



**Redwood Park  
Communities**

*Hope Through Housing.*



IMPACT REPORT  
2021

**HOPE THROUGH HOUSING**



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

I remember standing beside a rented charcoal barbecue grilling burgers for our first Redwood fundraising garage sale, wondering what this crazy idea we had was going to become. Would we be able to raise enough to purchase our first property? Would we be able to convince others to come alongside us on this journey? Would we be able to make an impact on the housing crisis in our city? So many questions and so many unknowns.

A decade later, we know the answer to some of those questions. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who provided the funds to purchase our first property and those who donated their time and skills to help turn that property into a home that has housed hundreds of women and children. We have seen the Redwood family continue to expand as so many have joined us on this journey, sharing their expertise, their passion and their lives with us and with those we have been able to serve. And it has made a difference. Every day, we witness people breaking cycles they want to be free from and thrive in the community that we have all helped create.

And this journey continues. We are not done, and we have no plans to stop showing up and standing in solidarity with our unhoused neighbours until everyone has a safe, affordable, hopeful place to live; until everyone has a home.

Thank you for being a part of the Redwood family, and for all that we have accomplished together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Barnes'.

**NATHAN BARNES**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**





**REDWOOD PARK COMMUNITIES**  
**builds safe, affordable, hopeful**  
**communities that support**  
**individuals and families.**

## **2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

**80**

People Housed!

**21**

New Units Under Construction!

**121**

Homes Furnished!

**19**

People Employed!



New Warehouse and Office Space!



New Summer Children's Program!



New Website!





# LUCY'S PLACE

Lucy's Place is our Housing First Community, opened in 2019 in collaboration with the David Busby Centre.

This converted motel and the house next door are home to 18 resilient residents who have experienced chronic homelessness.

The pandemic has been hard for our friends at Lucy's Place. We've had to get a bit more creative about how we cultivate community, and, like everyone, we've had times where we were just getting through.

Six of the original crew that moved in together on the first day are still there, although at the end of 2021, one of our original residents moved out into permanent housing.

We've sadly had a few of our friends pass - some suddenly, and some surrounded by loved ones that they were able to reunite with during their final months and in the relative comfort and security of a home, after years of living outside.

We've also welcomed a number of new residents, including a really collaborative effort to support a woman who had been living outside for four years and is celebrating one year this month as part of the Lucy's Place community.



# UNITED HOUSE & SECOND SUITES

Since 2013, United House and our Second Suites program have provided supported transitional housing to **127 women and their 192 children**, partnering with the Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie.

Our friends living there are supported by Redwood's Community Support Team, which as of 2021 includes a counsellor. Throughout the pandemic, the team and residents continue to create safe and creative ways to stay connected.

In 2021, we watched as a mom and her children were reunited after years apart, we welcomed a summer student to offer a kids program, fostering connections with the children in our units and offering the moms some respite.

We also saw several women and their children move into permanent housing.

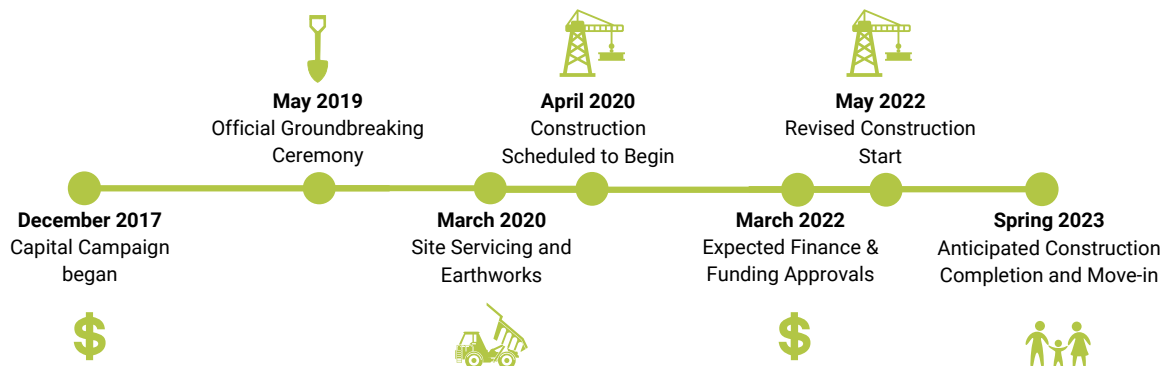
We have been fortunate to see the families connect and really watch out for one another. The older children in the building walk the younger ones to and from school, women offer each other rides to appointments and groceries, and they knock on each other's doors just to check in. They share meals and babysit each other's children. It is a truly beautiful thing to witness, and we look forward to the expansion next door opening in 2022.



# FAMILY SHORT- TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING CENTRE

We are partnering with **The Salvation Army** to build a **Family Short-Term Supportive Housing Centre**: a two-storey building with 12 fully furnished, two bedroom apartments for families in crisis.

We hit some frustrating delays in 2020 with the pandemic and some more in 2021 related to financing, but we are back on track and expect that these hopeful housing units will welcome our first families in the Spring of 2023.







# FURNITURE BANK

In 2019, we started a Furniture Bank with lots of community partners. Since then, our team and our reach has grown so much! We've moved into a bigger warehouse and hired more staff to help us get furniture out the door to more people who need it. In 2022, we are increasing our reach to North Simcoe in a partnership with CLH Developmental Support Services!

We're grateful for grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, United Way, the May Court Club of Barrie, and the Barrie Community Foundation to assist in meeting the increased need in 2020-21, moving people from shelters to housing and helping turn houses into homes.

## In 2021:



**121 households served**  
(254 people)



**\$144,080 savings in**  
**waste management**  
**costs for the city by**  
**diverting 32,223 cubic**  
**feet of furniture from**  
**landfill**



**1705 items donated by**  
**171 different donors**

**FURNITURE BANK**  
powered by  Redwood Park Communities



## THE YIMBY PROJECT

**YIMBY** stands for "Yes In My Back Yard" and it is a movement that has risen up in cities all over the world to combat NIMBYism, or "Not In My Back Yard."

We're on a mission to create lots of affordable housing, and we want to help our future neighbours know that when everyone in our city has a safe, affordable, hopeful place to call home, the entire community benefits.

Sometimes people oppose affordable housing developments in their neighbourhood because humans are often afraid of what we don't know. So part of the YIMBY project is about sharing the stories of those experiencing homelessness and helping our community see that housing is a human right, and also, we are all **more alike than different**.



**In 2021, we celebrated our 3rd annual YIMBY Week in Barrie.**

This included lawn signs, a social media toolkit for YIMBYers, a flag-raising at Barrie City Hall, and a very exciting virtual panel discussion with Leilani Farha, Erin Dej, and Shelly Skinner. Almost 100 people joined us as we talked about the financialization of housing and how that is interfering with the realization of housing as a right, and about the role of community in supporting those who have experienced homelessness and are now housed but still feel excluded.

Be sure to join us as we expand beyond Barrie for YIMBY Week 2022!



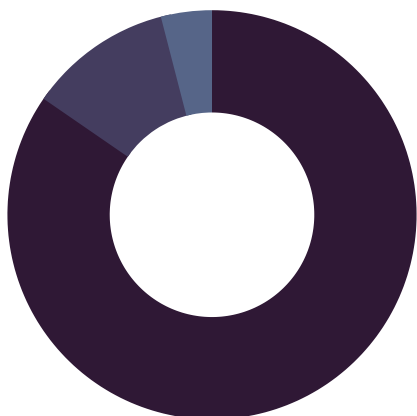
## REVENUE SOURCES



### Revenue:

Donations	294,207
Fundraising	45,450
Grants & Government Funding	552,842
Earned Income	400,271
Capital Contributions	225,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,518,085</b>

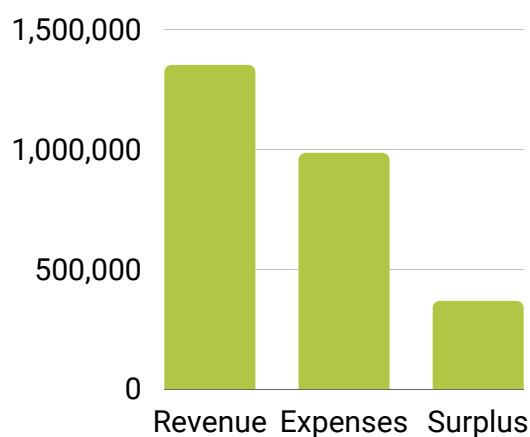
## EXPENSE CATEGORIES



### Expense:

Charitable Activities	1,063,222
Management & Admin	142,964
Fundraising	50,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,256,790</b>

## OPERATING REVENUE/EXPENSES



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# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Construction in 2022:

3

**three units** under construction next door to United House, allowing us to expand our housing and supports for women and their children fleeing violence from 5 to 8. Planned completion: Late Spring 2022.

6

**six additional units** under construction in Barrie for people experiencing chronic homelessness. Planned completion: Late Spring 2022.

12

**twelve units** under construction at 153 Lillian Crescent, for families in crisis, in a partnership with The Salvation Army. Planned completion: Spring 2023.

## Planning & Other Growth in 2022 and beyond:



**Furniture Bank expansion into Midland** in a partnership with Community Living Huronia.

85

**85 units** of supported seniors housing with a large community space, in partnership with a local faith group in the City of Barrie.



**Expanding into Orillia** in a partnership with Raising the Roof and other partners.



**Increasing operational capacity** to prepare for this growth.

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**We have a lot on the go and are thrilled with the ongoing support of our dedicated community - that includes donors, volunteers, and investors who are making a lasting, positive difference in their community.**

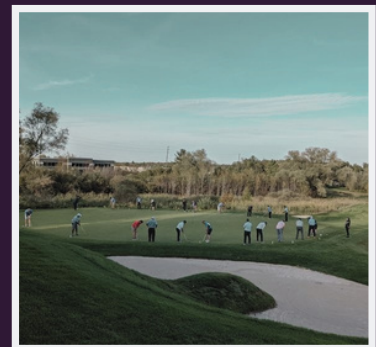
If you are interested in giving to our projects or making a legacy gift, we would be thrilled to hear from you. Please connect with us at [philanthropy@redwoodparkcommunities.com](mailto:philanthropy@redwoodparkcommunities.com).

If you are interested in partnering with us on a capital project, please email [tim@redwoodparkcommunities.com](mailto:tim@redwoodparkcommunities.com).

# THANK YOU

Redwood runs on the support of our community - it is your giving, volunteering, and encouragement that makes all of this possible.

Thank you for recognizing that everyone deserves a safe, affordable, hopeful place to call home, and for trusting us to help you achieve this goal.





## Board of Directors

Nathan Barnes - President & Board Chair

Amanda Smith - Treasurer

Jeff Long - Secretary

Mark Mulder - Board Member

Tanya Taylor Ladd - Board Member

## Leadership Team

Tim Kent - Co-Founder & CEO

Rhonda Kent - Director, Housing & Community

Jennifer van Gennip - Director, Communications

Pieter Kiezebrink - Director, Tangible Assets & Risk Management

Anna Sedore - Managing Director, Furniture Bank



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[www.redwoodparkcommunities.com](http://www.redwoodparkcommunities.com)

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Registered Charity # 850158668RR0001

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