



**DOWNTOWN
STREETS
TEAM**

IMPACT REPORT

2024

Downtown Streets Team is fighting homelessness through the dignity of work and the power of community.

Common phrases used:

Team Member: Program participant or client; Barrier: Factors, circumstances, or systems that prevent program participants from gaining stability, housing, employment, and self-sufficiency.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



We are incredibly proud to share Downtown Streets Team's 2024 impact report, highlighting the extraordinary work of our staff and partners to increase housing stability, employment, and a sense of belonging across California.

This year, Downtown Streets Team (DST) not only expanded in size, operating across 20 cities and 10 counties, but DST also grew in impact. We supported over 1,500 individuals experiencing homelessness in removing over 12,000 barriers to stability, our largest impact year on record. Nine out of ten of our Team Members now have health insurance. We supported 220 unhoused Californians secure a home and helped 314 individuals navigating homelessness first obtain employment, and then maintain it for over three months, signifying progress towards stability and economic mobility.

Not only did we help people find employment, but this year we hired their talents ourselves. We hired 98 Volunteer Leads, often long-time Team Members, who needed the reinforcement of a compassionate employer as their final step to reentering the workforce. Through partnerships with Back2work, SolTrans, and RedF, DST's Streets Team Enterprises program placed 253 individuals experiencing homelessness into meaningful DST jobs including facilitating highway cleanups, public transportation stop upkeep and building maintenance. All of this was achieved while making a tremendous impact on the environmental health across the state. Over 10,000 needles were removed from our streets and 6.6 million, yes million, gallons of debris were removed from our downtown areas, business districts, highways, waterways, and parks.

These efforts are meaningful, 97% of Team Members reported they are proud of the services they provide to the community and 93% reported that shifts benefited their mental and physical well-being. We are excited for you to review this report because it showcases an evidence-informed model for addressing homelessness that is working.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to DST Staff, Participant Employees, Team Members, Leadership, Board, partners, donors, and supporters for their hard work and unwavering support.

Julie Gardner, MPH

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Gardner".



AGENCY OVERVIEW

ABOUT DST

Downtown Streets Team (DST) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to fight homelessness through the dignity of work and the power of community. Founded in 2005, DST has expanded across Northern and Central California touching the lives of marginalized communities in more than 20 cities over time. DST builds Teams that restore dignity, inspire hope, and provide pathways to recover from homelessness.

STREETS TEAM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Streets Team Volunteer Program (STVP) participants, Team Members, engage in community beautification and clean-up projects that help challenge common negative perceptions of homelessness. Participants receive access to case management, job coaching, and a basic needs stipend.

STREETS TEAM ENTERPRISES

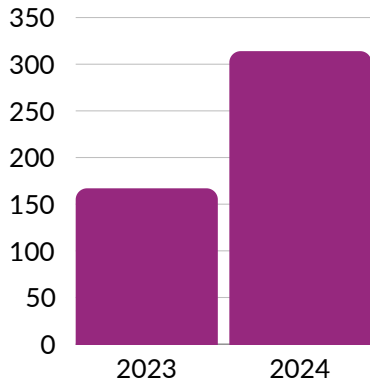
Streets Team Enterprises (STE) provides paid transitional supported employment. Participants use STE as a stepping stone to independence by building skills towards permanent employment. Participants receive access to case management and job coaching.



A YEAR IN REVIEW



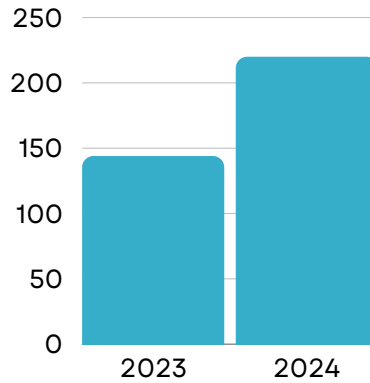
Jobs Past 90 Days



314 jobs held past 90 days, up 88% from FY 2023



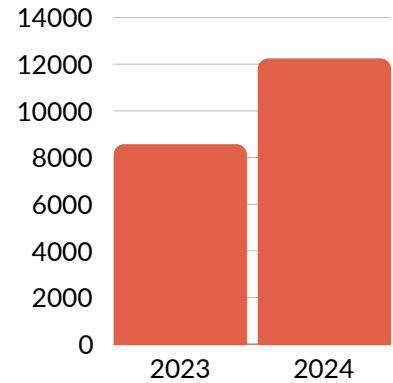
People Housed



220 people housed, up 53% from FY 2023



Barriers Removed



12,249 barriers (see next page) removed, up 43% from FY 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

(WASTE REMOVED)

Debris



6.6 M Gal

Needles



10 K

Cigarette Butts



490 K

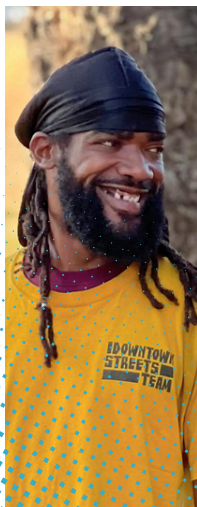
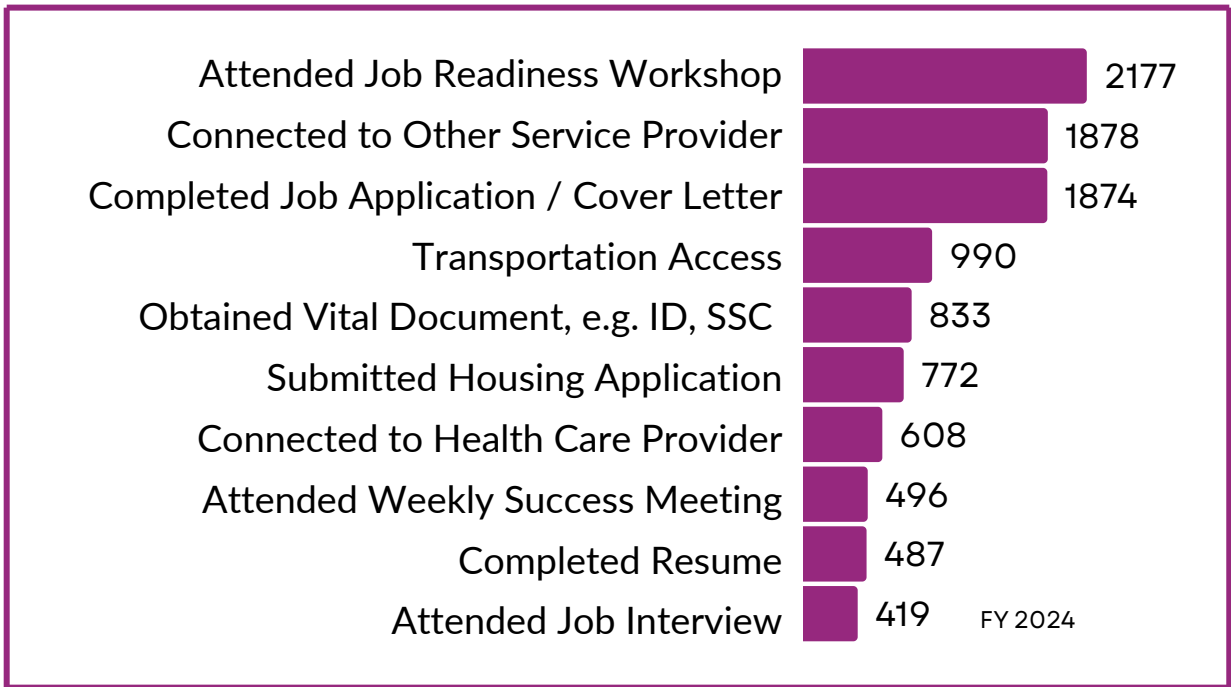
70% OF NEW JOBS RETAINED OVER 90 DAYS



2024 marked DST's most impactful year to date. The dedicated DST staff deserve high praise for their role in supporting over 1,500 Team Members and Participant Employees in overcoming barriers and reaching their goals.

OUR WORK

Removing barriers to housing and employment is how DST improves the lives of those served. Top 10 ways barriers were removed for Team Members in 2024:



Andre has navigated every stage of DST's stepping stones: from experiencing homelessness to joining DST as a Volunteer, securing shelter, earning a promotion to Volunteer Lead, gaining employment as an STE Shift Lead, and to finally achieving permanent housing and full-time employment. Andre had lost all hope for his future as a result of living on the streets, but found hope and purpose through weekly Success Meetings, beautifying his community, and being immersed in DST's culture.

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Downtown Streets Team conducts optional and anonymous surveys to ensure the needs and goals of Volunteers are being met. Our 2024 surveys yielded the following responses from 44% of our Volunteers.

“

Joining [DST] is really like a family. They show you that they care and they really do love you. They really do support you in everything you want to do.

– Brandi, Volunteer

”

97%

are proud to be a Team Member and take pride in the services they perform

95%

feel they can achieve their goals with the help of DST staff or other Team Members

93%

say participating with DST has increased their self-esteem, motivation, and/or sense of hope

81%

opted into Case Management in order to achieve their goals

92%

of Team Members now have health insurance

93%

say the exercise they get with DST is good for their physical and mental health

81%

reported positive outcomes with parole, probation and court systems as a result of their participation with DST

92%

with a mental health diagnosis have sought out or continued engaging in mental health services since joining the team

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

STREETS TEAM ENTERPRISES

OUR IMPACT

- ◆ 253 People Hired
- ◆ \$2,665,968 Paid in Employee Wages
- ◆ 144,654 Hours Worked

PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS

- ◆ Back2Work – Provides litter removal services to California Highways and roads. This program employs up to 150 individuals at a time.
Santa Rosa, Napa, Fairfield, San Jose, Alameda County
- ◆ SolTrans – Keeps transit stops clean, functional, and clear of graffiti. Facility Technicians also perform unhoused outreach in project areas.
Vallejo, Benicia
- ◆ START Building Maintenance – Performs maintenance services to Public Supportive Housing providers. All employees are JobTrain certified.
Santa Clara County



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Project Homekey – West Sacramento

DST operates both HomeKey sites in West Sacramento: the Flamingo and Rodeway Motels (Rodeway was the first HomeKey site in the State). Staff provide on-site case management services to residents to support them in their recovery from homelessness.

Outreach – Throughout Network

DST provides professional outreach services in Modesto, Redwood City, Marin, West Sacramento, and other communities throughout the DST network. We utilize a combination of case management staff, Participant Employees and Team Members to combine traditional outreach approaches with a peer-to-peer outreach element.

Showers – Petaluma

DST provides a mobile shower service throughout Sonoma County, logging over 2,700 showers last year. Unhoused guests utilize the showers for hygiene essentials and bathrooms, but the showers also serve as a vital entry point for pathways to housing.

Housing Subsidy Case Management – Monterey, Marin and Stanislaus Counties

DST utilizes dedicated subsidies to permanently house those experiencing homelessness throughout our network. Funding varies by community but includes Rapid Rehousing (RRH) dollars, CalAIM and other funding sources to permanently end participant's homelessness.

Respite Center – Davis

The DST Davis operates the Respite Center in Davis which provides food, laundry and bathroom services to the unhoused population in town. Unhoused people use the respite center to escape the elements and are provided with drop-in case management services from DST staff.

Downtown Food Closet – Palo Alto

DST has operated the Downtown Food Closet in Palo Alto since 2015. About 23,000 unique visits were recorded in the last year alone, providing take-away meals and groceries to unhoused and low-income residents in the greater Palo Alto area.

