

## Who We Are

Homeward 2020, now in the final phase of its ten-year plan to make homelessness rare, short-lived and non-recurring in Fort Collins, seeks to produce actionable, community-level data on the issue of homelessness and—equipped with that data—identify and promote solutions that increase housing options, housing placements and housing retention for people experiencing homelessness.

As part of that effort, Homeward 2020 and Homeless Gear partnered in mid-2017 to create the Housing First Initiative (HFI): a two-year pilot project based at the Murphy Center. HFI collects City-level data on the issue of homelessness, pilots “housing-first” solutions, and provides intensive case management to people who are chronically homeless.

HFI quarterly reports share local data and learning experiences, highlight new partnerships, and identify trends and gaps.

## Definitions

- This report does not represent everyone who is homeless in Fort Collins. For example, the Murphy Center served 205 people in December alone (in addition to the 364 highlighted in this report) who had been homeless for less than six months.
- Unless otherwise noted, the data in this report pertains only to individuals who have been homeless in Fort Collins for six months or longer. Sample sizes vary between data points.
- HFI’s definition of chronic homelessness (six months or longer in Fort Collins) is more inclusive than the federal government’s definition of chronic homelessness.
- Reports include data from Homeless Gear, Catholic Charities, Fort Collins Rescue Mission, Outreach Fort Collins, the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement system group, and other agencies in the community and at the Murphy Center.

## Quarter 2 Data (October through December, 2017)

We envision a Fort Collins in which homelessness is **rare, short-lived** and **non-recurring**. The data in this report reflects the extent to which we are achieving those outcomes for people who have been homeless in Fort Collins for at least six months.

**364** people have been homeless in Fort Collins for six months or longer

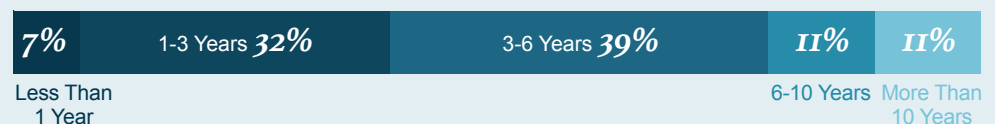


**22 people**

entered chronic homelessness this quarter

## How long has it been since you have lived in permanent, stable housing?

Answered by 54 active HFI participants



**20 people**  
secured housing

**21 people**

were identified as inactive; they did not have contact with HFI for at least 90 days



### Housing Secured by Type:

Project-Based Voucher: 7	Affordable Housing Outside of City Limits, in Colorado: 2
Tenant-Based Voucher: 5	Moved Out of State: 2
Rapid Rehousing: 2	Market: 1
Affordable Housing: 1	

## Actionable Data → Better Outcomes

Actionable data is the key to improving outcomes, both at the individual- and community-levels. It helps us identify broad trends and gaps in our systems, and it simultaneously allows us to provide intensive, individualized case management to our program participants. When we collect data on healthcare needs, income opportunities, family structures, and/or experiences in the criminal justice system, we use that data to identify and promote community-level solutions, but we also use it to develop comprehensive case-management plans for every person we serve.



“ I know there is nothing more important than paying your rent. My mom taught me that. I know your house is the most important thing. ”

Richard had spent nearly six years on the streets or incarcerated when he met Amanda, Homeless Gear’s Re-Entry Program Manager. He had just exited prison, but now he was on parole—and struggling with a disability.

Richard stayed at the Fort Collins Rescue Mission for about a year. He met weekly with Amanda, setting goals and working toward housing. Late in 2017, he connected with HFI.

In December, thanks to a state-funded housing voucher and a unit at a Housing Catalyst property, Richard moved into his new home.

When we asked Richard to describe his experience, he said:

“ Surprise. I was surprised by the whole experience. Everything went smoothly and happened quickly...They come to see me every week and see how I’m doing. ”

## Collaborative Spotlight



### neighbor to neighbor

**If we want to solve homelessness, we need a community that is engaged, collaborative and eager to learn. Each quarter, HFI highlights a collaboration or community effort that employs a housing-first approach: programs that provide housing to people who are homeless, with no preconditions, as well as wrap-around services that help people stay in their homes.**

Just a few months after we launched HFI, Neighbor to Neighbor came to us with a generous offer: the agency wanted to set aside three, permanent-supportive housing units for HFI participants. In exchange, Neighbor to Neighbor asked HFI to identify potential residents and, after move-in, provide wraparound case management.

HFI identified potential residents based on a coordinated intake-and-assessment process that considered health-related needs, mental health issues, length-of-time homeless, and more. The residents moved in near the end of 2017, and immediately had access to HFI’s personalized, wrap-around support.

This pilot provides HFI with a unique opportunity to develop a robust case management program and identify barriers to positive landlord-tenant relationships. That knowledge will prove essential as service providers look to form similar partnerships with private landlords—a vital part of how communities address homelessness.

*Thank you Neighbor to Neighbor!*