



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

On The Rise is a day-time program that provides safety, community, and advocacy for women and trans/nonbinary individuals moving through and recovering from homelessness.

For those with the fewest options, we cultivate long-term relationships that foster safety and belonging. Guided by the strength and initiative of our program participants, we join their journey to wellbeing, as skilled partners and advocates.



*From top left clockwise:
Our Safe Haven decorated with balloons for our Empty Bowls event, On The Rise staff administering participant gifts at the Holiday Party, interns and a participant at our Thanksgiving Feast, a participant and advocate at the Summer Barbecue, Executive Director Delphene Mooney speaking at the Prepare For Winter Dinner*

DEAR ON THE RISE COMMUNITY,

Looking back on my first year as On The Rise's Executive Director, I am so pleased with our accomplishments, which are a testament to the incredible dedication, flexibility, and creativity of our staff and participants, and which would not have been possible without the contributions from our donors, volunteers, and community partners.

After two years of progressive reopening since the Covid-19 pandemic, we brought back our signature participant events, including our **Memorial Garden Ceremony, Summer Cookout, Thanksgiving Feast, and Holiday Party**. These events highlight what makes On The Rise so special- that we maintain long-term relationships with participants in our community.

We also brought longtime donors, corporate supporters, and community leaders together for our first in-person **Prepare For Winter Dinner** since 2019, and reached a historic fundraising total.

Our success in 2022 was also demonstrated by program outcomes that show the benefit of long-term, low-threshold support for participants. Specifically, the importance of maintaining relationships with participants even after they are housed, was evidenced by our **93% housing retention rate**.

These accomplishments reinforce what we know: that long-term, trusting relationships are central to a person's wellbeing and are the foundation for lasting outcomes in their lives.

Thank you for sharing this belief.

Delphene Mooney, Executive Director



ON THE RISE SEEKS TO WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH THE FEWEST OPTIONS.

AMONG OUR PARTICIPANTS:

82% REPORTED A DISABILITY

87% WERE THE VICTIM OF A CRIME

79% DISCLOSED TRAUMA

72% HAD ISSUES WITH MENTAL HEALTH

37% HAD SUBSTANCE USE STRUGGLES

38% SHARED PHYSICAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

18% HAD BEEN INCARCERATED

Numbers are self-reported. In alignment with our low-barrier approach, we invite participants to disclose specific issues surrounding their homelessness to On The Rise at their own discretion.

2022 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

221 VOLUNTEERS

OVER 750 DONORS

3,765 MEALS PROVIDED

11,400 LBS OF CLOTHING & ESSENTIAL ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

16 AVERAGE DAILY VISITORS

400 PARTICIPANTS

26 PARTICIPANTS ASSISTED INTO THEIR OWN APARTMENTS

IN THE LAST THREE YEARS
93% OF PARTICIPANTS

WHO OBTAINED HOUSING AND STAYED CONNECTED WITH US ARE STILL HOUSED TODAY.

7,600 SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS

WHAT DOES RELATIONAL ADVOCACY LOOK LIKE?

ON THE RISE'S SERVICES CENTER MEANINGFUL, INDIVIDUALIZED RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. WE WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH A VAST ARRAY OF EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS TO HELP THEM REACH SUCCESS AS DEFINED BY THEIR OWN JOURNEYS.



UPHOLDING JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

Job insecurity is common among those who are homeless or risk becoming homeless, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this issue. A participant was fired from her job because she was sick with COVID and could not return to work when she was asked to. Reluctant to fight back on her own, she came to On The Rise for support, and an advocate called her employer and asked some clarifying questions. The advocate's knowledge and perseverance helped the participant cross unjust barriers so she could keep her job.



CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On The Rise advocates relish the opportunity to see participants at celebratory moments in their lives. Recently, an advocate attended a citizenship ceremony for one of our participants. The ceremony was the culmination of a lot of work and advocacy done by the advocate over a couple of years. The process was stalled because of the pandemic, so it was particularly meaningful to witness the participant become a U.S. citizen.



OFFERING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

While our Safe Haven is a comforting space for many unhoused participants, some individuals struggle to find a safe place to exist outside of our program hours. The team agreed to pay for a gym membership for a participant who does not feel safe in emergency shelters. The participant shared that working out improves their mental health and they like to exercise to reduce stress. The gym is open 24 hours, so it offers a place to go when other programs are closed and provides a safe place to shower. The participant expressed gratitude for our willingness to support their safety through untraditional means.



NAVIGATING COMPLEX SITUATIONS

Working with women and gender-diverse people with an array of challenges including trauma, mental illness and substance use often requires providing support for people who struggle to navigate housing and social service systems. A participant facing eviction called the team to get some support and advocacy with their landlord. While the participant was attending substance use treatment, their social security benefits were terminated. As a result, they were unable to pay rent and had outstanding rent due. The advocate is working closely with the attorney to ensure the participant avoids eviction.

FINANCIALS

UNAUDITED REVENUE AND EXPENSES JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

OPERATING REVENUE: \$1,944,078

\$510,512

INDIVIDUALS

\$283,781

FOUNDATIONS AND
BUSINESSES

\$275,299

EVENTS

\$791,657

GOVERNMENT

\$82,829

IN-KIND

**OPERATING
EXPENSES:**

\$1,852,205

ON THE RISE IS GRATEFUL

FOR THE GENEROUS, PRIVATE SUPPORT
WE RECEIVE, WHICH ALLOWS US TO
BE FLEXIBLE IN RESPONDING TO THE
COMPLEX NEEDS OF OUR PARTICIPANTS.

READ OUR FULL LIST OF

SUPPORTERS

ONLINE AT [ONTHERISE.ORG/ANNUALREPORTS](https://ontherise.org/annualreports)



*Volunteers from the Boston
Chapter of the National
Organization for Minority
Architects assembling backpacks
containing essential supply kits for
On The Rise participants*

On The Rise is also funded by the MA Department of Public Health Sexual and Domestic Violence Division and is supported by the Massachusetts office of Victims Assistance through the 1984 VOCA grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and the U.S. Department of Justice.