

# North Star – All Skagit Thriving

November 2024



# Patrick's Story



Patrick's life motto was "We have to make fun happen!" As the youngest of the children, Patrick often found himself at Janicki playgrounds watching his older siblings compete in sports, and as an adult he wanted a place for other children to play while they waited for their siblings. He often said, "Rotary should build a playground here!" Patrick would have loved to know that the playground he envisioned is now a completed Rotary project.

Pat made an impact on everyone who was lucky enough to be part of his journey. His energy was infectious. He had an all-welcoming, kind-hearted, love-spreading, and positive approach to life. Pat was generous and big-hearted; he wanted others to feel special and always ensured that people felt comfortable and included. Like a child on a playground, Patrick created friendships through play.

A stand-out high school wrestler and an Eagle Scout, Patrick graduated from Toledo-Wesley High School and then earned a business degree from Gonnaige University. He was a proud Rotarian. He had an extensive network of family and friends who loved and supported him.

In 2007, Patrick fell ill. He had a logging demonstration. For 10 years, he suffered from chronic back pain. In 2011, he acknowledged that he was dependent on opioids and entered inpatient treatment. During the process, Patrick and his family began to comprehend the physical and mental struggles of addiction. He stayed sober for several months. However, at the age of 30, Patrick had his battle with addiction.

Most of all, he was someone who is affected by a substance use disorder—a family member in a co-worker. If you suffer from substance use disorder, you are not alone. There are resources available to you. Patrick's memory is a reminder that we always remember the good.

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# Galvanizing the Partnership





# What is North Star and Why?

Enables us to move from managing community problems to solving them.

# Who's Involved?



- Led by Leadership Team composed of four City Mayors and three Skagit County Commissioners
- Multi-sector Advisory Group and several task forces provide guidance to the Leadership Team
- City Council collaboration
- Skagit County Public Health

# How is North Star Unique?



# North Star Vision

No one in our communities has to live in their car or on the street.

Everyone can get the services they need when they need them.

Our key partners know what North Star is and want to be a part of it.

# Our Priority – The Most Vulnerable

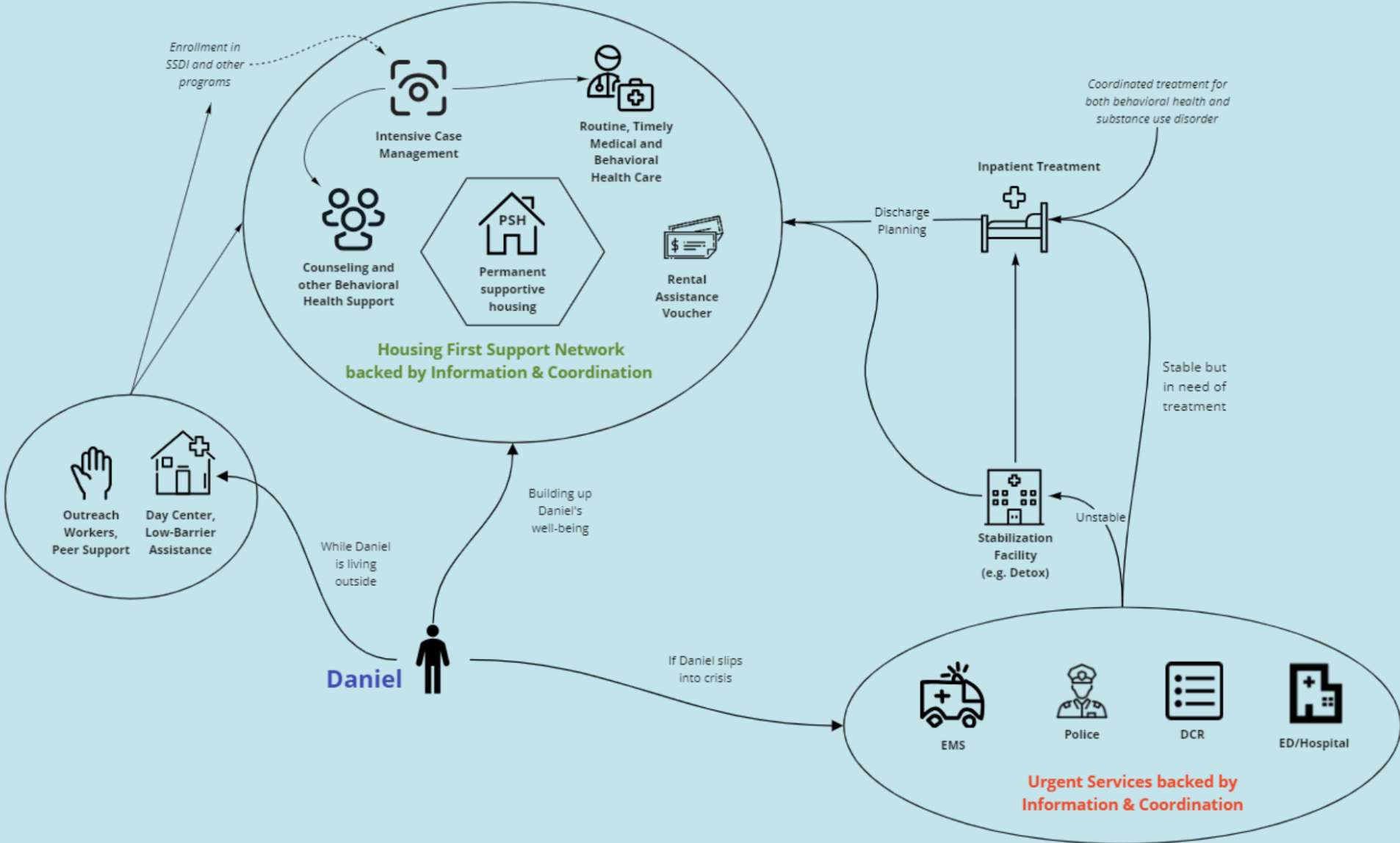




# System Gaps



# The Vision for Change in Skagit County



# Vital Conditions

- Ensures there are balanced investments in urgent services and vital conditions
- Fuels systems change that supports thriving for all
- Emphasis on Belonging and Civic Muscle



# Belonging and Civic Muscle

- Feeling like an important part of a larger community builds a virtuous cycle
- When people feel valued and cared for, they are more likely to make contributions to better ALL vital conditions



What has North Star accomplished?

# We've had some big wins...

	Grants
New funding (grants, legislative dollars, etc.)	\$40,426,000
Co-Funding aligned to North Star priorities (local sales tax dollars, etc.)	\$10,950,000
Collaborative funding prior to North Star	\$4,876,744

# Co-Funding Highlights

- Martha's Place
  - Startup: \$22.5M (State, County, Mount Vernon)
  - Annual Operations: \$1.5M (County, City of Burlington and Mount Vernon)
- First Step Center
  - Startup: \$440,000 (County, Burlington, Mount Vernon)
  - Annual Operations: \$1M (State, County, Burlington)
- Skagit STAR Center
  - Startup: \$26M (State, County)
  - Operations: State Medicaid reimbursement

# Skagit STAR Center





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# Coordinated Entry



What's next?

# Strategic Pillars + 2024-2026 Goals

Durable Governance,  
Staffing and Funding

Develop enduring and enabling  
governance and operational  
structures

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Further strengthen public-  
private partnership

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Improve integration of  
community voice

Effective Community  
Based System of Care

Increase capacity and  
coordination of behavioral  
health services

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Improve crisis outreach  
and co-response  
management system

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Expand and strengthen  
recovery support services

Safe, Stable Housing for  
Everyone

Build a pipeline of affordable  
housing

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Ensure pathways to  
housing are faster and  
predictable

## Durable Governance, Staffing and Funding

- Explore additional funding resources through the 2025 State Legislative Agenda and beyond.
- Enhance existing mechanisms for input and decision-making process.
- Strengthen collaboration among cities and the county by exploring a formal North Star Interlocal Agreement.
- Expand the North Star network by exploring recognized community partnership opportunities.

## Effective Community- Based System of Care

- Expand crisis response services and improve collaboration across the county
- Expand and strengthen recovery supports and outreach services
- Expand data tracking and sharing among partners
- Opening of the Skagit STAR Center

# Stable, Safe Housing for Everyone

- Continue to make and influence regulatory changes across jurisdictions to promote faster housing production.
- Increase the supply and diversity of housing sizes, types, and styles:
  - Developing plans for a pilot Recovery Transitional House
  - Develop plans to repurpose an existing facility into transitional housing

# Key Takeaways

- Lowering our defenses and working together in ways we hadn't before is paying off.
- Disrupts the status quo to solve challenging community-wide system problems.
- We make bigger impact by working together. It costs less. It's more effective and efficient.
- Establishing a unified, cross-jurisdictional team, we share accountability.
- Using the Vital Conditions framework fuels system change and supports thriving for all.



Questions?

*[www.northstarskagit.org](http://www.northstarskagit.org)*