

Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

Shelter → Support → Housing



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2023

What Does it Take?

For our clients, every day is a struggle. Their journey is one that we could no more imagine than assume we could endure. And for those who come to their aid day in and day out to offer support and sometimes provide lifesaving care, the struggle is real for them too. That's why today, we want to give you an idea what it is like to be a member of the Shelter staff.

To start with, it takes an unusual depth of compassion to work on the floor of the Shelter, to be there for the neediest in our community, who are the most at risk and the most forgotten. We provide shelter to over 1,500 unique individuals per year, each with their own strengths, obstacles, and histories. All of them have experienced trauma, usually both before and after becoming homeless. Our staff see them, notice them, and



Well-trained is essential. From understanding of and sensitivity to members of disadvantaged groups, to being able to use a defibrillator and administer Narcan, and from knowledge of community resources to competence in foreign languages -- our staff possesses and use a wealth of knowledge. Of course, we are not a medical facility, but our staff's abilities and their training produce results and even save lives.

listen to them. And that is sometimes the most important gift we have to offer.



And you need to be good at administration. 160 people come to us each night, 180 on severe weather nights, most of whom are total strangers to each other. They are each welcomed, logged in, assigned a bed and a locker, provided their mail, fed, provided toiletries and over-the-counter meds as needed, and generally have their immediate needs met. And there are always new programs and other innovations to administer as well, like when the DMV brings its ID replacement services right to the Shelter, or our in-house pharmacy services that deliver prescription meds directly to our residents. That's a lot of administering.

Calm is good. Sometimes our staff help de-escalate disputes among residents, or deal with clients' objections to our safety rules. A calm tone, clear guidelines and boundaries, and a knack for de-escalating situations all play a big role in keeping the Shelter both safe and welcoming. Our staff members have extensive de-escalation training, and they in turn have trained employees at other organizations in those skills.

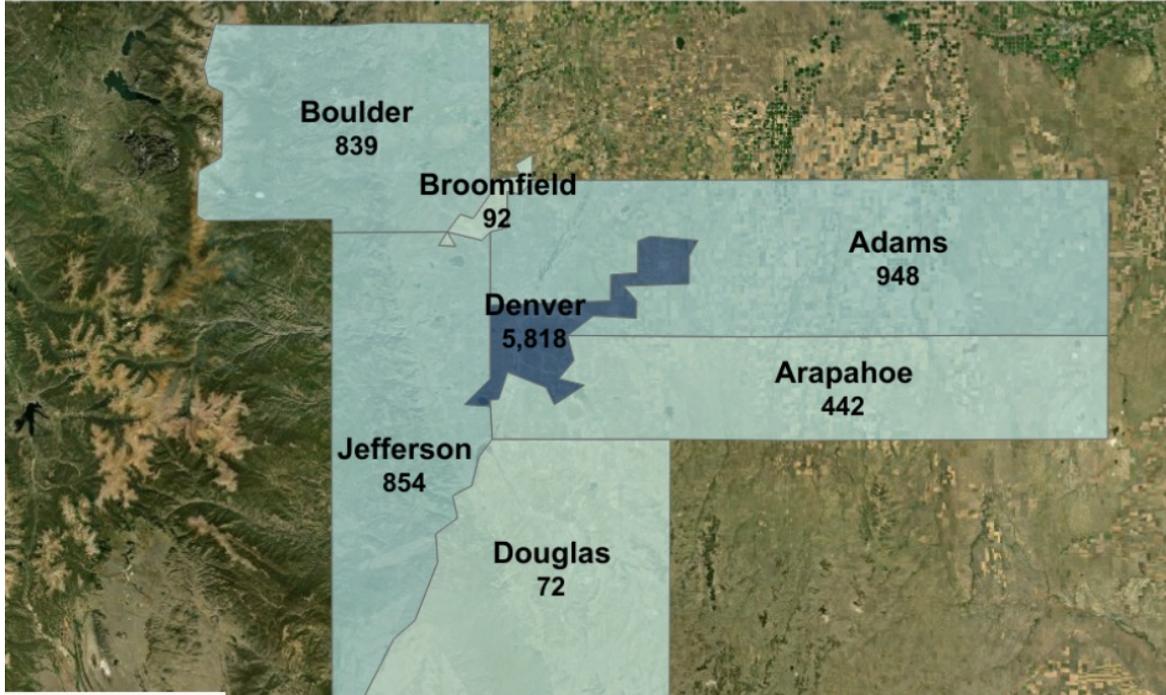
And finally, and unfortunately, our staff members need resilience. Coming to the aid of those who are most in need, day after day, night after night, being witness to the challenges our residents face day in and day out take a toll. We have recently begun to offer clinical support to our floor staff, acknowledging that "even heroes need help sometimes."



The list of our staff's skills is long, much longer than what's mentioned here. And we are grateful to and inspired by the staff who use those skills to provide services that are so needed by so many.



What is the Point In Time Count?



Back in July, the Metro Denver Homelessness Initiative (MHDI) released its annual Point-in Time (PIT) count for Boulder County. This year’s count indicates a total of 839 unhoused individuals living in Boulder County as of Jan. 30. MHDI cautions against comparing that statistic year over year – the count can be influenced by variables such as weather, count methodology, count participation and volunteer engagement – but clearly the number of people experiencing homelessness in Boulder County is higher in 2023 than it’s been in years. A similar trend has been seen across the Denver metro region.

The Shelter is experiencing an increase in demand too. We have been at or near capacity even during a mild September, and the number of unique Shelter clients is up 11% over last year. In response, we’re increasing our Permanent Housing Capacity, increasing the range of services we provide, preparing to increase our capacity on “critical weather” nights, and increasing our staff support on those nights. With your help, we’ll be ready.

To learn more about the pit count visit the [Metro Denver Homeless Initiative site](#).

Homelessness Doesn't Take a Summer Break

In July and August we helped 26 people exit homelessness.

12 people exited into permanent housing and 14 exited through Coordinated Entry.

We served 18,444 meals.

Thanks to our hard working kitchen staff and dedicated volunteers, each person staying with us received a hot dinner and breakfast in the

When people exit through Coordinated Entry, they may be reunified with family, receive short-term rental support, and other assistance. ***This keeps people from entering long-term homelessness. In effect, stopping homelessness before it starts.***



morning.

We had 9,222 bed nights.

Bed nights is the total number of occupied beds for the month. ***This means a nightly average of 149 people who weren't sleeping in Boulder parks, paths, or encampments.***



Boulder Chamber Interview with our CEO



[Donate](#)

[Learn About Our Programs](#)

[Volunteer](#)

How Else Can I Help?



What's The HOME TEAM?

We lovingly refer to our monthly recurring donors as The Home Team ♥

Recurring donations help us build a solid footing for our mission to help people exit homelessness. 😊

What it does for you is offer a "set it and forget it" option for your giving!

You can donate any amount and set it for a recurring payment [here](#).



Sign Up for King Soopers Community Rewards

This program makes giving easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day.

Once you link your card to the Boulder Shelter, all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and swipe your Shopper's Card.

Make a donation with every purchase at no cost to you!

[Learn more](#)



Does your employer offer gift matching programs where you can deduct directly from your paycheck?

Many programs, like Benevity allow individuals to double or triple their donations.

Employees can make one-time donations or set up recurring donations from their payroll in minutes.

To learn more about Benevity and how it works, check out their website [here](#).



We are tremendously grateful for the support of our donors and volunteers. Thanks for reading and stay tuned for our next newsletter in October!



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Find Us Online



WWW.BOULDERSHELTER.ORG

Boulder Shelter | 4869 N. Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304

[Unsubscribe development@bouldershelter.org](mailto:development@bouldershelter.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by development@bouldershelter.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!