

Site Features:

- Two sites, 20 Pallet shelters each, 40 residents total, a third site opening soon
- Supportive services plus access to physical, mental and behavioral health support
- Most staff identify as being in recovery and provide certified peer counseling and recovery coaching
- Trash and sanitation services
- Portable restrooms



LOCATION:

Vancouver, WA

SIZE:

2 communities, each with 20 shelters

POPULATION SERVED:

- Local unhoused neighbors
- Multi-generational
- All genders
- Couples welcome
- Low barrier for entry

OPENING DATE:

The Outpost - Dec. 2021

Hope Village - Apr. 2022

FUNDING:

City Funds, ARPA

Staying Safe in Vancouver, WA

Supporting unhoused neighbors in Vancouver benefits the entire community.

In 2021, the city of Vancouver partnered with Pallet and local nonprofits Outsiders Inn and Living Hope Church to create Safe Stay Communities (SSCs) for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the area. There are now two SSCs in Vancouver with a third set to open in 2023.

With over 500 unhoused people living in tents or vehicles in the city, addressing the growing impacts of homelessness had become a top priority for Vancouver. The SSCs, part of the city's Homelessness Response Plan, are the first of several planned sites that will aim to help local unhoused people by focusing on the root causes and effects of homelessness.

Both of the SSCs currently operating—The Outpost and Hope Village—feature 20 Pallet shelters serving up to 40 people at a time. The sites are fenced, secure and staffed around the clock by local nonprofit operators. Residents have access to sanitation services, portable toilets, handwashing stations, meeting and office space, plus supportive services provided by local agencies.



The SSCs and Pallet shelters provide dignified, safe spaces where residents can regroup, rebuild, and prepare for an eventual move to permanent housing. The Outpost Community served 80 people in its first year—33 moved into permanent housing and 70 percent accessed services to help them on the path to permanent housing.

Since its conversion to an SSC, the number of calls to local police in the area has dropped by 30 percent. Fire/EMS related calls for service have also dropped by 13 percent within a 500FT radius of the site. The

Hope Village, which has been operational since April 2022, recently released data from its first 6 months of operation with similar positive results. So far, they have served 36 people, secured housing for 5 people and seen a reduction of 26 percent in officer initiated visits within a 500FT radius of the site. Numbers like this help illustrate the immediate benefits of dignified shelter with access to essential social services.

“What you see here is very successful for a lot of reasons. One, when you do tiny home villages like this, you can house two to three times more people for the same dollar. So we’re getting two to three times more people to get out of the rain, to get in secure environment, so they can work on some of their other challenges.”

WA GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

THE OUTPOST - YEAR ONE NUMBERS:

80 PEOPLE SERVED

33 PEOPLE MOVED TO PERMANENT HOUSING

128 DAYS AVG. LENGTH OF STAY BEFORE PERMANENT HOUSING

29% DECREASE IN LOCAL AREA POLICE CALLS AND POLICE INITIATED VISITS (500 FT OF THE ADDRESS)

HOPE VILLAGE - SIX MONTHS NUMBERS:

36 PEOPLE SERVED

5 PEOPLE MOVED TO PERMANENT HOUSING

3580 NIGHTS OF PROVIDED SHELTER

26% DROP IN OFFICER INITIATED VISITS (500FT OF THE ADDRESS)