



Annual Report 2014



"My Place" - Women's Oxford House in Walla Walla

In August, STAR Project applied for a portion of a class action lawsuit settlement against AT&T. The funds were to expand services to STAR clients, including housing, over five years. A clean and sober Oxford House for women had long been needed in Walla Walla but due to funding instability had not been established. With the first installment of the AT&T award, disbursed in October, STAR Project was able to ensure the stability of a house through guaranteed funding support for a year. In December, the women's house opened with capacity for seven women and children. Currently, three of the residents are STAR clients.

According to STAR client Candi: "While I was in treatment I was worried because I didn't know where I was going to live. Then I got a letter from Star saying there was going to be an Oxford House. I knew I would have a place. Having this housing makes me feel free. I just feel so blessed. Like I've earned my place in recovery and in the house and in STAR." The difference between my 1st and 2nd times coming out of treatment is that the first place I had to live in was a "dirty place, surrounded by drugs. Now I don't have that around me." The Oxford House "allows me to feel a sense of peace and responsibility."



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"My gratitude to the STAR Project is off the chart. They gave me housing, direction, they fed me. Most of all they have given me respect and understanding.

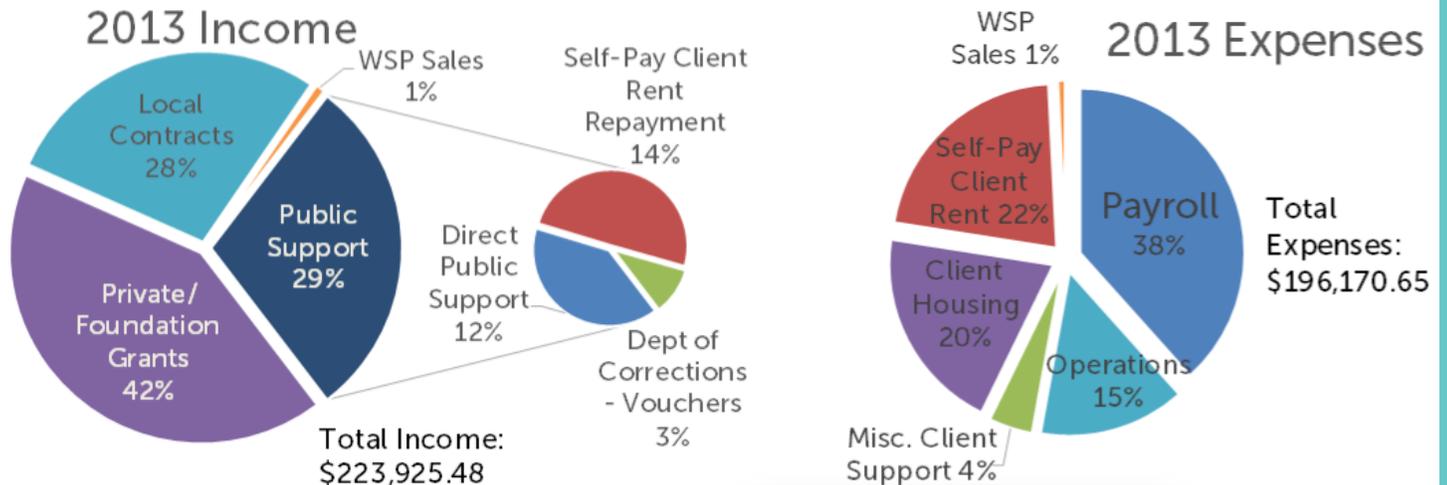
I am so blessed to be a part of the project"

-GR, current Client



Mission Statement:

The work of the STAR Project is to provide the guidance and support that will successfully re-integrate ex-offenders into the community as contributing members of society. Our vision is to increase community safety and reduce recidivism by assisting persons to successfully transition from incarceration to the community.



Finances:

2013 was a pivotal year for STAR and our clients. The STAR Project received contributions from area foundations, including the JL Stubblefield Trust and Blue Mountain Community Foundation. These funds were utilized for client services as well as staffing and administrative costs. A generous grant from the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust allowed for development of long-term stability plans which will be implemented within three years.

We also received the first installment of a five year Cy Pres award resulting from a class action suit against AT&T. These funds, combined with on-going public support and funding through Walla Walla County, resulted in STAR being able to expand services to clients, hire much needed staff and end the year financially stable.



2011 -13 Housing Expenditures and Client Self Support



Yearly Housing Expenditures

Successful Transition- Self Sufficiency:

Clients at the STAR Project are making great strides in rebuilding their lives following incarceration. This can be seen clearly in the fact that as clients become more independent and self-supporting, they contribute to and often are fully paying their own rents within a few months. Clients start the program as secondary lease signers. Once they are able to fully pay their rent STAR becomes the secondary lease signer and the client, primary.

This arrangement allows the client to begin to build a positive rental history, while continuing to provide landlords with support. In 2013, STAR project provided housing support to 91 clients, of these 46 contributed to their rent.

Education is one of the most important parts of long-term stability. This year funds from the AT&T award and the AAUW supported 20 clients in furthering their education including getting their GED and attending WWCC.

"Only the educated are free". -Epictetus_ (55 AD - 135 AD)