

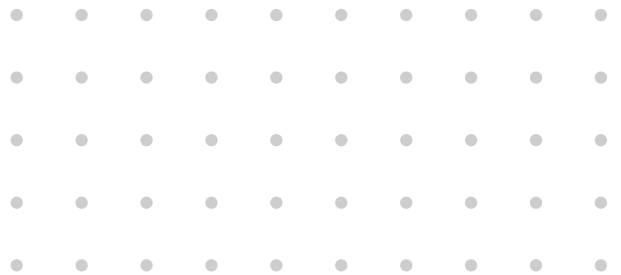


HOUSING OBSTACLES
EST 2023
HOOP
A Pilot Project
OVERCOME (BY) PARTICIPATION

PROJECT
EVALUATION

**WILDHORSE
FOUNDATION**


PRESENTED BY
The STAR Project

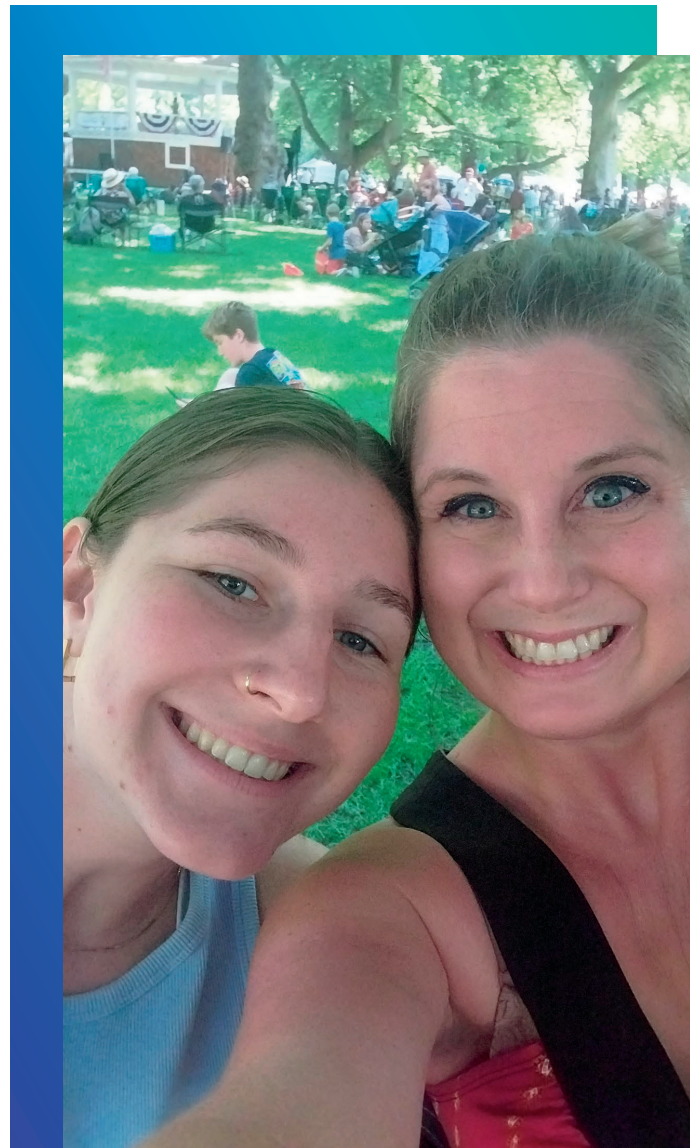


INTRODUCTION

The STAR (Successful Transition and Re-Entry) Program was established in 2004 to help justice involved people build skills and relationships which contribute to flourishing communities. Our goal is to help at-risk individuals Break the Cycle of Recidivism through maintaining a healthy, drug-free lifestyle, obtaining long-term employment and finding stable, permanent housing solutions.

In addition to providing Case Management, Referral, Monitoring and Support Services, STAR maintains 12 Clean & Sober Living transitional apartments. As landlords, we discovered a distinct "lack of pride" that residents take in their apartments. Historically, individuals who do not have a monetary interest in a program, such as paying a security deposit for housing or tuition for education, do not have an incentive to place a personal value or importance on those items.

In 2023, with grant funds received from Wildhorse Foundation, The STAR Project implemented "HOOP" (Housing Obstacles Overcome by Participation), as a pilot project.





THE PROJECT

Implemented as a two-part Pilot Project, HOOP focused on providing participants with an understanding of how to obtain permanent housing through a 7-hour, Ready-to-Rent course, facilitated by Certified Instructor, Chastity Rutherford, STAR Housing Coordinator.

Community Engagement was an integral part of HOOP. Each participant provided over 15 hours of cleaning and landscaping services to other Walla Walla organizations, including The Children's Museum and Camp Fire Walla Walla.

VISION

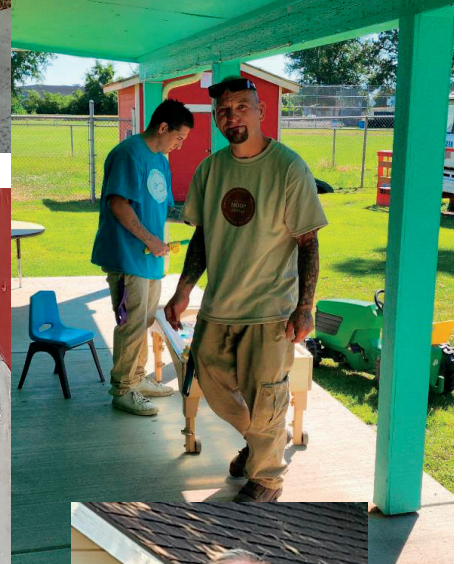
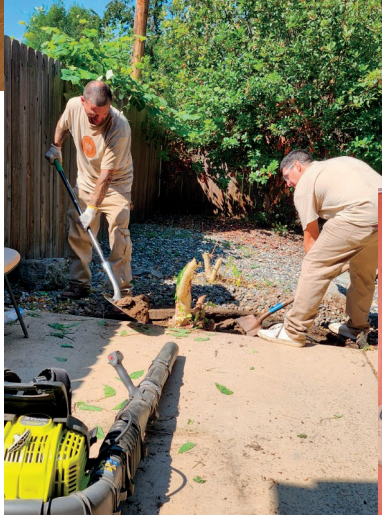
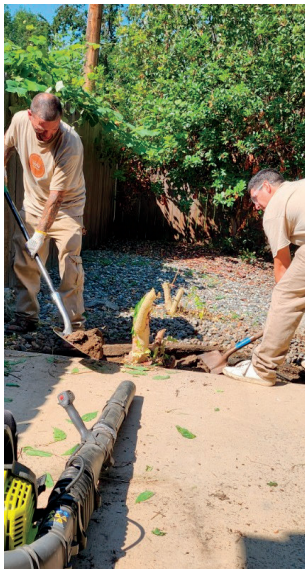
To foster a sense of pride in self and community through education and participation.



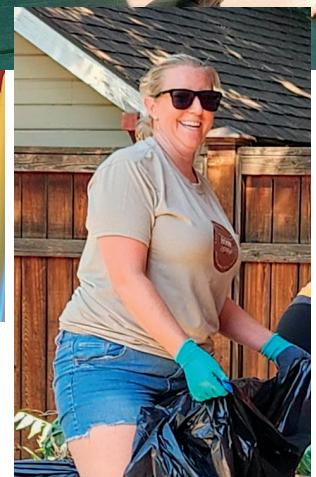


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"If you want to feel proud of yourself, then do good. Take action that will make you proud. And if you really want to feel proud, then do something to help someone else."
Oseola McCarty



**HOOP
PROVIDED
OVER 90
HOURS OF
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**



PROJECT ANALYSIS

"When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal; you do not change your decision to get there." - Zig Ziglar

Introduction of the HOOP Project was launched early in 2023, with a presentation to Walla Walla community organizations at the monthly Community Partners meeting. Posters and flyers were distributed and posted in numerous locations including the Department of Social & Health Services, Helpline, Comprehensive Health Services, and Blue Mountain Heart-to-Heart.

A press release in March 2023 brought regional attention to the project when NonStop LOCAL News reporter, Max Hughes, interviewed STAR Executive Director, Linda Scott.

Although HOOPS was well received by landlords, real estate agents, and community service providers, STAR was surprised at the lack of interest from the homeless and unstably housed community. Outreach to potential enrollee's revealed that

a new source of funding which provided for move-in, security deposits, and rental assistance *without participation requirements* had become available. This funding, although it benefited many obtain housing, did not have any participation requirements.

Although the total number of participants was lower than our original estimate, those who did attend were more involved and they willingly gave an additional day of community engagement to ensure that their work was completed to a level that exceeded all expectations!

In the end, this unexpected development was a benefit to the project. Each individual who participated attended because they were genuinely interested in the project and what it could bring to them in not just a monetary way, but also educationally and being part of a group with similar goals and life-experiences.

MOVING FORWARD

HOOP 2.0

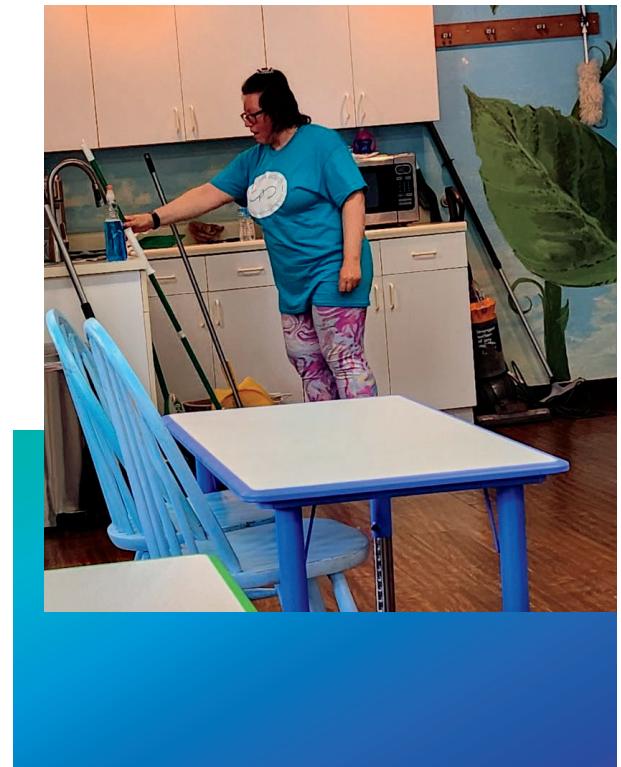
"I love pilot projects. They give an idea a chance to run. When it's all over, you learn from the parts that didn't quite go like you expected, but more importantly it gives the parts *that did work a chance to fly!*"

Linda Scott, Executive Director
The STAR Project

Moving forward, The STAR Project will actively seek funding to develop HOOP 2.0 in 2024. Our intention is to expand services to a quarterly availability, encourage increased support and involvement from landlords and realtors, and housing-focused community based organizations.

KEEPING WHAT WORKS

By focusing on the areas that were extremely successful, the education surrounding landlord-tenant laws and relationships, how credit effects our ability to obtain housing, and how to address housing barriers such as background checks PLUS the extremely well-received community engagement piece, HOOP 2.0 will help provide a path forward for those struggling with housing stability. By keeping a small monetary incentive, plus an active team engagement, our goal for 2024 is to provide service for up to 50 individuals and their families.



**THANK
YOU**

**WILDHORSE
FOUNDATION**


**WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
POSSIBLE**

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