THE PROBLEM

In the state of Washington, there are currently more than 40,000 homeless individuals living in either shelters or in the outdoors. More than 7,000 of these individuals are part of a family with children (WA Dept. of Commerce). In King County, the 2019 point-in-time count documented that there were 5,288. While Veteran homelessness and chronic homelessness have gone down in recent years, the current stock of shelters and affordable housing cannot keep up with the dramatic increase in the number of homeless people.

OUR SOLUTION

In 2015, LIHI started building Tiny House Villages as a response to the homeless crisis and as a replacement for tents. Tiny houses offer tremendous benefits over tents – they are safe, weatherproof and lockable – and the Tiny House Villages allow residents to reclaim their dignity and get on a path to permanent housing, employment and connection to supportive services.

OUR COMMUNITIES

There are currently 13 tiny house villages operated or supported by LIHI in Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia. Each village has hygiene facilities, utility access, and a supportive neighboring community that is actively engaged in the success of the residents. LIHI partners with neighbors, volunteers, community groups, non-profits, faith organizations, businesses, rotary clubs, and schools that help support the residents with donations and meals. These 13 villages support over 1000 residents annually.
OUR SUCCESSES
Through our supportive services and housing resources, residents of the Tiny House Villages have experienced success in moving out of homelessness. We have helped hundreds of village residents move into permanent housing and find employment.

COMMUNITY, VOLUNTEERS & THE FUTURE
Working with our self-management and advocacy partners such as Camp Second Chance and Interbay Safe Harbor, village residents participate in community meetings, do daily litter patrols, and serve as eyes on the street in the neighborhood. Volunteers, neighbors, and donors play a huge part in building the houses, setting up the villages, and providing food and supplies. The City of Seattle is a major partner, providing land and operating funds. Together we are finding new ways to help people in crisis. We continue to forge new partnerships and are working to open more villages in the near future.

THE HOUSES
By collaborating with volunteers, building trade organizations, and non-profits, tiny houses offer a grassroots solution to the Puget Sound region’s homelessness crisis. A tiny house is approximately 8’ x 12’ and materials cost about $4,500. All tiny houses are safe, sturdy structures that help protect homeless individuals and families who are faced with sleeping on the streets in unsheltered and unsafe conditions.

AMENITIES – MORE THAN HOUSES
Each house has electricity, overhead light, insulation, and a heater. Each village has a kitchen, bathroom & laundry facilities, offices for on-site case managers, ample storage, and a check in house for security.
HOW TO HELP

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE TINY HOUSE VILLAGES:

DONATE
Give a donation or sponsor a tiny house for $4,500. Contact Aaron Long at aaronl@lihi.org. Donations can be made on our website (www.lihi.org) or by check to 1253 S Jackson St, Seattle, WA 98144.

BUILD
Do you or your group want to build and donate a tiny house? For more details, contact Brad Gerber at 206-276-3552 or bradgerber@lihi.org.

VOLUNTEER
Learn about upcoming volunteer work parties by signing up at lihi.org/tiny-houses. Volunteer or organize a donation drive by contacting the Tiny House Team at tinyhouses@lihi.org.

For more information on the tiny house villages, please visit www.lihi.org/tiny-houses or reach out to tinyhouses@lihi.org.