



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN REFUGE

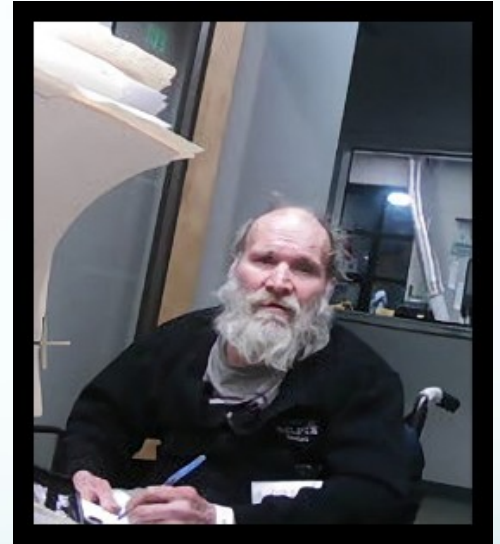
## 2024 Annual Report

# 2024 highlights

- Rocky Mountain Refuge restarted its care giving services on July 1, 2024, after several months hiatus.
- We're excited to share that we now have a discharge agreement with one of the largest health care systems in Colorado.
- In early October, we were featured on Next with Kyle Clark's Word of Thanks program on Channel 9.
- Additionally, BeauxSimone has been hired by the Division of Housing, part of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, to offer technical support to Rocky Mountain Refuge.

# Our Vision

- Every city in America struggles with homelessness and the Denver Metro is no exception. We as a nation are rightly concerned about where people experiencing homelessness are going to live, but no one seems to be asking, *where do they die?*
- **Rocky Mountain Refuge** strives to answer that question and to provide a safe, comfortable place where those without a home can live their best life during their last days



# Our Mission

- At least 225 people experiencing homelessness died in 2024 in Denver. End of life care is difficult or impossible to obtain when you have no home or family. This is a welcome decline from last year.
- People experiencing homelessness have no safe place to store medications, often have little care to assist in toileting or other activities of daily living. Friends and associates often are struggling with their own mental, addiction, and physical health issues and are not able to be supportive care givers.
- Without our end of life care services and supportive staff many people experiencing homelessness will die on the streets, or other less than pleasant circumstances, often in uncontrolled pain, afraid, and alone.

# Resumption of care giving



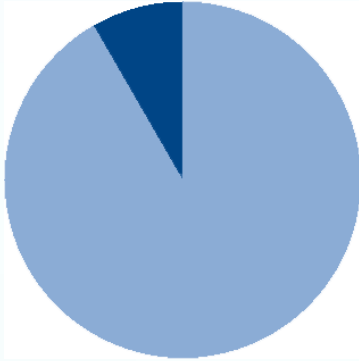
Rocky Mountain Refuge resumed our care giving services on July 1, 2024. As we approached resuming operations things got very busy! We had to train new caregivers, update our policies, update volunteer documents, move equipment and needed items back into our rooms, and instruct organizations how to navigate the intake process.

The last week of June we announced our waiting list was open so we would be able to accept Residents as soon as we opened on the 1st of July. Our hospice partners immediately responded and we had our first Resident enter on Monday, our second on Tuesday, and our third on Wednesday! We filled the Refuge in our first 3 days of resumed operations.

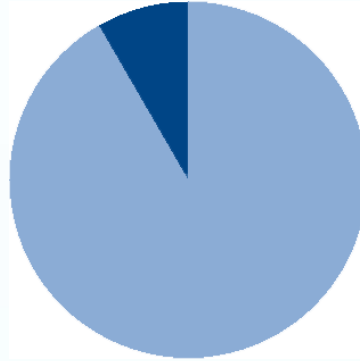
While that rate of usage has not continued, by the end of the year, we had helped 12 residents and provided 184 days of care.

# Resident Demographics

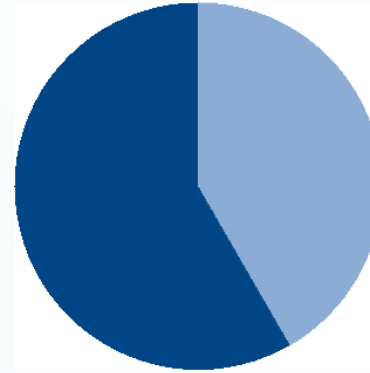
Racial Identity



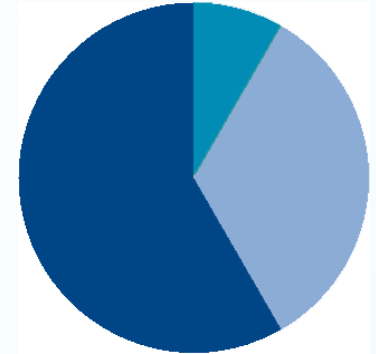
Ethnic Identity



Age Distribution



Gender Identity



## Resident Demographics

Race: 92% Caucasian, 8% African American

Ethnic Identity – 8% Hispanic, 92% Non-Hispanic

Age Groupings: 50-64 58%, 65+, 42%.

Gender: (self reported) 58% Man, 33% Woman, 8% Trans

# 2024 Death Review

Manner of Death	
Accident/Overdose	78.2%
Natural/Illness	8.0%
Homicide	4.4%
Pending	4.0%
Suicide	4.9%
Undetermined	0.4%

Place of Death	
Outdoors	30.22%
Hospital or Supervised Facility	25.33%
Residence/Couch surfing	15.11%
Unknown/Other	8.89%
Vehicle	5.33%
Business	4.44%
Shelter	4.00%
Hotel/Motel	3.11%
Homeless Camp	2.22%
Transit Station	1.33%

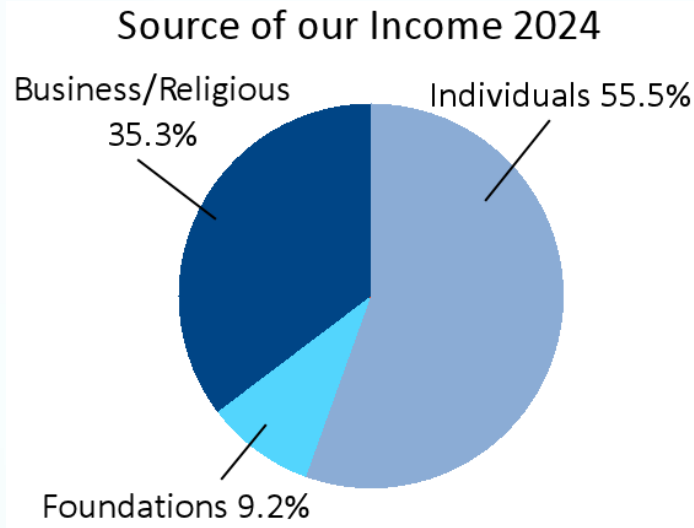
When it comes to people experiencing homelessness, Rocky Mountain Refuge keeps asking questions about their end of life experience. According to the Colorado Coalition for the homeless\*, the Medical Examiner recorded at least 225 deaths among people experiencing homelessness in 2024. For the first time since 2019 it reflects a decrease from the 239 deaths reported in 2023. Tragically the average age of death for someone experiencing homelessness in Denver was 46.

While overdose and homicide deaths saw a slight decrease, deaths by suicide have more than doubled, rising to 4.89% of deaths among people experiencing homelessness in 2024, compared to 2.09% in 2023. We feel suicides are woefully under reported as are the chronic disease deaths.

\* All data from Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Annual Death Review



# Our Finances



- In 2024 we raised \$246,586.83. This is an 86% increase over 2023.
- Expenditures were \$133,135.25 (less than 2024 due to being open only 6 months)
- 86% of 2024 expenses were direct Resident care



# First Discharge agreement

After more than a year of work, we have signed a contract with one of the largest healthcare systems in Colorado. While we must remain discreet about their name for the time being, this partnership marks a significant milestone for Rocky Mountain Refuge.

This statewide collaboration will not only help reimburse us for some of our care costs but also contribute to reducing expenses for the hospital system.

We can also share that we have already welcomed our first patient under this new program, which we believe will play a crucial role in stabilizing our financial standing and expanding our capacity to serve more clients in need.

We are actively engaging with other healthcare providers to explore the possibility of establishing similar agreements.

# Next with Kyle Clark

October 9, 2024 Kyle Clark's NEXT giving campaign focused on the Rocky Mountain Refuge. This campaign was a huge opportunity for visibility in the community and it was an essential step toward providing the vital support our mission needs.

We had well over 500 (mostly new) donors and received more than two months operational funding from the campaign!

We'd been working with Kyle for a while to get on Next, and we couldn't be more excited about the support we've received.

Thanks, Kyle!



# Future plans



Rocky Mountain Refuge's Board is constantly working to find new ways to support our current work. However, while exploring our idea of a Continuum of Care, we've come to understand some significant needs in our community.

Many individuals find themselves unable to stay in a traditional shelter, yet they do not require the full-time care of a nursing home. They might just need some help with tasks like toileting, bathing, or reminders for their medications. Our Board is currently looking into this gap in care. We have engaged a group of consultants, BeauxSimone, to help us investigate this issue and explore how we can contribute to a solution.

The Division of Housing, part of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, has hired them to assist us in addressing this significant need.

# Ole Blisk



At Rocky Mountain Refuge, we understand that pets are more than just animals; they're cherished family members. How can you relax if you know your beloved pet isn't being cared for?

In 2024, one of our residents had a medical crisis that turned out to be terminal. As she was rushed to the hospital, her first thought was for her beloved cat, Ole Blisk. She asked her neighbor to look after the kitty, however, due to his health issues, the neighbor couldn't provide long-term care for Ole Blisk, leading him to be surrendered to the Humane Society of Boulder Valley.

Our resident was understandably worried about her kitty, and when she joined us at Rocky Mountain Refuge, we wanted to help. We understood how important it was for her to know that Ole Blisk was being cared for.

We collaborated directly with the Humane Society, ensuring that the transition went as smoothly as possible. Fortunately, Ole Blisk found a new home with a compassionate veterinary technician who instantly fell in love with his gentle nature.

To bring peace to our resident's heart, the new owner sent us a picture of Ole Blisk relaxing in his new environment. This photo meant the world to her. We placed it by her bedside, and knowing that her beloved friend was safe and loved provided her with deep comfort at the end of her life.



Ole Blisk