

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Aloha,
I'm pleased to share with you RYSE's first informational annual report, that highlights the exceptional work that our staff continuously performs to support Hawaii's most vulnerable youth. I'm proud of our team and it has been a privilege to lead this organization for the past five years from its foundation in 2018 to the exponential growth we've seen in 2021-2022. This year has been one of growth and transformation. Ending youth homelessness is more than just providing a bed. Our housing programs go far beyond providing a safe place to sleep, by creating a loving, supportive community that empowers our young people to dream big and not be afraid to "fail." By providing supportive services including behavioral health, education, employment, and medical care, we empower our youth to make decisions that help them continue their upward mobility. There is no one-housing-model-fits-all approach to ending youth homelessness, but thanks to our generous community support, we now have five uniquely different, developmentally appropriate, affordable housing choices for youth, with more to come in 2023.

Looking forward, our next project addresses the high concentration of Native Hawaiian youth currently sleeping unsheltered on the Leeward coast. We are developing truly affordable housing for youth located on the west side of Oahu, where we will be able to provide shelter as well as opportunities and support to succeed.

Finally, workplace wellness is integral to the work that we do. It can be difficult and challenging, and we will continue to advocate for equitable, living-wage salaries for all community-based organizations.

As we grow, so does our gratitude for all who supported us in moving our young people off the streets for good. Thank you for joining us in this journey to end youth homelessness on Oahu.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla Houser". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carla Houser, Executive Director

