

Volunteers of America Colorado

# IMPACT REPORT





129  
YEARS

## VOA Colorado *serving* Coloradoans



2024 Annual Report for Volunteers of America Colorado  
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For more than 129 years, VOA Colorado has been a steady, unwavering presence for people facing their most difficult moments. What began as a small mission of service in 1896 has grown into a statewide network of life-changing programs that deliver shelter, food, safety, and hope to tens of thousands of Coloradoans every year. Through wars, recessions, social change, and unprecedented crises, we have adapted, expanded, and deepened our commitment to standing alongside our neighbors—helping them overcome adversity and building brighter futures.

Today, our work is more critical than ever. As the cost of living soars and the need for essential services grows, we continue to meet people where they are, offering not just support but true solutions. With over 50 programs and services, a team of dedicated professionals, and thousands of volunteers and supporters, VOA Colorado is transforming lives and fueling lasting change across our state. For 129 years—and for as long as we’re needed—we are here to give hope, restore dignity, and create resilient communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

And as we look to the future, we are committed to building on this incredible legacy. We are expanding our reach, strengthening our programs, and finding new ways to lift up those who are struggling. Because our mission is not just to respond to crisis—it’s to create a Colorado where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, belong, and live with dignity.







## housing & shelter services

VOA Colorado's Housing and Shelter Services provide more than a roof overhead—we deliver stability, dignity, and a path forward for those who need it most. From veterans rebuilding their lives to seniors seeking safety, from women and children escaping crisis to families striving for a fresh start, we offer emergency shelter, transitional programs, and permanent supportive housing that restores hope and creates lasting change.



## hunger services

VOA Colorado's Hunger Services are a lifeline for those facing food insecurity. Through programs like City Harvest Food Bank and Meals on Wheels, we provide nourishing meals and vital groceries with dignity and compassion—ensuring no neighbor goes hungry and everyone has the chance to thrive. Whether it's stocking shelves, serving meals, or delivering food directly to homes, we are fighting hunger and fueling hope across Colorado.



## veteran services

VOA Colorado's Veterans Services are dedicated to helping those who served overcome homelessness and hardship. Through our Veterans Service offices, we offer housing navigation, job training, mental health support, and connections to VA benefits—all in one welcoming place designed to meet every need. With permanent supportive housing and tailored case management, we help veterans regain stability, restore dignity, and rebuild their lives.



## community impact

VOA Colorado's impact reaches every corner of the community—meeting urgent needs today while building lasting solutions for tomorrow. Through our innovative programs, strategic partnerships, and the dedication of thousands of supporters, we provide housing, meals, safety, and critical resources, while driving lasting change. From neighborhood food drives to corporate partnerships and grassroots advocacy, every effort helps us build stronger, more resilient communities where hope thrives and everyone has the opportunity to rebuild, recover, and rise.



## volunteer services

Volunteers are the heart of VOA Colorado. With thousands of volunteers giving over 200,000 hours each year, their impact is felt in every corner of our community. Every day, they show up—serving meals, mentoring youth, delivering groceries, supporting seniors, and so much more—turning compassion into action. Through their time, talent, and dedication, our volunteers create real, lasting impact and help us build a stronger, more connected Colorado.



# housing & shelter services

A safe, stable place to call home is the foundation for everything else in life. Without it, finding a job, caring for your family, or focusing on your health becomes nearly impossible. That's why VOA Colorado's Housing and Shelter Services offer so much more than just a roof overhead—we provide a clear path from crisis to stability. Through critical programs, we serve individuals and families facing domestic violence, displacement, and homelessness with compassion and tailored solutions.

Across our shelters and supportive housing sites, we meet people at their most vulnerable moments and walk alongside them as they rebuild their lives. Beyond a place to stay, we offer wraparound services like case management, mental health resources, employment assistance, financial coaching, and childcare support—knowing that ending homelessness takes far more than four walls and a bed.

At VOA Colorado, we believe that everyone deserves the security of a place to call home and the tools to build a better tomorrow.

**10,474**  
people served

**1,134,729**  
nights of shelter



## **Sinton's sanctuary: a safe haven for senior women and women veterans**

Anna never imagined she would be homeless at 65. With nowhere to turn, she spent months sleeping in her car—scared, exhausted, and invisible to the world around her.

She is not alone. Homelessness among senior women and women veterans is rising at an alarming rate—up nearly 24% last year alone. Even more devastating, the number of unsheltered women veterans—those forced to live on the streets or in unsafe conditions—jumped 48%.

For many, Sinton's Sanctuary is the difference between despair and a second chance. This 24/7 shelter provides not just a place to sleep but a path forward. The facility offers stability, case management, and—most importantly—a community that believes in them.

For many, the Sanctuary is very often a turning point. At Sinton, women find safety, support, and the strength to rebuild. Many go on to have a home of their own. Sinton Sanctuary stands as a testament to a powerful vision: no woman should be left behind.

*"I came here broken, scared, and alone. Sinton's gave me hope, gave me family. Now, I have a home of my own." — Anna, Former Sinton Sanctuary Resident*



## **Southwest safehouse: a lifeline for survivors of domestic violence**

When Elena arrived at VOA Colorado's shelter, she had nothing but the clothes on her back and a heart full of fear. After years of enduring abuse, she made the impossible choice to leave—but with nowhere to go, she and her two small children spent nights in her car, unsure of what came next.

At Southwest Safehouse and the Durango Community Shelter, survivors like Elena find more than just a roof over their heads. They find safety, dignity, and a path forward. For nearly 40 years, these shelters have been lifelines, helping women, men, and children reclaim their futures. Every year, they provide thousands of nights of safe shelter, offering stability, support, and the resources to rebuild.

When Elena walked through the doors, she wasn't just given a bed—she was given hope. With time, guidance, and a supportive community, she found the courage to start over. Today, she has a home of her own.

For every survivor like Elena, there are many more still searching for safety. Together, we can break the silence and offer hope to those who need it most.

*"I didn't just find shelter—I found the strength to start over." — A Survivor at Southwest Safehouse*



# hunger services

**70,778**  
people fed

**2,260,239**  
meals provided

Hunger is not a far-off problem—it's a daily reality for too many of our Colorado neighbors. At VOA Colorado, we believe that access to nutritious food is a basic human right, and our hunger services exist to ensure that no one in our community has to wonder where their next meal will come from. Through our many programs, we provide millions of pounds of food and serve thousands of meals each year, all with dignity and care.

But our work goes beyond filling plates. Food is about health, security, and community. For the seniors who rely on Meals on Wheels, it's a lifeline that brings both nourishment and a friendly face. For families receiving meals from City Harvest Food Bank, it is relief during a time of crisis. And for the guests at our dining sites, it is a warm meal shared in the company of others. We are committed to fighting hunger from every angle—meeting immediate needs while supporting long-term stability. Because in a state as vibrant as Colorado, no one should go hungry.



# meals on wheels

## more than a meal: nourishing seniors with food, friendship, and care

For many seniors in Colorado, a knock on the door from a Meals on Wheels volunteer is more than just a food delivery—it's a connection to the outside world.

Kevin, a longtime VOA Colorado volunteer, sees firsthand how vital these visits are. "I want my seniors to eat, yes, but more than that, I want them to know someone cares." Many of the people on his route live alone, with no family nearby, and his deliveries bring more than nourishment—they bring friendship and dignity.

For volunteer Heather, the program is deeply personal. Inspired by her grandfather's decades of service, she now delivers meals with her two young sons, teaching them the power of kindness. She remembers birthdays, shares conversations, and even started a tradition of delivering handmade holiday cards—spreading warmth beyond just a meal.

Across Colorado, VOA's Meals on Wheels program ensures that thousands of seniors not only receive nutritious meals but also feel valued and connected. Because no senior should have to face hunger—or loneliness—alone.

*"The meal is important, but it's the kindness and friendship that mean the most to me."*  
— Senior Recipient of Meals on Wheels services





# veteran services

At VOA Colorado, we are committed to honoring those who have served our country by ensuring they receive the support, stability, and respect they deserve. Through our veteran services and specialized housing programs, we offer comprehensive services that help veterans overcome homelessness, unemployment, and the lingering effects of trauma. Every day, we meet veterans where they are, providing the tools and resources they need to rebuild their lives with dignity.

**1,733**  
veterans served

**423**  
veterans housed



## **a veteran's journey: from rock bottom to renewal**

After serving her country, Kate returned to Colorado ready to rebuild her life. She worked hard, balancing multiple jobs to support her children. But the weight of her past never left her. The trauma, the isolation, and the addiction slowly took everything—her job, her home, her sense of self.

For years, she lived on the streets, unsure of where to turn. Then, one day, she walked through the doors of VOA Colorado's Veterans Service Center (VSC)—a place built to support veterans like her.

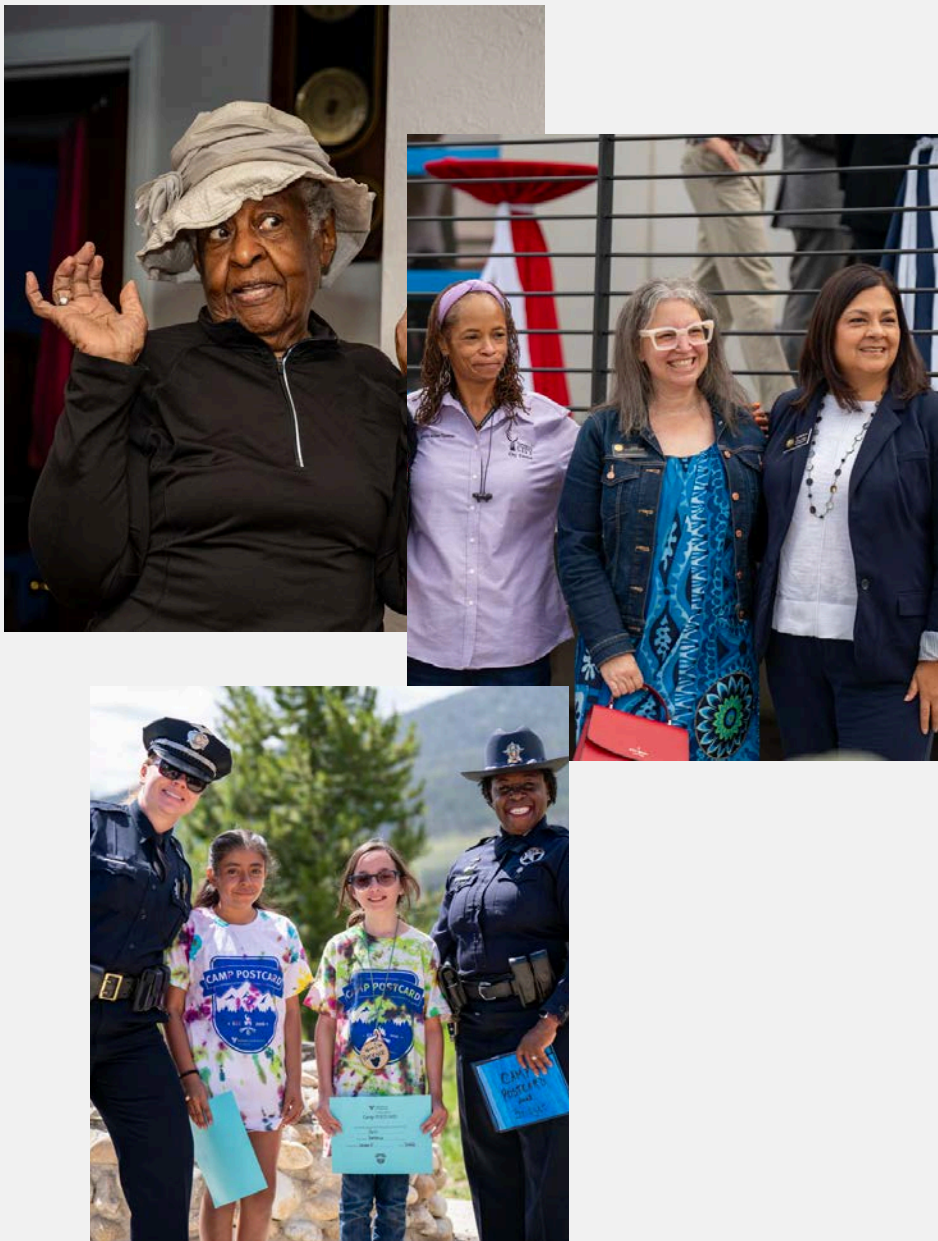
At VSC, she found more than just shelter and a meal. She found people who believed in her, even when she couldn't believe in herself. With VOA's help, she secured housing, job training, therapy, and the support system she desperately needed.

Today, Kate is thriving. She's a certified sous chef, has stable housing, and now volunteers at VSC, serving meals to fellow veterans in need. She tells them what she once needed to hear: "There is a way forward. You are not alone."

*"I walked into the Veterans Service Center with nothing. I left with hope." — Female Veteran*



# community impact



True community impact is not just about meeting immediate needs—it is about creating long-term solutions and building systems of support that uplift everyone. That is exactly what VOA Colorado is committed to doing. We are more than a service provider; we are part of the fabric of Colorado, working every day to create stronger, healthier, more resilient communities through our 50+ programs and services.

Our impact is powered by people—volunteers, donors, partners, and advocates—who share our vision of a state where no one is left behind. Together, we deliver food, housing, safety, and support to tens of thousands of people each year, while also addressing the root causes of poverty, hunger, and homelessness. We collaborate with local organizations, government agencies, and community leaders to create innovative solutions and drive lasting change. Every meal served, every home provided, and every life transformed ripples outward, strengthening not just individuals, but entire neighborhoods and cities.

**33**  
dining sites

**15,490**  
toys distributed





## congregate dining: lola mae's legacy

For more than 30 years, Lola Mae brought warmth and connection to the VOA Colorado Congregate Dining program. The shared meals were more than food; they were a lifeline. She and her fellow diners built a community of friendship, laughter, and care.

When Lola Mae passed at 95, her generosity lived on. She left a legacy gift to VOA Colorado, ensuring that no senior in her community would go hungry or feel alone.

Today, her memory lingers in every shared meal, every warm conversation, every act of kindness at the table.

Because nourishment is not just about food—it is about love, connection, and never dining alone.

*"Sharing a meal isn't just about food—it's about sharing your heart." — A Fellow Diner*

## toy drive: a father's christmas wish

As snowflakes dusted the pavement, a father of five pulled into the VOA Colorado Toy Drive line, his hands gripping the steering wheel. Just days earlier, he had been laid off from his job, and the weight of that reality pressed heavy on his chest. How would he tell his kids there would be no Christmas this year?

Beside him, his wife reached for his hand. They were not alone. They had heard about the Toy Drive and decided to take a chance.

When volunteers placed brightly wrapped gifts into their car, relief washed over him. His eyes filled with tears. For the first time in weeks, he could breathe.

On Christmas morning, as his children unwrapped their presents, their laughter filled the room. It wasn't just about the toys—it was about hope, dignity, and the chance to believe in magic again.

Because of the Toy Drive, one father's heartbreak turned into a Christmas his family will never forget.

*"Programs like this showed me we weren't alone—and because of you, my kids still had a Christmas to believe in." — Toy Drive Recipient*







# volunteer services

At the heart of everything we do at VOA Colorado are the volunteers who give their time, energy, and compassion to help us serve our community. With thousands of volunteers contributing thousands of hours of service each year, these dedicated individuals make an extraordinary impact—helping us deliver meals, support seniors, mentor youth, organize donations, and so much more. Their generosity and dedication bring our mission to life, and their work is felt in every program and every corner of our state.

Volunteers are often the first face someone sees when they come to us for help. They are the hands serving meals, the drivers delivering food to homebound seniors, the mentors showing up week after week to support children and families in need. Whether it is a one-time event or a lifelong commitment, every act of service makes a difference. Together, our volunteers help create a more compassionate, connected Colorado—proving that when we come together in service of others, we create lasting change for all.

**210,279**  
volunteer hours



## **foster grandparents program: bridging generations, changing lives**

In classrooms across Colorado, quiet moments of connection are sparking lasting change. In one elementary school, a once-struggling reader sits side by side with his Foster Grandparent, carefully sounding out each word. By the end of the year, his reading score jumps from 26% to 76%. But the numbers only tell part of the story. What's harder to measure is the confidence in his voice and the pride in his smile.

That is the magic of VOA Colorado's Foster Grandparents Program—a place where older adults find renewed purpose and children discover what it feels like to have someone in their corner.

For the seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes and are searching for ways to stay active and engaged, the program offers more than volunteer hours. It offers meaning. As Sean Fujimoto, program manager, explains, "They find an energy and productivity they may have been missing. The kids' laughter and curiosity bring them back to life."

From teaching multiplication tables and reading bedtime stories, to tending school gardens and helping with art projects, these "grandparents" do more than help kids learn. They help them feel seen and valued—something especially powerful for children considered at-risk, who might not always have steady support at home.

And it works both ways. As one grandparent jokes, "I help them with math, and they help me with my cell phone."

The Foster Grandparents Program serves children from early childhood through sixth grade, in preschools, Head Start programs, elementary schools, and youth organizations across Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Jefferson, El Paso, and Larimer counties. Each volunteer commits between 15 and 40 hours a week, offering their time, their wisdom, and most of all, their hearts.

Together, they are building brighter futures—one story, one smile, and one shared moment at a time.

*"These kids give me a reason to get up every morning. They remind me I'm still needed."  
— Foster Grandparent Program Participant*





# VOA Colorado by the numbers

**100,000+**

Coloradoans served

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**64**

counties covered

---

**44**

locations

---

**52**

programs

---

**70,778**

people fed

---

**10,474**

people sheltered

---

**27**

affordable housing  
facilities

---

**210,279**

volunteer hours

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**\$7,042,244**

value of volunteer hours



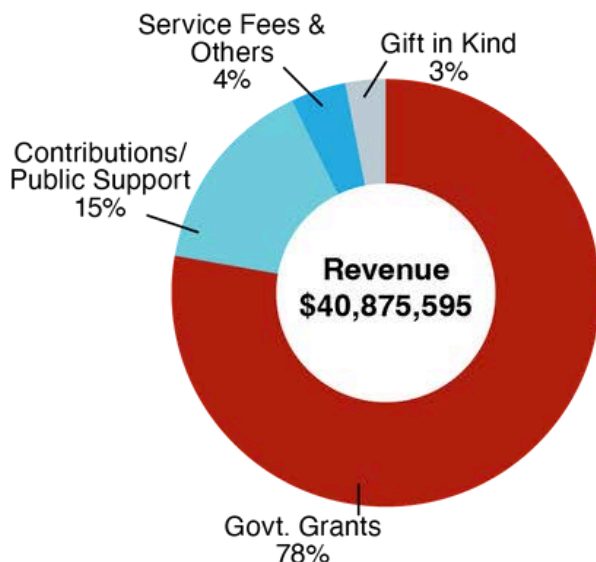
# mission

The mission of Volunteers of America Colorado is to identify and serve the basic needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families within the community.

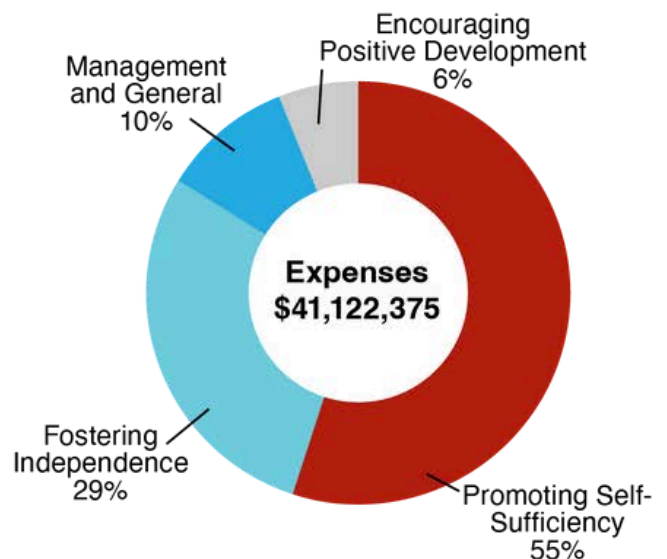


# financials

## 2024 REVENUE



## 2024 EXPENSES



2024 fundraising expenses per audited financial statements for Volunteers of America of Colorado are \$1,816,148.

2024 end of year net assets are \$51,211,787.

Volunteers of America of Colorado is a related corporation to Volunteers of America Colorado Branch and supports it through fundraising.



# our story continues...

At Volunteers of America Colorado, impact is not just part of our mission—it is the heartbeat of everything we do. We exist to serve, to uplift, and to stand beside the veterans, children, seniors, families, and individuals in our state who need us most. Every day, we work with one goal in mind: to create real, lasting change in the lives of those facing hunger, homelessness, and hardship.

This year, thousands of lives were touched—but our work is far from finished. The challenges in our communities are great, but our resolve is greater. With the incredible support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we will keep showing up. We will keep building brighter futures. We will keep leading with compassion and action—day after day, year after year. Thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us create a Colorado where hope is restored and lives are transformed.