

Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

Shelter → Support → Housing



January 2024

Bluebird is Open!

As of January 24, all 40 units of the new Bluebird Apartments are now rented.

Bluebird is located at 2445 30th St., and it is the product of a collaboration between the Shelter and Element Properties, the project developer. It provides 40 units of Permanent Supportive Housing, and offers a trauma-informed, supportive space for people who have often been unsheltered. To be eligible to live at the facility, potential residents must have



“90% of the folks ... who are unsheltered say they want to be housed.

What they want happens to work best, and it saves a lot of money, as well,” Michael Block, Shelter CEO, said. “... We are dedicated to this kind of approach because it works.” He added that housing previously unhoused people in Boulder leads to a significant reduction in criminal justice

been unhoused for at least a year, although in some cases, new Bluebird residents have been living on the streets for years.

With Bluebird now open and other units scattered around the city, the Shelter has more than 180 clients in permanently supportive homes.

We are grateful to developers like Element for making this possible, as well as to supportive landlords for giving our residents a chance at a stable home, and to the City and County of Boulder, the City of Lafayette, and the Colorado Division of Housing for their financial and technical support.

system utilization and emergency room use, among other effects.

The Shelter will be collaborating with Element to create another 55-unit permanent supportive housing facility in Longmont, currently slated to open in September of this year.

(Adapted from a *Boulder Camera* article, 1/22/24)



[See the Daily Camera Article](#)

"All the Gold in the World"

One of our caseworkers at the new Bluebird Apartments is Tina, who is a seasoned PSH caseworker for the Shelter, and who also had similar previous experience.

Tina works with 14 clients at Bluebird and 2 at scattered sites in the community, helping them to meet basic needs, connect to services they need, and maintain their housing. We interviewed her about her work.

What is Bluebird like?

“It’s an amazing building: comfortable, functional, and trauma-informed. That last part has to do with things like lots of light and windows, wide doorways and corridors, muted colors, and soundproofing. Beds are specially designed to help people who have been living outside to transition to an apartment: the mattresses have one soft side and one hard side, and they can be removed so that a resident

can also sleep on the mattress on the floor or on the wooden platform that was under it.

And the people are remarkable. I see Bluebird as a community of people coming together to support each other and live the lives they deserve. The residents are strong and brave, and Bluebird is a no-judgement zone for them.”

What might surprise the public about Bluebird?

“People would be surprised at the level of respect the residents have for their homes here. It was a very difficult process for them to get here, and they don’t take their homes for granted.”

And a story?

“I worked with one woman all through the application process. When the property manager finally gave her the apartment keys, she looked down at them like they were all the gold in the world.”



[Learn more about our Permanent Supportive Housing program](#)

Check Out More Pics Inside Bluebird



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Homeless Exits Report: 2022 / 2023

In 2022 we helped 168 people exit homelessness.

- 73 people exited through Coordinated Entry. They may have been reunified with family, received short-term rental support, or received other assistance. *This keeps people from entering long-term homelessness. In effect, we are stopping homelessness before it starts.*

- 25 people exited into permanent supportive housing (PSH) run by the Shelter.

- 70 exited into permanent housing using other assets.



Annual Homeless Exits

2022	2023	% Change
CE Exits 73	CE Exits 88	CE Exits +20.5 %
PSH Exits 25	PSH Exits 10	PSH Exits -60.5 %
Other Exits 70	Other Exits 83	Other Exits +18.6 %
Total Exits 168	Total Exits 181	Total Exits +7.7 %

In 2023 we helped 181 people exit homelessness.

- That's an increase of 7.7% over 2022.

- We had an increase in every category of homeless exits other than Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), simply due to a lack of PSH facilities.

- In 2024, we continue to allocate our resources to facilitate as many exits from homelessness as possible.

- The addition of Bluebird in 2024 means our number this year will likely exceed our success over 2023 across all categories in 2024!

We are incredibly grateful to our supporters and volunteers who make it possible for us to end homelessness in Boulder, one person at a time. Thank you for your support!

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