

Jan-Dec
2025

Lydia
PLACE

Impact Report



A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Neighbor,

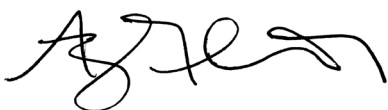
In response to the growing housing and health crises our community is facing, Lydia Place began 2025 by launching our biggest and most ambitious 5-Year Strategic Plan yet. With a vision to deepen and expand prevention strategies, cultivate sustained outcomes through the healing effects of social connection and community, increase equity at all levels of the organization, and expand our infrastructure to build the capacity needed to accomplish our strategic initiatives – we are incredibly proud to share of the work we have accomplished thus far.

While we are thrilled to share our highlights as well as our dreams for the year ahead, we also cannot do so without acknowledging the challenges we faced on our journey to get here. Budget shortfalls and re-prioritization at federal, state, and local levels reduced funding and availability of housing resources. Changes to immigration enforcement separated families we serve, adding increased trauma and barriers to stability. Costs continue to rise, straining our ability to maximize support for families, pay staff a living wage, and innovate to meet emerging needs. While non-profit work has never been for the faint of heart, 2025 held a weight and weariness that we have not felt in such a way before.

Nevertheless, we remembered why we are here and stayed steadfast in our mission to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and nurture healing and belonging for current and future generations. We remained focused on our families and the promises we made to expand access and improve outcomes and worked so very hard to plant and water the first seeds of the strategic plan we shared with you just one year ago, while serving an unprecedented 383 families last year.

But we could not have done it without you – our beloved community who buoyed us, providing the support we needed to stay anchored among the turbulent sea. Thank you for your investment in families and children, and for believing with us that a future without homelessness is possible. With your continued support, we look ahead to 2026 with heart, hope, and determination to achieve our collective vision of a compassionate community where every family has a home and the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,



Ashley Thomasson
Executive Director



Our Mission:



To disrupt the cycle of homelessness and nurture healing and belonging for current and future generations.

Our Vision:



A compassionate community where everyone has a home and the opportunity to thrive.

Our Strategic Plan

Our strategic direction includes four initiatives which are guided by our values of: Community, Equity, Upstream Impact, and Employee Wellness



INITIATIVE 1

Disrupt the generational cycle of homelessness through increasing and expanding prevention strategies



INITIATIVE 2

Cultivate sustained housing and positive health outcomes through the healing effects of social connection and community



INITIATIVE 3

Increase equity at all levels of the organization



INITIATIVE 4

Expand our organizational infrastructure and build the internal and external capacity necessary to accomplish our strategic initiatives

Look out for these symbols throughout the report to see how we're putting our strategic plan into action!

Housing Programs

Family homelessness is not just the lack of a roof; it is a complex set of challenges, past and current traumas, and often the legacy of generational poverty. As such, Lydia Place offers a robust suite of immediate and lasting housing interventions and wrap-around supports to meet the differing needs our families face and prevent the generational cycle of homelessness.

Our continuum of housing interventions and corresponding services include our Campus Housing, Rapid-Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Prevention Programs.

383

Families were served in 2025

655

children with a home to sleep in

1116

Individuals given hope for the future

3406

Case management sessions provided

Campus Housing



The Campus Housing Program provides safe, stable housing and intensive support services in Lydia Place owned and operated properties to vulnerable families who may not qualify for housing elsewhere.

Families in Campus Housing are able to gain rental history, housing skills, build community, and have a space to heal and recover from the trauma they have experienced with a support team at their side.



"I have seen the Campus program provide housing opportunities for families who truly felt like they had no options left. Being supported by a team of people whose primary goal is to see you stabilize and succeed makes a world of difference, particularly if you don't have built-in natural supports, like grandparents down the street and a community space you feel connected to — resources so many of us take for granted."

-Sadie, Campus Housing Program Manager

Rapid Rehousing

Rapid Re-housing (RRH) helps families who need shorter-term assistance return to housing as quick as possible and empowers them to stay there by providing move-in costs, rent subsidies, and intensive case management support over an average of 1-2 years.

We build relationships with local property managers, assist families in the housing search, and help eliminate barriers related to screening criteria to make housing accessible. Rental subsidies decrease over time while families work to increase their income, eventually paying full rent without our assistance.



Households who exited RRH in 2025 averaged a

94%

increase in income during their time in the RRH program.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing partners with the Bellingham Housing Authority to pair permanent, income-based rental subsidies with long-term case management in set-aside apartment units to create a comprehensively supportive housing program for families with a longer path to stability.

Having designated, affordable housing units for families exiting homelessness provides many community benefits including significant public cost savings and improved health outcomes.



“Housing instability has a huge impact on one’s wellbeing, and can happen to anybody. Every family I have worked with has expressed so much gratitude for this program, not only for the financial support it provides but for being able to have access to a case manager, getting connected to resources for longer term stability and simply having the opportunity for someone to listen to them.”

Haley, Lydia Place Intake Coordinator

97 families were served in permanent supportive housing in 2025.

79 designated apartment units with Bellingham Housing Authority.



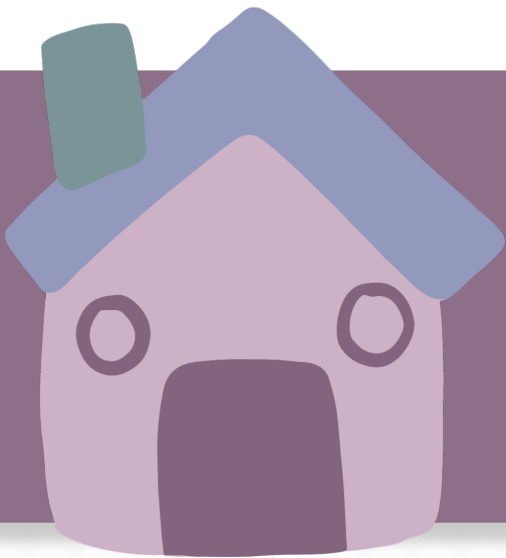
Prevention

Launched in October 2024, the Prevention Program serves families who are not eligible for mainstream housing services but are otherwise highly vulnerable and at-risk of becoming literally homeless. Over an average of 6 months families receive flexible support to meet basic needs, stabilize their housing, and establish a plan to prevent future episodes of housing insecurity.

Prevention is essential to mitigating the traumas of homelessness on families and children before they start and slowing the growth of families entering an already overburdened housing system where there are not enough crisis-response services to meet the need.



86 families were served, preventing **222 children** from experiencing homelessness.



Emergency Shelter

Whatcom County does not have enough emergency shelter for families with children. Whenever possible, Lydia Place provides hotel stays to unsheltered families while they are applying for housing, so no children have to sleep outside or in cars.

In 2025, Lydia Place provided 1758 nights of emergency shelter to 34 families.

“We had never found ourselves in a position where we have been so low – mentally, physically and financially. Sometimes we wanted to give up, our case manager has been a light and hope.”

— Rebecca, A Lydia Place client



Parent Support

The Parent Support Program works to end the cycles of homelessness and poverty through a multi-generational approach by building resilience, increasing parenting confidence, strengthening the parent-child bond, and decreasing parental isolation. By truly meeting the client where they are at, geographically, emotionally, and mentally, these essential services ensure parents and caregivers are learning skills they can use at once and into the future.

Mental Health

Designed with the most marginalized communities in mind, our Mental Health Program provides high quality, low barrier, and flexible clinical mental health services so families move closer to living their healthiest lives. Without this program, most families receiving care would not have access to mental health services.

Flexible, responsive services matter

A recent medical emergency put a family back into a number of crises, including the potential to lose housing again. Our mental health team quickly responded and provided an assessment of the mental health needs of the family. We were able to offer individual therapy to both parents in the household, as well as couples counseling, and therapy for one of their children who was highly impacted by the stress the family was experiencing. The family lost their car throughout this process, but they were able to continue receiving mental health support after therapists shifted to providing in-home visits for these appointments.

School was deemed the most accessible place for the child to receive therapy, and we were able to meet weekly with the child at school and support bridging the school/family connection and help facilitate the creation of an Individualized Education Plan. We were able to connect this family to our Prevention Program, which helped the family stay housed and create a better plan for long-term stability.

90



Households Served

131



Children Supported

1040

Total Visits in 2025



500

Clients served since 2017

143

Clients served in 2025

2075

Therapy sessions provided in 2025

905

Office

635

Client Home

270

Telehealth

109

School

81

Phone

70

Mental Health Van

5

Other Locations

Working Towards System-level Solutions

Ending homelessness requires systemic change and Lydia Place is committed to strategically investing our time and expertise to advocate for upstream solutions.

In 2025, we bolstered our systems advocacy by increasing our presence in task groups and advisory boards, participating in Housing Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, advising on the County's updated 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan and other local draft ordinances related to housing policy, and speaking regularly at city and county council meetings.

Some of the local task groups and advisory boards our staff currently serve on include:

- Coordinated Entry Governing Body Board
- Families with Children Housing Workgroup
- Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee
- Public Health Advisory Board
- Whatcom County Coalition to End Homelessness
- Perinatal Mental Health Task Force
- Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Whatcom Prevention Coalition
- Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Partnerships & Collaborations



Thoughtful, strategic partnerships increase our ability to provide innovative care and improve housing and health outcomes for the families we serve and our community at large. As such, Lydia Place is proud to have established partnerships with Whatcom County Health & Community Services, City of Bellingham, Opportunity Council/Whatcom Homeless Service Center, Bellingham Housing Authority, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services, Engedi Refuge, Washington State Dept. of Children, Youth, & Families, Parents as Teachers, Nurse-Family Partnership, North Sound Accountable Communities of Health, and Animals as Natural Therapy.

Additionally, in its first year our new Prevention Program has established a robust network of referral partners, which include the Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, Lynden, Lummi, Meridian, Mt Baker, and Nooksack school districts, Unity Care NW Community Health Centers, Whatcom Center for Early Learning, Whatcom County Early Head Start programs, and the Lighthouse Mission.

Community Engagement

At Lydia Place, we believe everyone has something to contribute to this work. Through volunteerism, giving, in-kind donations, attending events, communications, and relationship building, our Community Engagement team provides individuals and businesses tangible ways to join us in disrupting the cycle of homelessness for current and future generations. 20% of our overall operating budget comes from community contributions - we can't thank you enough for your support!

If you'd like to be more involved at Lydia Place, we want to connect with you! Send us an email at info@lydiaplace.org so we can find the right fit for you to help foster healing and belonging for our community.

175

volunteers
contributed 1,540+
hours of support

375

families provided
holiday gifts through
our Winter Wishlist
Program

583

individuals attended
our major
fundraisers



The Community Engagement Team at the gratitude event for volunteers, monthly donors, and Housing Hero Awardees.



We partnered with locally-owned Funky's Hot Sauce Factory to introduce "Warm Welcome" hot sauce. Proceeds from every bottle are donated to Lydia Place.



Hearts for Housing 2025 brought together over 320 community members and raised over \$320k to support our programs.

Looking Ahead

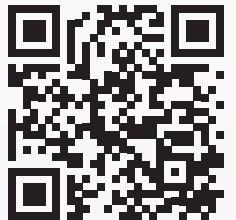
Lydia Place continues to embody the grassroots spirit and legacy of love instilled in us from our Founding Mothers. Our work is just as essential today as it ever has been. Every family deserves a home, and we will continue to wrap our arms across Whatcom County as we press on toward a future where no child has to wonder where they are going to sleep tonight.

In the coming year, Lydia Place will focus on bolstering our infrastructure through pursuing an office space solution that provides cost savings, system efficiencies, increased collaboration, and room to grow and advance our mission. We will also deepen our impact through expanding service and therapy specializations, increasing pathways for client voice to shape our work, and recruiting and retaining staff who reflect the communities we serve.

We remain committed to advocating for and reinforcing local solutions that pair housing interventions needed today with preventative strategies for tomorrow. Our children's future depends on it.

Let us end family homelessness together.

Scan the QR
code to visit our
website and learn
how you can get
involved!



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