

# 2021

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

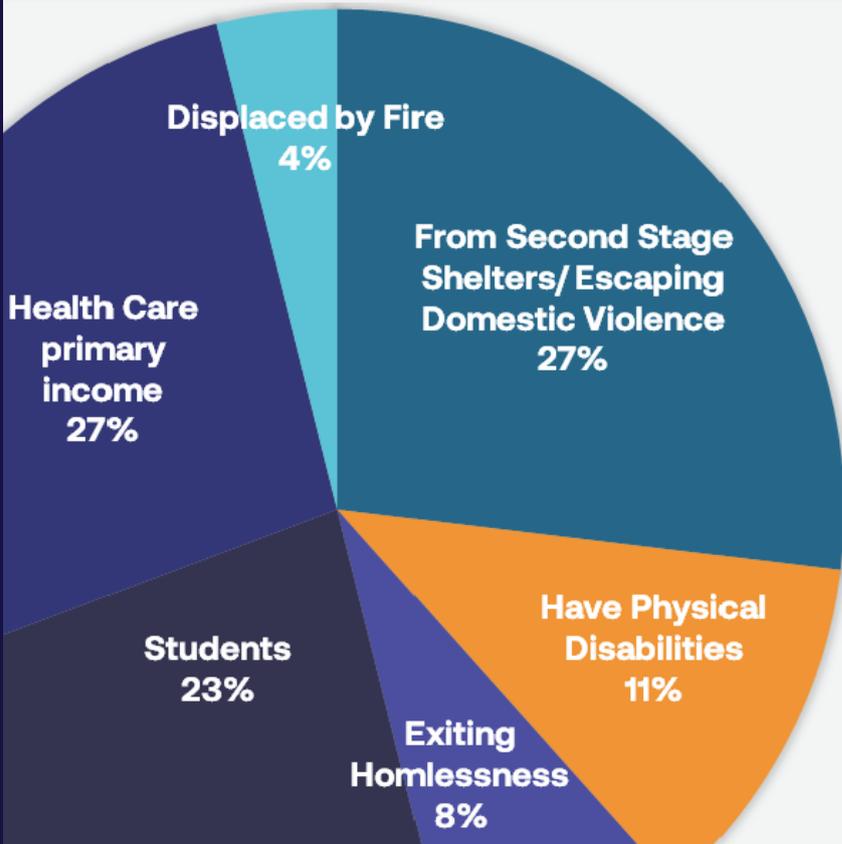


### A message from our C.E.O.

2021 was an exciting year for Forward Housing. In May, we opened Bishop's Manor and are working on other growth initiatives that should bear fruit in 2022 and beyond. At the same time, we face an operating environment impacted by the evolving COVID-19 virus and the prospect of increasing inflation that will have a significant impact on affordable housing operators and our tenants. Through it all, our staff continue to work selflessly to provide our tenants a safe and affordable place to call home. We know our tenants are appreciative of their efforts as am I, and our Board of Directors. I also acknowledge the efforts of our Board. This group of dedicated volunteers provide countless hours of support and guidance for our Association.

### Bishop's Manor

Forward Housing opened the doors to their newest affordable housing building, Bishop's Manor, on April 19th, 2021. Now 71% occupied, out of the 24 families that have moved in...



### As of April 2021...

WE MANAGE

**478**  
UNITS

ACROSS

**7**  
BUILDINGS

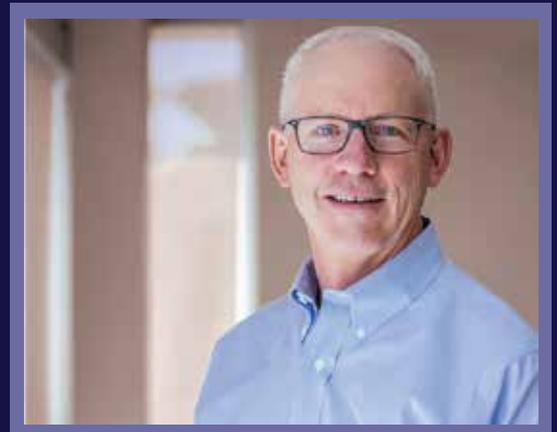
WE OWN & MANAGE

**180**  
UNITS

ACROSS

**2**  
BUILDINGS

### Welcoming Our New Chairman Rob Bedin



The opening of Bishop's Manor in 2021 is the culmination of many years of dedication and hard work from staff, board members, donors and partners. This building will provide much needed affordable homes to 104 households. But this is not the only significant accomplishment for the year. We also converted a much greater proportion of Columbus Place households to rent-gear-to-income (RGI) rents meaning tenants pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent. Both of these outcomes reflect the commitment of our team and supporters for all of our buildings and each of our tenants. A heartfelt thanks to all.

# Our Journey of RECONCILIATION

“Forward Housing Association is deeply committed to building mutual trust and respect with the Indigenous community through learning and relationship building”  
- Gary McNamara, C.E.O.

Bishop’s Manor, which incorporates a Mural titled “Honouring The Buffalo” as well as a Wellness Room crafted with the Indigenous practice of Smudging in mind, has been thoughtfully designed to welcome individuals of all nations, ages, abilities and experiences.



Elder Jackie Bromley and Lance Cardinal



Elder Marilyn Shingoose

## Lifting Up Indigenous Voices and Talents

The Forward Housing team was thrilled to engage First Nations artist Lance Cardinal (Bigstone Cree Nation) who commissioned our beautiful mural and aided in the design of our Wellness Room. Lance sought guidance and leadership from Elder Jackie Bromley (Kainai Nation), who offered her perspective and teachings. We also recently had the opportunity to meet with FHA tenant Elder Marilyn Shingoose (Cote First Nation), who graciously agreed to share her incredible story with us. Follow along on our social media to be notified once Marilyn’s story is published!



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

# NEW INITIATIVES

## Gardening

Forward Housing established its first Community Garden this year. We have partnered with a local nonprofit called Hands-On Growing, to support gardening initiatives, programming and education for our tenants residing in Bishop’s Manor, Columbus Place and Columbus Manor. Alongside the garden, we have launched Lunch and Learn meet-ups where tenants can join us to learn everything there is to know about gardening! Tenants will learn about germinating, planting, weeding, watering, composting, harvesting and more! Stay tuned for more information in 2022.



## Welcome Home Baskets



Thank you to the incredible local businesses and supporters who helped us welcome our newest tenants this year!



BRIDGELAND ELVES'

# Holiday Hamper Drive

WITH



The Bridgeland Elves, a neighborhood group dedicated to spreading holiday cheer, continued their tradition this year to build holiday hampers for their neighbours in need. Founded by Head Elf Dr. Roseanne Penner, this year, the Elves decided to welcome Bridgeland's newest residents in Bishop's Manor.

Roseanne and Forward Housing joined forces with the wonderful folks at the Bridgeland Market with the ambitious goal of raising \$6,500 towards building 65 hampers for our tenants. Delivered alongside caroling to Bishop's Manor, our halls were filled with Holiday cheer!

**Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised \$9,444 towards this AND next year's hampers!**

## PAYITFORWARD YYC 2021

Our annual #PayitForwardYYC campaign was a success! This fundraising effort is focused on providing affordable rents to those who need it most.

**THANKS TO YOUR HELP WE RAISED \$19,850 TOWARDS OUR G.A.P. PROGRAM!**



ANOTHER TRIP A-ROUND THE SUN....

## Kay and Lili's Story: Finally Home

After a tumultuous year which included obtaining guardianship of Lili, her 3-year-old granddaughter, abruptly losing the home she was renting, and finding herself living in shelter with Lili amidst a global health pandemic, it appears that the year will end positively for this resilient Grandmother and Granddaughter duo. Katherine, who describes herself as a social, easy going, 'forever 29-year-old', never expected to find herself seeking affordable housing at this stage of life. Having grown up in Nova Scotia, she made her way to Calgary to help when her Granddaughter was born. At 14 months of age, Lili was diagnosed with a rare brain disorder which affects many aspects of her life including mobility, speech & cognition. Lili's parents were unable to provide the supports she needed, so Katherine stepped in to help raise her beautiful granddaughter. Individuals with Lili's condition have a life expectancy of 25 years of age, however, something as simple as a cold, could escalate to pneumonia which could prematurely end Lili's life. Given the current pandemic, having a safe place to call home is of utmost importance to keep Lili safe. While the stressors of this past year have impacted Lili in many ways, including escalating existing anxiety, things are looking up. Since moving into her apartment with Forward Housing, Lili is experiencing stability and security for the first time in her young life. She has started school where she receives a multitude of supports including sensory, physical and occupational therapy. Katherine tells me that Lili's anxiety has improved drastically since moving in. She looks around her new home which is decorated with pictures from her childhood in Nova Scotia and tells me how important it is for her to have her own walls where she can display these pictures "it gives me the opportunity to share my history with Lili and offer her a glimpse of where Grandma come from." Forward Housing has given this family the ability to find security and stability during such uncertain times. "It feels like we are finally home."



## Painting the "L" for Bridgeland Love

On October 8th, 2021 our tenants and staff joined fellow Bridgelanders behind Bishop's Manor in a community art project to decorate the wayfinding "L" sign. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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