

# Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

Shelter → Support → Housing



October / November 2023

## Welcome, Andy!



Andy Schultheiss

**Andy Schultheiss is the Shelter's new Chief Development and Communications Officer.**

### ***What are some first impressions?***

The first thing you notice is that it's a beautiful building, and both clean and well-maintained. And you notice that the people here are amazing: they're resilient and super-competent, and they make this place work.

### ***What's your role at the Shelter?***

I'm the main fundraiser and spokesperson for the Shelter.

### ***Why is your job important?***

We can't get this job done without raising funds for it. People sometimes think the Shelter is 100% funded by the City and the County, but that's not true. A lot of our work can't happen

He comes to the position with a wealth of previous experience, including 2 terms on the Boulder City Council, service as then-Representative Jared Polis' Colorado Director, and two decades of work on the environment, including six years as Executive Director of the Colorado Water Trust.

***Why did you decide to work at the Shelter?***

I have long been a big fan of the Shelter, ever since I was running for the City Council when this building was built. Most of my career has been working for nonprofit environmental organizations and in politics, but I've realized that I'm most fulfilled when I'm working with people and helping them directly. It's been a welcome challenge and a really exciting one.

without private funding.

***What has surprised you about working here?***

I hadn't realized how much focus there is on housing people outside the Shelter. Like most people, I think, I assumed that the primary response to homelessness was to get people a bed and a warm meal.

In fact, a lot of our energy goes toward finding people ways out of homelessness, whether that's a bus ticket to a family member in another city, or a permanent place to live in Boulder at a rate they can afford. We believe the solution to homelessness is housing.



***Join us in welcoming Andy Schultheiss! We're thrilled to have him on board. Want to reach out to Andy? [Email him at Andy@bouldershelter.org](mailto:Andy@bouldershelter.org)***

## Creating a Diversion...

**One of the Shelter's least-known but most successful programs is *Diversion*, a means of helping people avoid or quickly exit homelessness.**

Diversion can take the form of reunification with family or friends, one-time rental assistance, or eviction prevention. Reunification is the most common: if a client has a contact who can offer a stable and long-term living arrangement, we will help them get there, from Salida, to San Antonio, to South Africa.

**During the past year, we provided Diversion for 99 people, or about 10% of those who completed the Coordinated Entry program and sought Shelter services.** That number has been steadily growing, and we are determined to continue that progress this year.

Our Diversion Team has 3 members, Chris, Ramses, and Sam, all of whom are seasoned Shelter vets. Sam is Team Lead: he has been working in Diversion for about 16 months, during which time he has helped about 65 people to exit homelessness.

Sam explains, “To do the job well, you have to have **compassion**. People come with a lot of difficult stories, and a lot of trauma. **Creativity** is also important – we’re looking for any way we can to help them find a home. And **patience** is essential as well – some people have a hard time expressing what they’d like – and processing the steps of how to get there. These are folks who have burned their bridges, lost all their other opportunities, and now they need a place to turn.”

**Sam stresses that Diversion is not a way to “brush someone off.”** It’s an option for folks who want to take it, “A means for hopeful people to change their lives dramatically.” The Shelter follows up a month later to see how things are working – and in the majority of cases the news is good.

**Perhaps the best thing about Diversion is that it’s a “win-win-win.”**

For the individual, it provides a chance at a new start, without entering the sheltering system. For the community, it provides the most cost-effective means of helping someone exit homelessness. And for the Shelter, it enables us to help someone *and* free up our capacity to provide shelter to someone.



Meet Sam, our Team Lead for the Diversion Program - he personally helped 65 people exit homelessness in the last 16 months!



[Learn more about our Shelter programs](#)

## Cold Weather Demand

Throughout the summer, our numbers increased in spite of the warm weather. Now that we're into the cold weather season, the trend for increased demand continues. Here are our latest numbers.

**In September and October we helped 32 people exit homelessness.**

**We served 19,602 meals.**

- That's an increase

- That number is up from 26 in July / August.

-14 people exited into permanent housing and 18 exited through Coordinated Entry.

-When people exit through Coordinated Entry, they may be reunified with family, receive short-term rental support, or receive other assistance.

***This keeps people from entering long-term homelessness. In effect, stopping homelessness before it starts.***



of 1,158 over July / August.

- Our kitchen staff and volunteers show up in all weather, so that each person staying with us receives a hot dinner and breakfast in the morning.

**We had 9,682 bed nights.**

- Bed nights is the total number of occupied beds for the month.

***This means a nightly average of 158 people who weren't sleeping in Boulder parks, paths, or encampments.***



***We are incredibly grateful to our supporters and volunteers who make it possible for us to respond effectively to this increased utilization of our services. Thank you for your support!***



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**Don't Miss this Huge Savings Opportunity!**





**DID YOU KNOW ?**

There's a New Colorado Tax Credit for Donors to Homeless Services Agencies!

[How to Get This Deal](#)

## Tuesday is Colorado Gives Day



**All donations made online now through December 5 count toward Colorado Gives Day and the \$1M+ Incentive Fund.**

[Learn More at ColoradoGives.org](http://ColoradoGives.org)



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