



IMPACT REPORT

June 2023



OUR MISSION

At Karisis, we work to eliminate long term poverty and hopelessness in vulnerable young people in Mesa County, ages 13-24, by providing access to safe and stable housing and support needed to grow in self-sufficiency and well-being.

Karisis has grown over the past 14 years. Our most familiar program is The House, our emergency housing solution for ages 13-20. Yet, in the past 3 years, our reach has more than doubled, serving more young people in Mesa County with housing options and services. In 2022, we served 235 young people, 98% of whom are from Mesa County.

TODAY KARISIS PROVIDES:

- 4 types of housing solutions
- 14 housing properties (owned / leased)
- 18 Rental supplements / Vouchers
- 10 Programs and Services

Our Housing Solutions:

1. Emergency Housing
2. Transitional Living from Intimate Partner/ Domestic Violence
3. Transitional Living
4. Permanent Supportive Living

Our Programs:

- Crime Victim Services
- Rapid Rehousing Supplements
- Phoenix Initiative (LGBTQ)
- Street Outreach
- Crime Victim Advocacy



Our Services:

- Drop-in Day Center
- Crime Victim Services
- Case Management
- Housing Vouchers
- 24 Hour On-Call
- Life Skill Groups

WHO WE SERVE

Of the young people we serve, 11% are 17 years of age and under, 89% are 18 years of age and above.

We are grateful for the connections with D51 schools as 30% of those served, hear about Karis through the schools. You might be wondering why these young people are homeless. This is what our outreach data shows.

Top Reason for Homelessness

- Abandoned / Kicked Out - 25%
- Left Home - 19%
- Domestic Violence - 9%
- Aged Out of DHS - 3%
- LGBTQ - 3%
- Relationship Problems - 3%
- Financial Reasons - 3%

Demographics of Young People in Karis

- African or Middle Eastern - 1%
- Asian - 1%
- Black/African American - 5%
- Caucasian - 53%
- Hispanic/Latino - 12%
- Native American - 4%
- Pacific Islander - 1%
- Race/Ethnicity unknown - 24%

Homeless young people are a population characterized by vulnerability. Within Karis, the majority of the young people have a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defined disability. This includes substance use and psychiatric disorders. Young people in this population face additional difficulties accessing adequate health care (Edidin, 2012).

Moreover, a disproportionate percentage identify as LGBTQ (up to 40%, while the general youth population is only 10%; National Coalition for the Homeless, 2017).

25% of the young people we serve last year identified as LGBTQ. This population experiences increased risks of homelessness, mental health disorder symptoms, and suicidality (Rhoades, 2018).

Karis is the only agency in Mesa County that provides programs and services specifically to homeless youth, as well as offers services tailored to LGBTQ homeless young people.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Between October 2022 and March 2023, Karis made outreach contact and provided services through our **emergency housing**, to 165 unduplicated homeless youth, of whom 32 were provided 804 bed nights.

Of the those served,

- 37% received educational support,
- 26% received mental or behavioral health services,
- 45% received employment services
- 84% of youth received support for building permanent positive relationships
- 68% received support accessing health care services.

Studies show that the sooner a young person is in stable housing, the more likely they are to achieve self-sufficiency and remain housed long term. Our work is to connect quickly with young people and help break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

In our **Transition Living Program**, young people who left the program demonstrated:

- 3.8% decrease in drug and alcohol use
- 6.8% increase in social support
- 100% of young people who exited the program in the last six months transitioned to safe and stable housing
- 50% of youth had completed high school, obtained a GED, or were attending school



WHAT'S NEW AT KARIS

With our rapid growth in the past 3 years, there was a need to revisit the longer-term vision and strategies of the organization. In March, we completed our strategic plan, focused on 5 key areas of our organization.

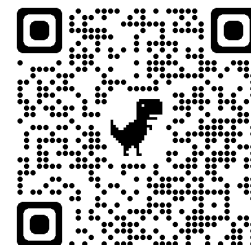
1. Stabilizing our human capital
2. Improving operational execution
3. Measuring what matters
4. Increasing sustainability and accountability
5. Increasing donor and community engagement

In April, we closed on another property to be used for housing. We are assessing the needs and will be making a decision in the next few months, on how best to utilize it within our current programs, in a matter that is sustainable and financially sound. In addition, we completed the remodel of Benni's Home, one of our **Transitional Living properties**.

Our team is planning to do two community fundraising events in the next year, as well as go through a rebranding process to bring clarity in who Karis is and the scope we are reaching for Mesa County.

We are overwhelmed by the generosity of this community and are so grateful to our monthly and annual donors. These "friends of Karis" make a such a difference in what we can accomplish. If you would like to volunteer or help fund the work we do, you can do so at www.karisinc.org or click on this QR code to go to our website, and select *Impact Report* as your donation designation.

Thank you and we look forward to sharing more about our impacts!



The Karis Team