

Together We *Thrive*



Update *for* 2025



Homeward
House COLLABORATIVE

At Homeward House Collaborative, we work to keep Snohomish County families together, preventing the trauma and costs that come from separating parents and their children.

We specialize in supporting parents and expectant parents who are dealing with substance use disorders along with related struggles such as poverty, homelessness, and involvement with Child Protective Services. We help them build strong bonds and create stable foundations for bright futures.

When parents face challenges, they need someone who truly understands. That's why we pair families with a Parent Ally Mentor – a certified peer counselor who has walked this path before. These mentors provide judgment-free support and help parents navigate challenges. Working hand-in-hand with our dedicated community partners, Parent Ally Mentors help connect families to vital resources and support. It's a collaborative approach focused on building trust and finding solutions together.

Parents recover, children thrive.



Impact Highlights

Homeward House Collaborative stands as an essential resource in Snohomish County for preserving and strengthening the critical bonds between parents in crisis and their young children as they journey to recovery.

Why does this matter? A secure parent-child attachment forms the foundation for healthy emotional and cognitive development for children. This connection also helps shield them from the lasting impact of trauma. By supporting families during vulnerable periods, we create pathways for both healing and growth.

Thanks to our dedicated team, partners, and volunteers, 2024 was a remarkable year. Here's what we accomplished, including two examples of the real stories behind our work.



120

Number of families enrolled in services in 2024

Number of adults and children within the families.

355

>90%

Reunification rate of families enrolled in 2024.

Child removals prevented.

>80%

Homeward House clients demonstrate a reunification rate of over 90%, significantly surpassing the countywide average. In Snohomish County, 53% of families involved with CPS achieved reunification in 2024*.

*Source: [Washington State Center for Court Research, Washington State Dependency Timeliness Dashboard.](#)

Visitation & Resource Center

The Homeward House Visitation & Resource Center is a homelike environment where parents who are temporarily separated from their children can have visits and receive support as they work toward reunification. It's not housing but rather a safe space with resources and support where families can make the most of their time together.

We're also here for our whole community. In 2024, beyond the families in our programs, we helped 120 local families with essential supplies such as diapers (44,800 distributed!), wipes, formula, and clothing. We connected them with other community resources too.

>240

Total number of families supported through the Visitation & Resource Center in 2024



Client voices: The value of the center

“It was a quiet space for kiddo to nap and privacy to enjoy being a parent with all the necessary basic needs, as well as a wide range of things to do with kiddo while there.”

“It helped me (be able to) come somewhere and visit with my son when I had nowhere else to go besides McDonald’s.”

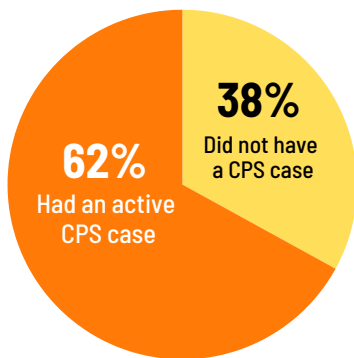
“It’s a homelike peaceful and quiet environment where you can even shower and do your laundry while you are doing visitation, which was wonderful since I was homeless at the time.”



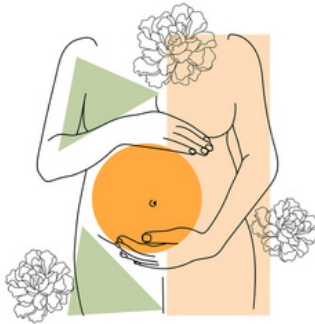
Removing Barriers

In 2024, Homeward House made strides in providing comprehensive support to an increasingly diverse group of families. The Visitation & Resource Center served as a central hub for both prevention and intervention services, offering trusted peer support and stabilizing resources under one roof. With equity and cultural humility at the forefront of our approach, more families than ever engaged and connected with local resources.

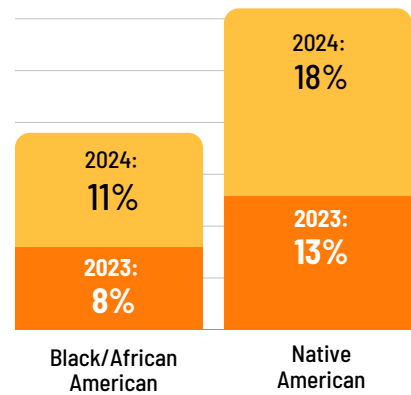
38% of families sought services to prevent child removal



15% of families engaged during pregnancy



Percentage of Black/African American and Native American families served increased in 2024.



93% of families surveyed reported improved access to stabilizing services (housing, treatment, health care, essential needs, etc.)

71% reported an increased understanding of the dependency process



Parent Ally Mentors

Parent Ally Mentors are the heart of Homeward House, bringing their lived experiences and specialized training to support families navigating real challenges. These certified peer counselors are skilled allies who provide guidance, inspiration, and practical help, showing that real change is possible and achievable. More than mentors, they are expert navigators, connecting families with resources tailored to their needs and helping them overcome barriers to build stability and brighter futures.

Client voices: The Value of Parent Ally Mentors

“The support they give you through the hard times, they are the most nonjudgemental people I’ve met.”

“When my mind got away from me and I couldn’t find a solution, they wrangled me in and found a way to navigate whatever was in the way.”

“The relatability between me and my ally and just the honest guidance and respect they provide gives you hope.”

Parent Ally Internship Program

Our paid internship program helps parents in recovery become certified peer counselors. Working 20 hours a week and earning at least \$20/hour, interns gain hands-on experience in client support, outreach, and resource coordination. Thanks to support from [WorkSource](#), [Career Path Services](#), and [Snohomish County](#), we’re helping parents use their lived experiences to lift up others. Two former interns have already become a full-time Parent Ally Mentors with us! This program is helping us grow our team and create opportunities for parents to use their strengths to make a real difference in their communities. It’s a win for everyone involved.



Family Profile

The Day Everything Changed

A chance encounter at a local resource fair* led Sydney (name changed) to a life-changing connection with Homeward House. Pregnant, homeless, and struggling to maintain sobriety while caring for her 6-month-old child, Sydney felt like her world was unraveling. That's when she crossed paths with Conquer Clinics and Second Chance Foundation staff. They called Homeward House and a Parent Ally Mentor dropped everything to meet her at the event.

Living in a tent, Sydney was overwhelmed by the challenges of daily survival. Recognizing the urgency of her situation, staff from a partner agency and Homeward House collaborated to cover hotel expenses, giving Sydney and her child a safe place to stay while shelter arrangements were made. This immediate support marked the beginning of Sydney's path toward stability.

With their trauma-informed peer support training, lived experiences, and deep understanding of the challenges families face, Parent Ally Mentors are equipped to provide critical guidance to parents in crisis. For Sydney, her mentor became a trusted ally – helping her explore housing options, transporting her to prenatal care appointments, and supporting her recovery journey through a dual diagnosis program.

By intervening early and connecting Sydney to resources tailored to her immediate situation, the Homeward House team helped prevent the need for CPS involvement, preserving the precious bond between mother and child.

Sydney's story demonstrates what can happen when agencies come together. By working in unison – sharing resources and expertise – Homeward House partners were able to act swiftly, providing Sydney and her child with immediate safety and support. This coordinated approach not only addressed her urgent needs but also helped prevent more serious issues, preserving her family bond and setting her on a path toward long-term stability.

*[Sound Pathways' Harm Reduction Resource Fair](#)



Family Profile

From Falling Apart to Finding Their Way

When Jessica (name changed) became homeless and pregnant with her second child, her world felt like it was falling apart. Struggling with a substance use disorder, she lost custody of her 1-year-old daughter – a pivotal moment that left her feeling hopeless. It was during this difficult time that Jessica was referred to Homeward House.

Once engaged with Homeward House, she was paired with a Parent Ally Mentor who became her steadfast guide and advocate, connecting her to the right resources at the right time and helping her find a path forward. Parent Ally Mentors are at the heart of Homeward House services. With their own lived experiences – having walked similar paths, overcome challenges, and undergone specialized training – they are uniquely equipped to build trust and inspire hope.

For Jessica, her mentor was a lifeline – helping her find shelter, start treatment, attend parenting classes, and access prenatal care for her new pregnancy.

With her mentor's guidance, Jessica secured housing through [YWCA's Project Reunite](#) and began a trial return-home period with her daughter. Just three weeks later, she went into labor. At the hospital, Jessica found herself without family or friends to lean on. But she wasn't alone—she had a team of familiar and supportive faces: two parent mentors and a social worker by her side, providing the care and encouragement she needed.

Homeward House serves as a hub, bringing together the unique wraparound services each family needs to rebuild and thrive. A dedicated team helped Jessica set up her new home, accompanied her to medical appointments for her infant, who required specialized care, and connected her with an infant mental health specialist from [Child Strive](#) for postpartum support.

Jessica discovered that change isn't just a dream – it's an achievable reality. Today, she is grateful to experience stability with her infant by her side and is on her way to being reunited with her older daughter.

[*Social Worker with the Office of Public Defense.](#)



The Collaborative

Funding Partners

Perigee Fund • Snohomish County: ARPA and Community Recovery Grant • City of Everett • Northwest Children's Foundation • The Everett Clinic Foundation • Washington State Department of Commerce • Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families • EverTrust Foundation • Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund • EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program) • Seed Funder: United Way of Snohomish County

Advisory Committee

Lead Agency

- YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish

Leadership

- ChildStrive
- Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County
- Housing Hope
- Homeward House Parent Voice Group
- Interfaith Family Shelter
- Law Offices of Brice & Timm
- Snohomish County Health Department

Partners

- F.I.R.S.T. Legal Clinic
- Ideal Option
- Institute for Black Justice
- Providence Regional Medical Center
- Snohomish County Family Recovery Court
- Snohomish County Recovery Coalition
- Sound Pathways: PCAP (Parent Child Assistance Program)
- Tulalip Tribes: bədaʔčəʔ
- Wonderland Child & Family Services: Hope Rising Clinic
- WithinReach

Other Partners

- ABC Law Group
- Babies of Homelessness
- Catholic Community Services
- Center for Human Services
- Conquer Clinics
- Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Evergreen Recovery Centers
- Everett Gospel Mission
- Everett Recovery Cafe
- Office of Public Defense
- Pathway Home
- Second Chance Foundation
- Snohomish County Bahá'í Community
- Snohomish County Diversion Center
- Sound Pathways: Harm Reduction Center
- Therapeutic Health Services
- Tulalip Family Wellness Court



We dedicate this update to the memory of our colleague and friend, Annette Miner. Her resilience, unwavering belief in every parent's potential to succeed, and contagious positive spirit continue to inspire our work.

The work of Homeward House Collaborative is on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular, the Tulalip, Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and Sauk-Suiattle tribes. We honor the original caretakers of the land they continue to cherish and protect.

We are committed to fostering racial equity. Read our full Race and Social Justice Statement on our [website](#) to learn about our commitment and the steps we are taking to change the systems and practices that perpetuate inequities.

For more information, contact us at homewardhouse@ywcaworks.org

homewardhouse.org



Specialized peer support, without judgment, for parents of young children and expectant parents who are facing substance use disorders and related challenges, including poverty, homelessness, and the risk or reality of intervention by Child Protective Services.

Snohomish County, Washington

homewardhouse.org

Parents recover, children thrive.

Advisory Committee

LEADERSHIP



PARTNERS

