth end at the age of 18 years old. At Vita Nova we know this is the most crucial time on a young adult's life, so services are created to help youth ages 18-22 with continuing education, learning life skills and/or finding employment.



65% of youth were enrolled in PESS (Post- Secondary Education & Supports)

Vita Nova served 102 youth through Independent Living Services this year.

65% of young adults were enrolled full time at an approved Post-Secondary educational institution

Bold Collaboration



Revolution requires allies. Vita Nova embraces the power of partnership to upset the usual and usher in change. Knowing we are stronger together, we employ a courageous collaborative strategy to move our cause and community forward.



Deluca Foundation, Mary Alice Fortin
 Foundation
 Jim Moran Foundation
 Quantum Foundation
 Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation
 Town of Palm Beach United Way
 Community Foundation Fund
 Lost Tree Village Charitable Fund. Inc
 The Batchelor Foundation
 Untied Way of Palm Beach County
 Great Charity Challenge
 The Schanne Famiy Fund
 Admiral's Cove Foundation Inc.
 Ballen Isles Charities, Foundation, Inc.
 Faigen Family Foundation
 Bank of America
 J M Rubin Foundation
 Jonathan's Landing Cares Inc
 Meshbane Family Foundation Inc.
 The David A. Burke Foundation
 First Horizon
 Leslie L. Alexander Foundation

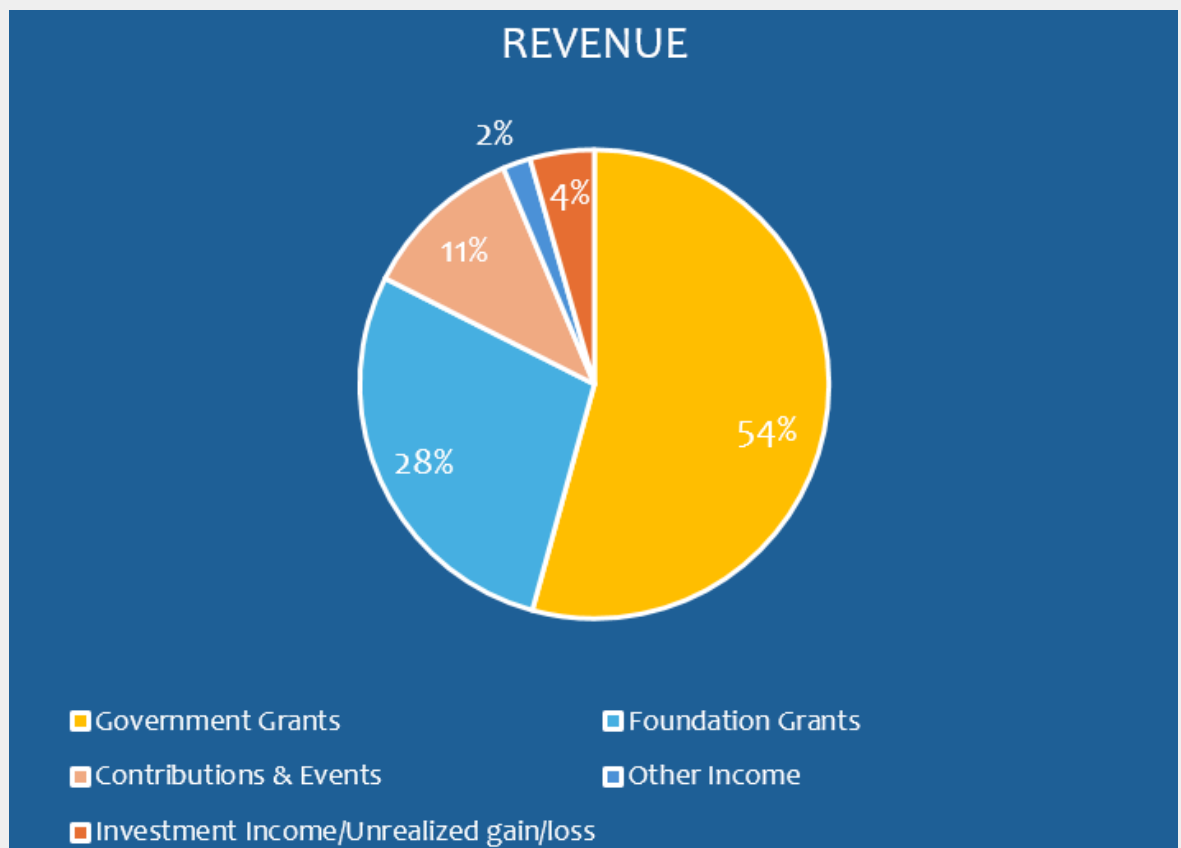
Mirasol Foundation
 Night Runners WPB Inc
 TD Charitable Foundation
 The Brams- Gerson Family Foundation Trust
 US Bank
 William & Helen Thomas Charitable Trust
 Palm Beach Community Trust Fund
 AHA ! Cares
 Lester Napier Foundation Inc
 Boca Rio Foundation
 Florida Atlantic University
 Gratis Foundation
 Publix Super Market Charities
 the Omtvedt Family Charitable Fund
 The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
 American Heart Association
 The Huntt LaFrance Fund
 Ken and Harriet Mooney Char. Foundation
 Royce Family Fund
 WAWA
 Gary Bracketts Impact Foundation
 The Falk Family Trust

Fund Allocation

Revenue

Government Grants	\$2,117,498	54%
Foundation Grants	\$1,100,280	28%
Contributions & Events	\$437,158	11%
Other Income	\$74,734	2%
Investment Income/ Unrealized gain/loss	\$172,653	4%

Total Revenue \$3,902,323

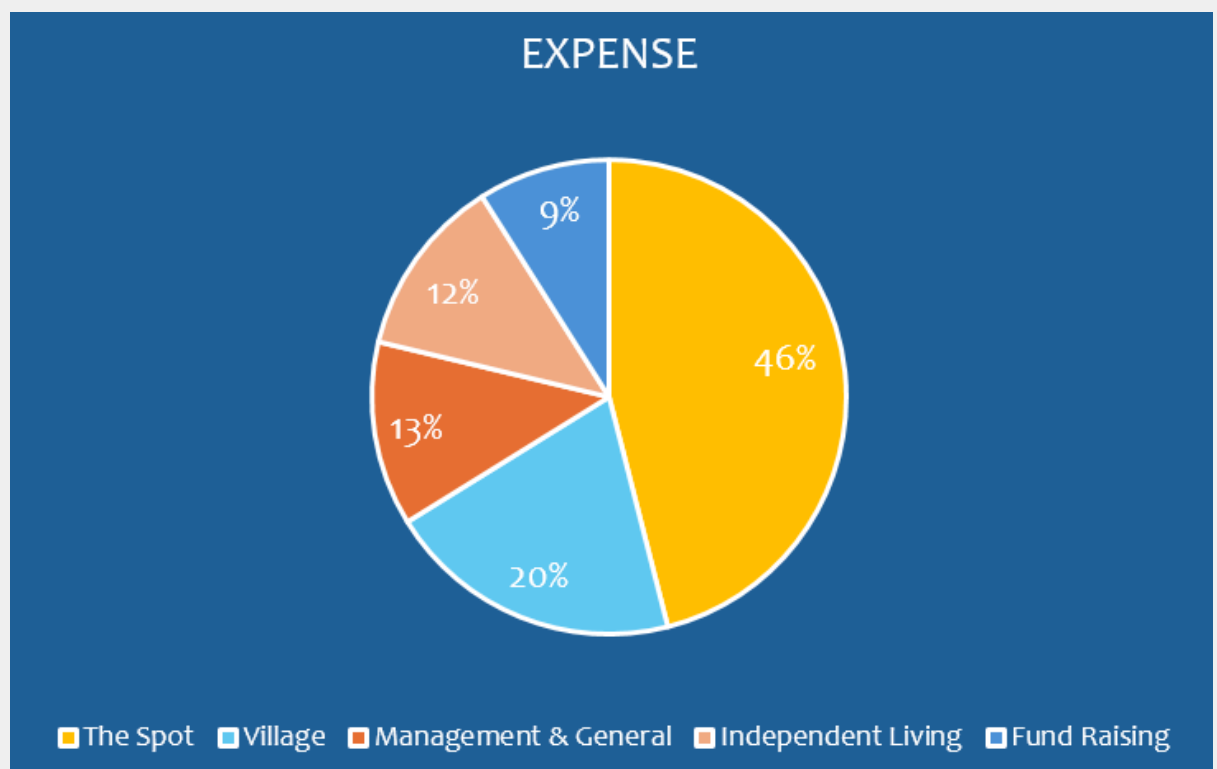


Fund Allocation

Expense


The Spot	\$1,911,559	46%
The Village	\$837,511	20%
Management & General	\$522,005	13%
Independent Living	\$509,561	12%
Fundraising	\$373,514	9%


Total Revenue \$4,154,150





New Life for Homeless Youth

 2724 N Australian Ave. West Palm Beach, 33407

 www.vitanovainc.org