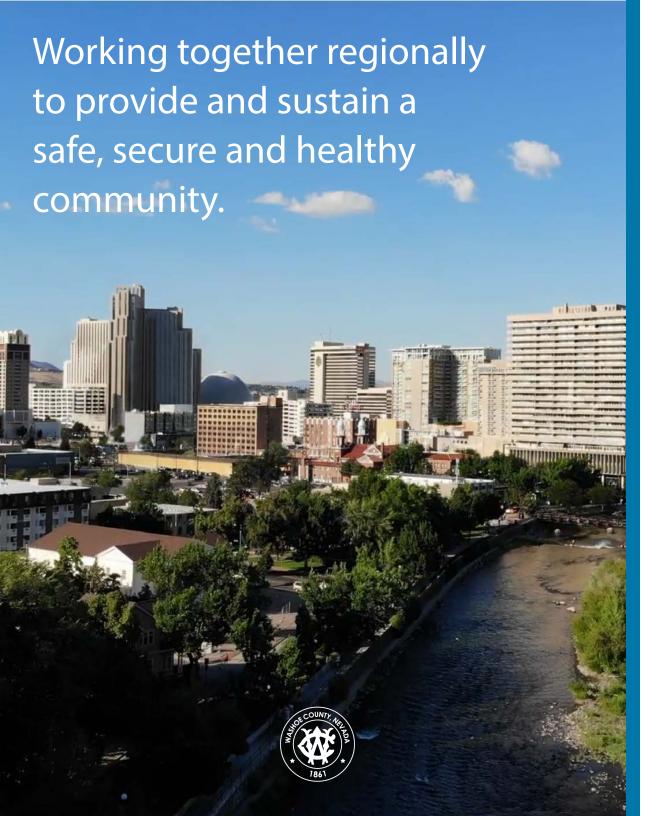


OUR PLACE UNLOCKING A BETTER TOMORROW



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OURPLACE

Our Place is an outcome-based campus designed to create a safe and stable environment for women and families who are experiencing homelessness.

In Washoe County throughout the years, all sheltered homeless residents have been housed at one location. Having men, women and families all sheltered in the same area can create issues for all involved. The Washoe County Human Services Agency (HSA) has implemented a new model in an effort to provide better results and help those who are homeless get back on a productive path.

The HSA partnered with the State of Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services to renovate vacant buildings at the State's mental health campus to create Our Place. Staff at Our Place will help identify barriers and address the root cause of homelessness among Washoe County's most vulnerable women, children and families. Clients will live independently while receiving critical wrap-around support and resources.

Our Place offers a unique strategy by separating populations experiencing homelessness, which will reduce assault, human trafficking, and property theft. Our Place provides a tailored approach for each population to help them stand on their own and live productive lives.

Residents will be treated with dignity and respect, ultimately creating a pathway to success by separating populations, expanding programs, removing barriers, and providing necessary resources to help residents transition from homeless to housed.

In addition, men will be able to remain at the Community Assistance Center, which will provide additional space and resources, congruent to their unique program needs. Clients will be connected to supportive services to help mitigate barriers to permanent housing.





CAMPUS HISTORY

The Nevada Insane Asylum opened its doors on July 1, 1882, and was designed to house 160 patients, who were referred to as "poor unfortunates, old, harmless, incurable, idiotic, and imbecile patients," to relieve the expense of caring for them individually. While asylum patients struggled with real mental illnesses that we recognize today, some people ended up in the mental asylums that had no real reason to be there, according to today's standards. William Place was one such individual, who suffering from a physiological disease called Bright's Disease, was sent to the Nevada Insane Asylum to spend the rest of his life – along with 800 other residents. Mr. Place was the first patient to die at the campus.

The campus was named "Our Place" out of a desire to honor the life and memory of William Place and to remind each of us about the importance of lending a hand to neighbors and friends who are longing for shelter, guidance, loving staff, and a welcoming home. HSA's hope is that when residents leave Our Place, they are able to move on to the next phase in their life, feeling prepared with the skills to live successful lives. HSA hopes to help clients safely overcome challenges, with an overwhelming sense of hope and continual support, assuring them Washoe County is always here when they need us.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Washoe County takes pride in its community and is continuously striving to meet the needs of our citizens by offering assistance through all phases of life to our most vulnerable.

Throughout the implementation of this \$20 million-dollar project, Washoe County Community Services Department assisted in managing the planning, design, permitting, construction and post occupancy phases of development. HSA has project oversight, program infrastructure, as well as manages and operates Our Place.

Our Place has the capacity to hold 114 women and 28 families. To adequately serve our clients, 19 new employees were also hired on the workforce. HSA contracted with a local non-profit called the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE) to provide much-needed services to residents staying at Our Place. RISE offers wrap-around services in order to assist those facing daunting transitions by creating a support network. Their outcome model is based on collaboration with peer-led services, which focuses on long-term housing solutions that fit the individual needs.

Our Place will help achieve one of the County Commission's most important priorities, which is to provide a more safe, secure and healthy community, for not only those experiencing homelessness, but each person who calls Washoe County home.

