



# **Making Homes Not Houses: Community Building to End Homelessness**

**Kitsap Homes of Compassion**

# Introductions



**Scott Willard**

he/him/his



**Madison Roszak**

she/her/hers

# Roadmap

Introductions

1

Why community building?

3

What are the next steps?

5

2

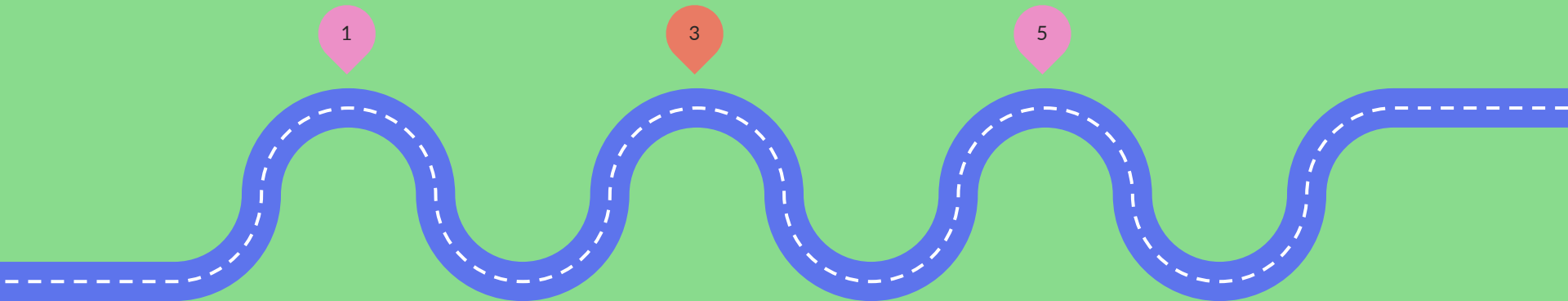
What is the need?

4

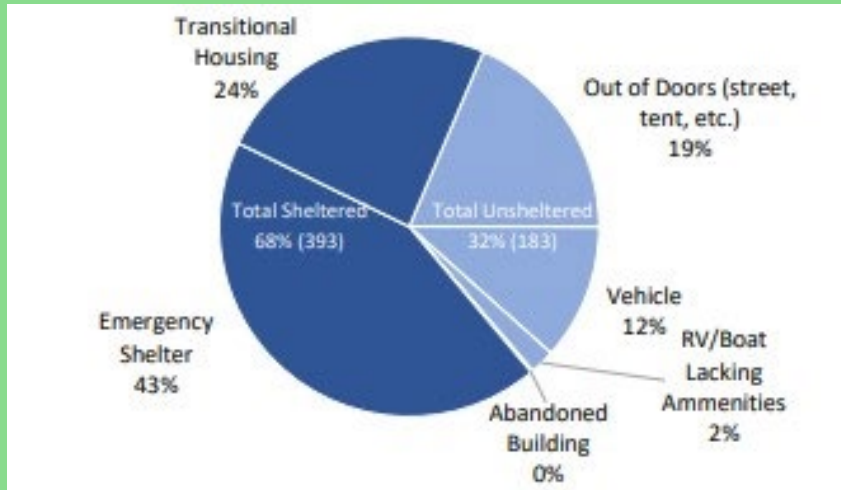
Who is KHOC?

6

Questions

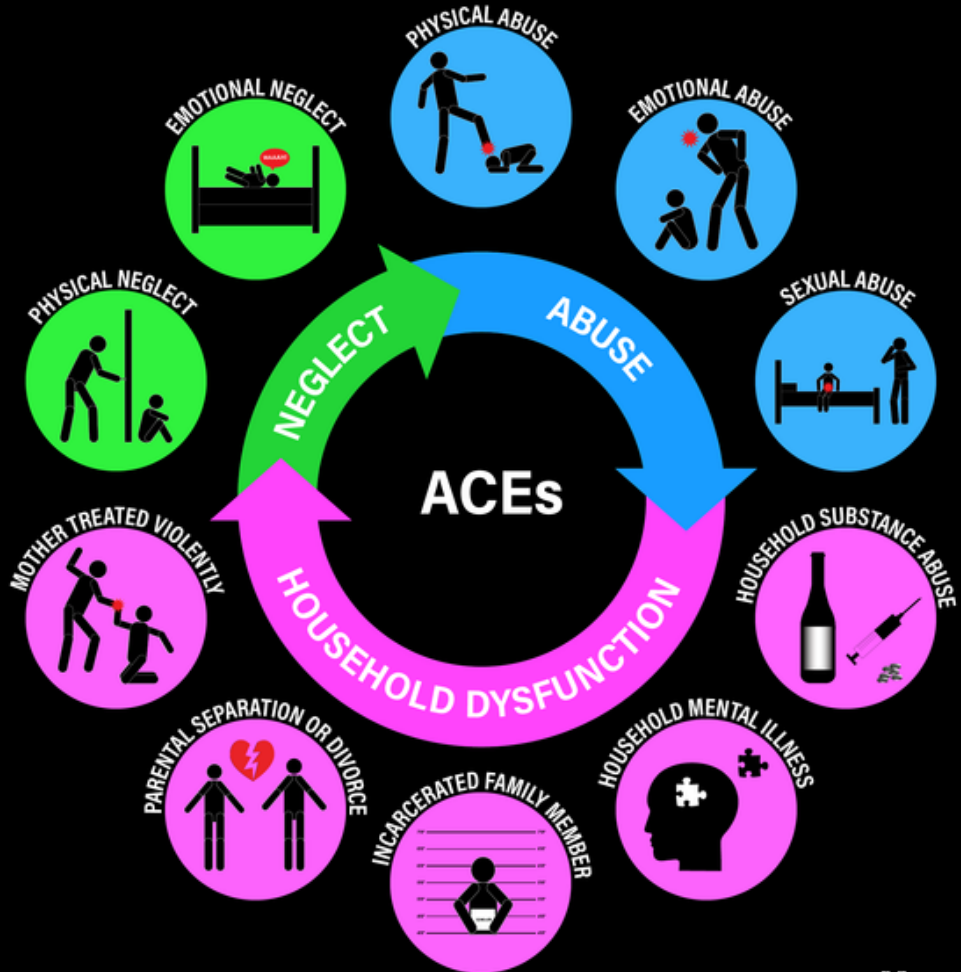


# What is the Need?



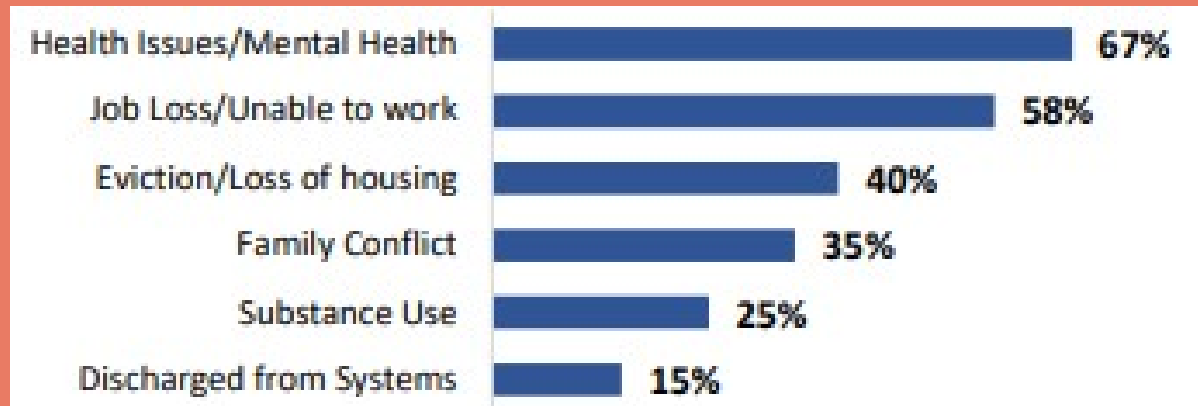
2022 Point in Time Count, Kitsap County





# Causes of Homelessness

## Kitsap County 2022



# Historical Context



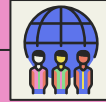
**1500s**

Creation of the  
Elizabethan Poor Laws



**1870s**

Homelessness becomes a  
national issue after the  
Civil War



**1950s**

Civil Rights Movement

# Elizabethan Poor Laws

## Deserving Poor

Those who are unable to work due to age, disability, or illness.

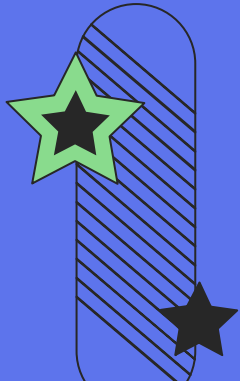
## Undeserving Poor

Victims of circumstance and the larger, macro systems.




# After the Civil War

- Construction of the national railroad system
- Urbanization
- Industrialization
- Poor working conditions
- Romanticization of homelessness








# Racism and Homelessness

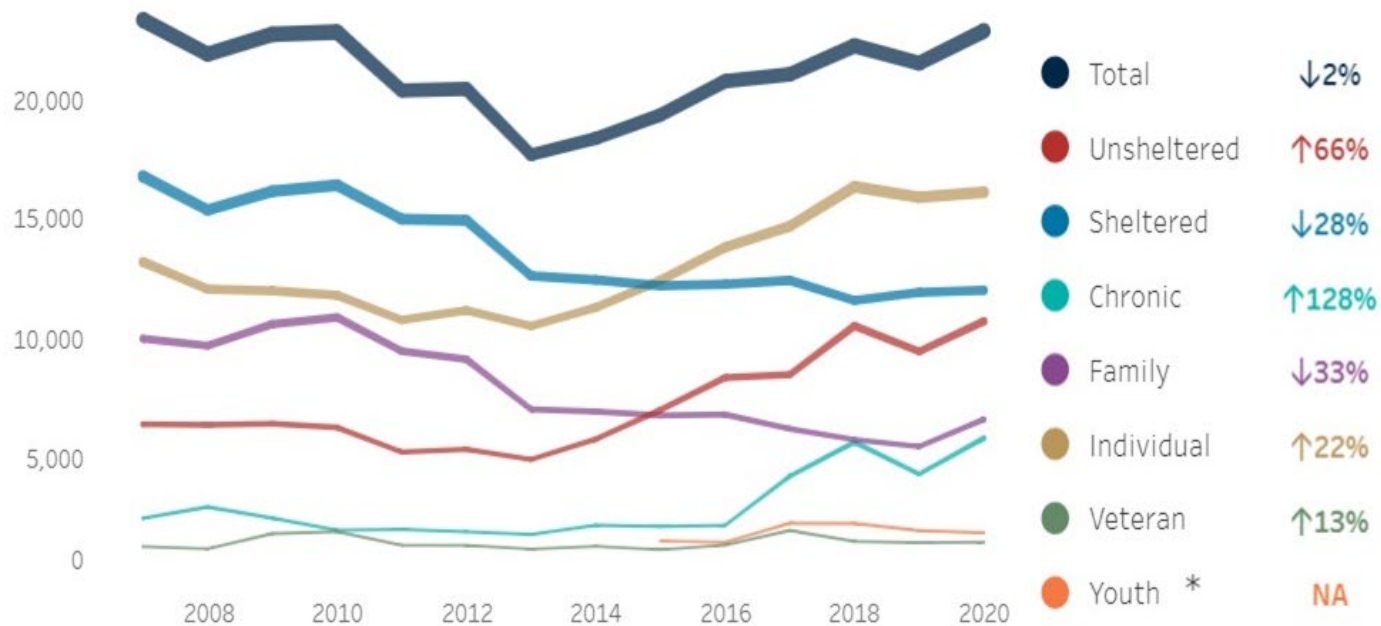
- Overrepresentation of BIPOC in unhoused population
  - Systemic denial of rights and socioeconomic opportunities
  - Housing discrimination (redlining)
  - Disproportionately dangerous housing for BIPOC
  - Homelessness is criminalized
- 

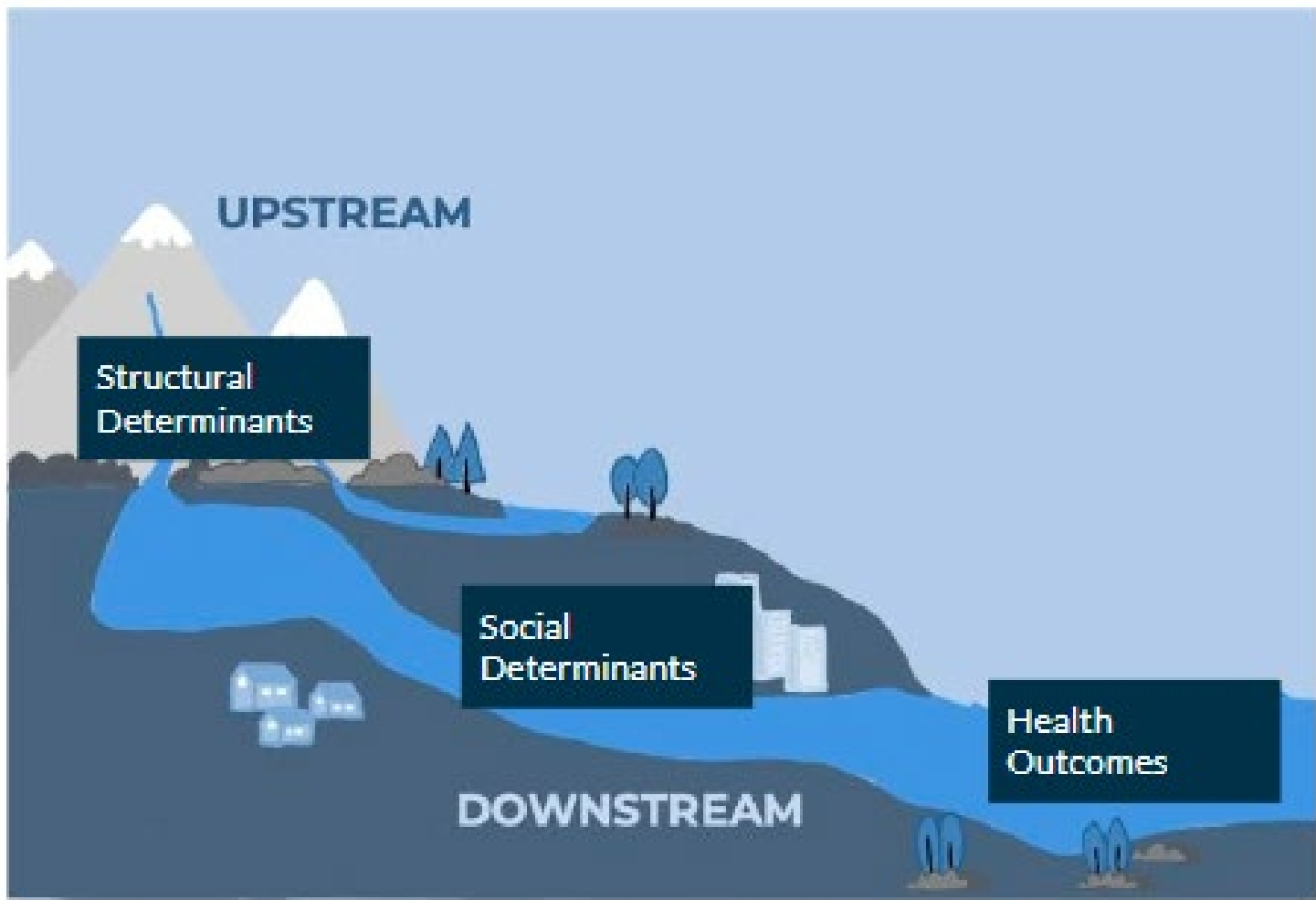


# 2022– Why Are We Here?

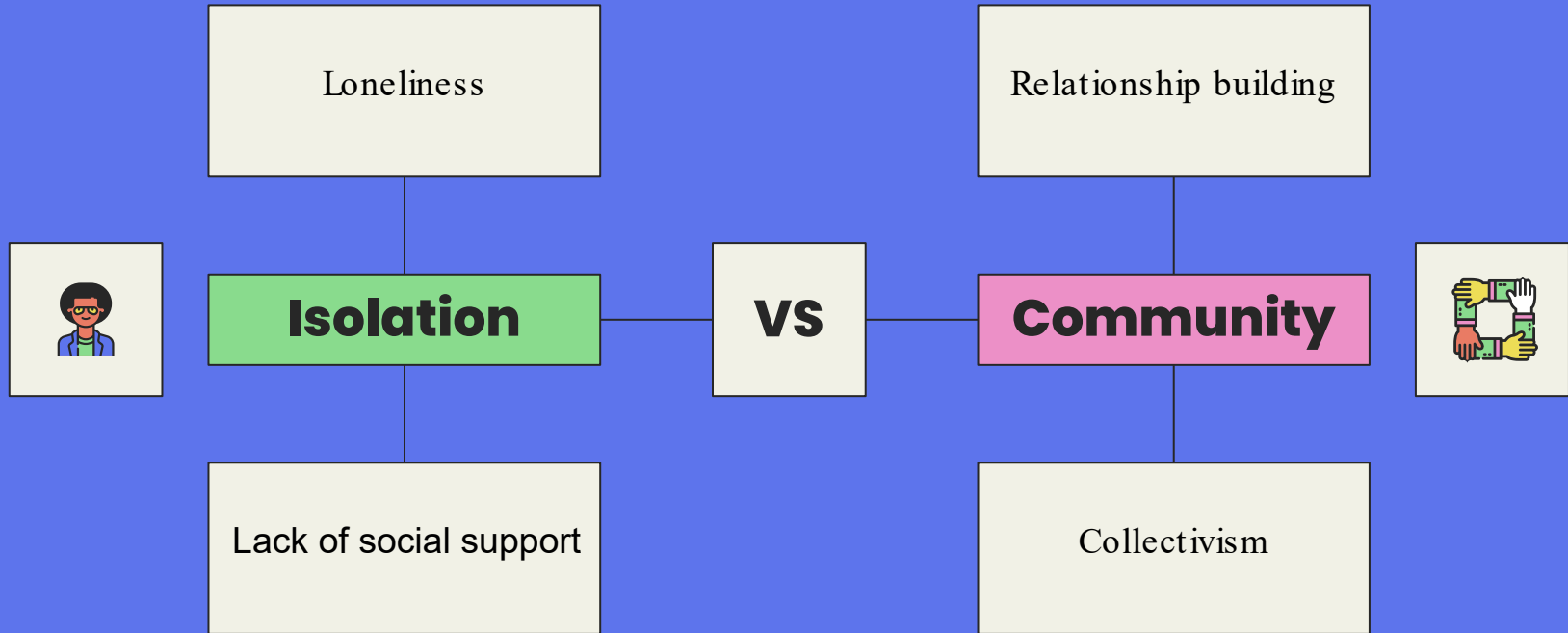
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- War on drugs
  - Reduced prison rates for people in poverty
  - Closing on mental health institutions
  - Severe recession
  - Pandemic
  - Affordable housing crisis

Between 2007 and 2020, Washington's **Total** homeless population changed by **↓2%**, the **Sheltered** population changed by **↓28%**, and the **Unsheltered** population changed by **↑66%**.

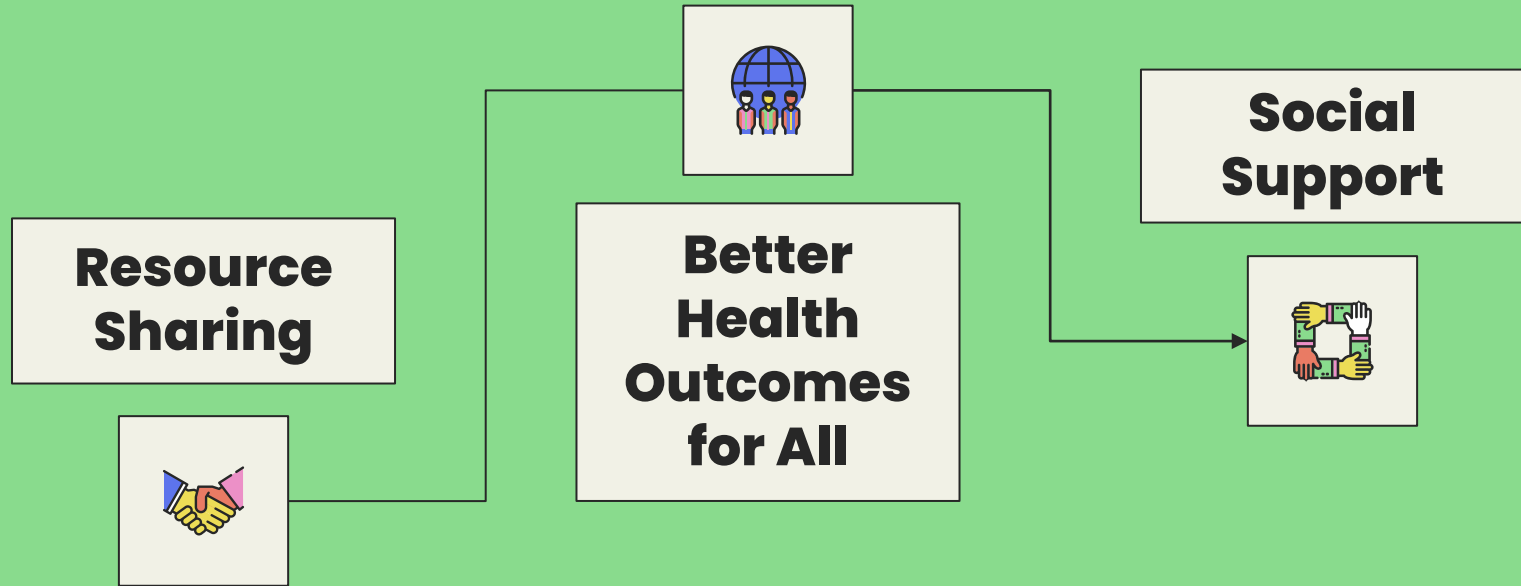




# Why Community Building?





# Community Means...





**“Homelessness is the most lonely experience of my life. It is a constant gnawing hunger for acknowledgement, attention, love, and acceptance.**



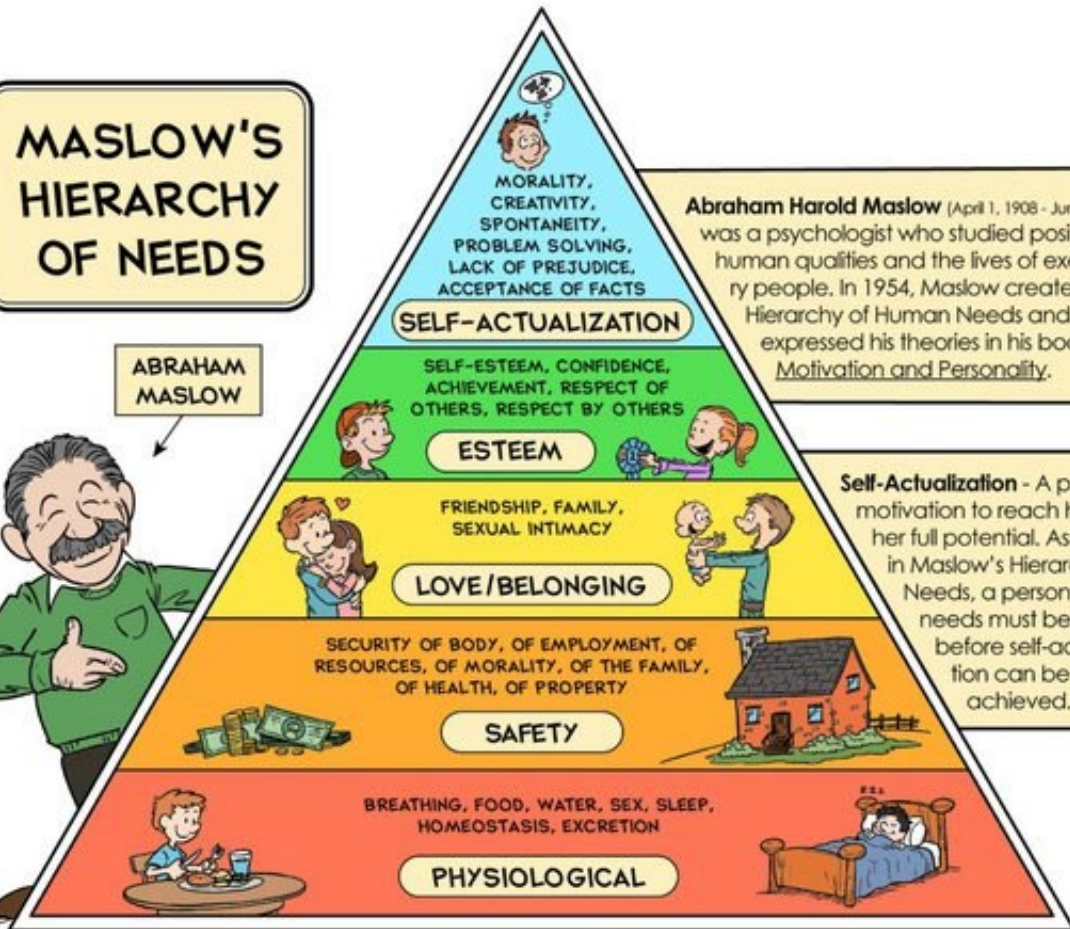
**This hunger is a deeper, darker shadow to the physical hunger that I experience daily. But as harsh as loneliness is, it is only the blunt periphery of the suffering. At its sharpest piercing center, I feel abandoned, betrayed, and forsaken.”**

*Anonymous*



# MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

ABRAHAM MASLOW



**Abraham Harold Maslow** (April 1, 1908 - June 8, 1970) was a psychologist who studied positive human qualities and the lives of exemplary people. In 1954, Maslow created the Hierarchy of Human Needs and expressed his theories in his book, *Motivation and Personality*.


**Self-Actualization** - A person's motivation to reach his or her full potential. As shown in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a person's basic needs must be met before self-actualization can be achieved.



# Health Equity


Health equity means an absence of systematic disparities in health between social groups who have underlying social advantages/disadvantages.

Why not health equality? Not all health disparities are unfair.



Housing and health equity, as human rights, are tied together.

One solution to health inequities associated with homelessness is housing!



# Average Lifespan

<b>Unhoused</b>	50
<b>Housed</b>	77



# **Kitsap Homes of Compassion**

Est. 2017



**X**

# Homes, Not Benches

KHOC currently serves over 100 residents  
in 26 homes across Kitsap County.



# Mission, Vision, & Goal

The mission of Kitsap Homes of Compassion is to create hope and opportunity for homeless Kitsap County residents by providing affordable, permanent housing and other resources that promote self-sufficiency.

Kitsap Homes of Compassion, in partnership with our community, envisions a future where everyone in Kitsap County is provided an opportunity for housing and any support services they may require, as a basic human right, and are treated with dignity and respect.

Our goal is to provide stable, supportive housing and opportunity for those in difficult circumstances such as poverty, domestic violence, or debilitating physical/mental health issues that resulted in homelessness and to eventually eliminate homelessness in Kitsap County.

# Kitsap Homes of Compassion

- Operates under the assumption that homelessness is due to the housing crisis, not a personal issue
- Prioritizes meeting basic needs over less critical necessities
- Encourages people to have agency and freedom of choice
- Reduces need for emergency services
- Improves health outcomes

## Housing First



- Pairs wrap-around services with long-term rental assistance
- Has shown that support services are more frequently accessed if a person is housed
- Proves that accessing services increases housing stability and overall well-being

## Permanent Supportive Housing

### Our Model

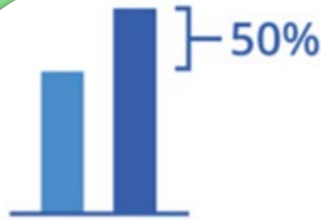
# Levels of Housing

Several studies suggest there are 3 levels of housing:

- Shelter (protects people)
- House (physical structures)
- Home (represents deep social connections)



# Benefits of Social Connectedness



50% increased chance of longevity



stronger gene expression for immunity (research by Steve Cole, UCLA)



lower rates of anxiety and depression



higher self-esteem and empathy

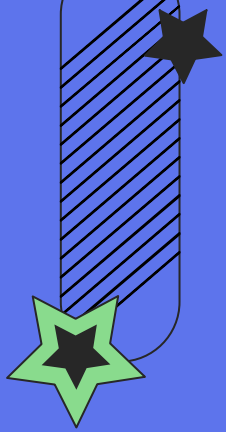
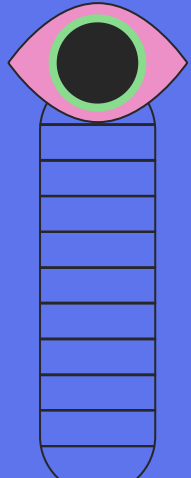


better emotion regulation skills

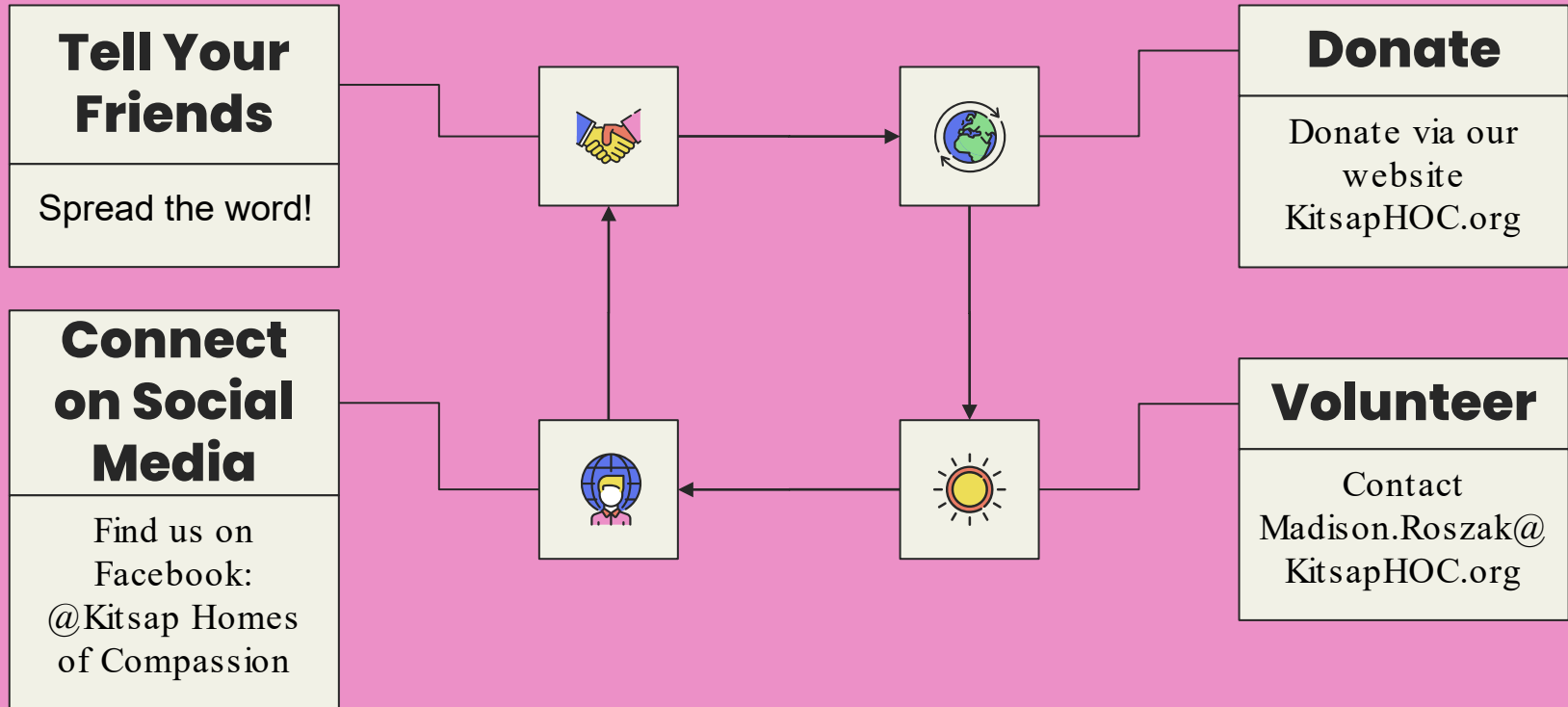


Social connection creates a positive feedback loop of social, emotional, and physical well being.

**“Home is a  
symbol of  
the lives  
spent in it”**



# Next Steps



**Questions?**

