



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Unlocking opportunities by providing a safe environment, support services, and an avenue to independence for those in a housing crisis

[WWW.KEYSTOCHANGESC.ORG](http://WWW.KEYSTOCHANGESC.ORG)



Dear Friends and Supporters,

2024 has been one of resilience, transformation, and growth for Keys to Change. With your unwavering support, we have expanded our impact, helping individuals regain independence while also taking significant steps to enhance our services and reach more people in need.

Despite financial challenges faced by many nonprofits, we remained steadfast in our mission. Thanks to generous grants, community partnerships, and your continued donations, we provided housing, employment support, assistance in accessing medical care and mental health resources. Most importantly, we witnessed life-changing success stories—individuals overcoming adversity to build brighter futures.

This work is only possible because of you. Your support, whether through volunteering, donations, or advocacy, fuels the life-changing efforts happening at Keys to Change every day. As we look ahead, we invite you to continue walking alongside us in this mission.

**Together, we are unlocking opportunities and creating pathways to independence.**

With gratitude,  
Ginny Vicini  
Executive Director, Keys to Change

# NEW NAME, SAME MISSION

2024 marked an exciting evolution for our organization as we transitioned from Dorchester County Community Outreach to Keys to Change. This name better reflects our mission—to provide shelter and a pathway to independence for those facing a housing crisis.

While our name has changed, our commitment remains to offer a safe environment, essential support services, and opportunities for lasting stability. As part of this commitment, we have expanded our reach and begun construction on a new men's center, ensuring we can serve even more individuals in need.

We believe everyone deserves the basic necessities of life and a supportive community to help them rebuild. As we continue to grow, we invite you to join us in making this vision a reality.

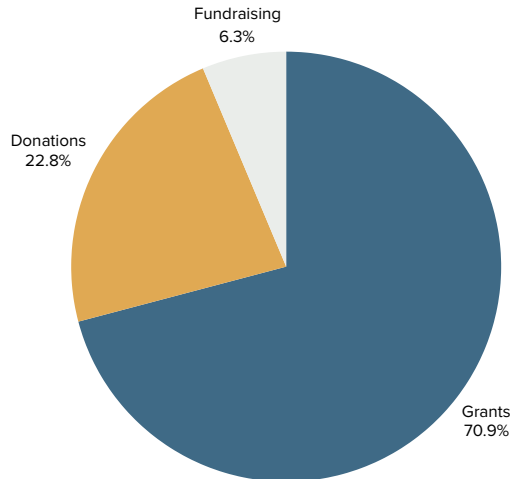


# FINANCIAL

In a year when many non-profits faced unprecedented challenges, we were not shielded from the struggle. We experienced a decrease in donations from individual donors. Still, with the grace of God's provisions and blessings from our generous community, we were able to meet our financial needs and never missed a day meeting the needs of our guests.

We were incredibly fortunate to receive substantial one-time funding from the State of South Carolina (\$1.2M), Dorchester County (\$1.2M), and the Town of Summerville (\$250K). This generous support has been instrumental in advancing our new building project. We would like to thank everyone involved on every level to secure that funding.

## 2024 REVENUE BREAKDOWN



## 2024 P.R.O.M. KING AND QUEEN, GUY & HEIDI GORDON RAISED OVER \$25,000!





# HIGHLIGHTS



25

Unique Groups donated time volunteering in the homes, averaging a visit 2.5 times a month

180

Unique Individual Donors



\$50K

In-Kind Donations



100%

Staff received a salary increase and year end bonuses



3.2

Acres of new land purchased for program expansion

2.5

Times more than previous years in grant awards





# ANCHOR HOUSE

**72**

Total number of guests

**12**

Number of drop ins  
(Laundry, Hot Meal, Shower)

**36**

Number of guests that  
moved into permanent  
housing

**36**

Number of guests who were  
able to save money by  
60-90 days

**20**

Number of guests  
connected to medical care

# MEN'S CENTER

**4 MOS.**

Guest Average Length of Stay

**280**

Telephone referrals connecting to community resources

**2.5**

Full Time Staff working at the Men's Center

**37**

Number of guests connected to Mental Health services

**60**

Number of Guests working Full Time





# LIGHT HOUSE

**27**

Total number of guests

**28**

Number of drop ins  
(Laundry, Hot Meal, Shower)

**12**

Number of guests that  
moved into permanent  
housing

**13**

Number of guests who were  
able to save money by  
60-90 days

**13**

Number of guests  
connected to medical care

# WOMEN'S CENTER

**3 MOS.**

Guest Average Length of Stay

**428**

Telephone referrals connecting to community resources

**1.5**

Full Time Staff working at the Women's Center

**8**

Number of guests connected to Mental Health services

**13**

Number of Guests working Full Time

# GUEST TESTIMONIES

## A MOTHER'S DETERMINATION

"Sue" was welcomed into the Light House after she lost her employment and housing due to a serious car accident. Despite her continued issues related to the car accident, she was working multiple jobs and navigating a difficult custody battle for her son. She learned about the Light House while being provided overnight shelter at a local warming shelter.

Despite dealing with physical pain and financial stress, she worked tirelessly—sometimes up to 60 hours a week—to save money and secure stable housing. Alongside her demanding schedule, she accessed medical care, financial guidance, and legal resources to prepare for her custody case. Her perseverance paid off. She saved enough to secure a home for her child and her, regaining stability and independence. She left the program with a strong support system and a fresh start for her family.

## A JOURNEY TO STABILITY

"Bob" relocated to South Carolina and found his way to Anchor House. Despite suffering from a chronic respiratory condition, he was determined to secure stable employment. Within a day of arriving, he was hired at McDonald's and, without any hesitation, began walking 2.2 miles to and from work daily.

As he began earning money, he could take Uber rides occasionally, making his commute more manageable. He struggled initially with budgeting, but with the help of the staff, he became focused on realistic savings goals and adjusted his spending. The impact was immediate—and he exceeded his savings target the following month. His dedication to financial stability paid off. In just over three months, he secured an apartment. He continues to work diligently, even picking up extra shifts on his days off. His resilience and determination have helped him build a strong foundation for the future.



## OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO STABILITY

“Donna” and a partner had spent years living in hotels and motels, struggling to find housing due to a past eviction on record. Determined to break the cycle, she found her way to the Light House, working full-time while navigating chronic health challenges from a past accident.

After a hospitalization, she finally sought long-overdue specialized medical care with support from staff and guests. At the same time, she redesigned her savings plan to ensure she would have the means to secure safe and affordable permanent housing.

She became a mentor to other guests, advocating for fairness and fostering a supportive environment. By the end of her stay, she had saved a substantial amount—enough to secure a three-bedroom home for her family. Now, she hopes to return and share her story, inspiring others to stay focused, sacrifice short-term comforts, and be attentive to their physical and emotional well-being.

## AN UNEXPECTED FRIENDSHIP LEADING TO SUCCESS

“John” and “Tom” had different journeys that brought them to the Anchor House. “John” moved to South Carolina hoping for a fresh start, but his original living arrangements fell through, leaving him homeless. Determined to get back on his feet, he secured a job at Walmart within days, even though it was not in the field he had worked for many years. While the type of work and the pay were not what he had hoped for, he remained focused and disciplined, saving money quickly and making smart financial choices.

Around the same time, “Tom” arrived in Summerville to be closer to his daughter. A former teacher, he planned to get his South Carolina teaching license but took a job at Amazon in the meantime. “Tom” struggled with saving money, often prioritizing expenses for his daughter. During this time, “John” became a source of encouragement, helping “Tom” stay accountable. “Tom” is now working toward his teaching license and substitutes in local schools.

As both worked toward stability, they developed a supportive friendship and became roommates to share expenses. Nearly a year later, they have maintained their friendship and shared living arrangements. They even adopted a cat that has become a beloved part of their home.

Their journey is a testimony to how our guests can support each other and develop trusting relationships that may have been missing in their lives before coming to Keys to Change.



## CONTACT US

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