



# 2022 Annual Report





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## Message from our Executive Director

Dear Homes On Wheels Alliance (HOWA) Community,

Reflecting on the year 2022, it stands as a remarkable chapter in the story of our organization. This period was characterized by substantial growth within our community, a growth driven by our unwavering commitment to serving the most vulnerable among us.

Throughout the year, we transformed vehicles into homes by implementing crucial enhancements, including solar power systems, shelving, beds, fans, and insulation. These improvements aimed not only at creating comfortable living spaces but also at addressing the unique challenges faced by our community members.



Our In-Person and Virtual Caravans played a pivotal role in fostering a caring and compassionate environment. These gatherings brought people together, providing a platform for meaningful connections and shared experiences. The Nomad Emergency Fund Program remained a steadfast pillar of support, extending assistance to those navigating unexpected crises, whether it be for basic necessities or significant vehicle repairs.

The Rubber Tramp Rendezvous (RTR) and Women's RTR remain beacons drawing individuals to find a community where learning from experienced Nomads was coupled with camaraderie. Together, we connected, camped, had moments of joy, and shared stories around the campfire, creating lasting memories.

Our community, diverse in every sense – socio-economic, political, religious, and physical abilities, stands as a testament to the freedom of the nomadic lifestyle combined with care and compassion. We remain steadfastly focused on what unites us, fostering a kind and supportive community.

In the tapestry of today's societies, we recognize the rarity of our group. We are a collective where individual energies and intentions harmonize, creating connections that empower us to support and serve one another. It is this spirit that defines us and sets us apart.

As we look back on 2022 with gratitude and forward to the opportunities of the future, let us continue to embody the principles that make HOWA a beacon of compassion, community, and collective strength.

With appreciation,  
Suanne Carlson  
Executive Director  
Homes On Wheels Alliance

## MISSION

Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc. (HOWA), a charitable 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, strives to help a significant portion of the American population who are being squeezed between the rapidly rising cost of shelter on one hand, and either stagnant wages or too small a retirement on the other. Through no fault of their own, they are at serious risk of losing their homes and apartments. We serve this community by providing:

- Safe and secure homes on wheels,
- Improvements and repairs to their mobile dwellings,
- Transition assistance into a financially- and environmentally-sustainable lifestyle, and
- Opportunities to connect with and give back to the nomadic tribe, area communities, and public lands.

We believe that only an “alliance” of interested parties can hope to solve a problem of this magnitude. To be truly effective it should consist of:

- The larger mobile community,
- Government (local, state and federal),
- Private businesses and industries, and
- Various nonprofit organizations,

By combining our energy, resources, and goodwill into a united front, we will have a significant impact on preventing the homeless problem from reaching monumental proportions and allowing our clients to remain contributing citizens while preserving their independence, self-sufficiency, and dignity. Acting together, we believe the future can be bright for all of us!

**We focus on Veterans, Seniors, Women, and the Working Poor while building community.**



**Volunteers Barney and Dale installed solar power in Tina's and Don's trailer.**

## Rubber Tramp Rendezvous (RTR)

This program was started by HOWA Board President and Co-Founder, Bob Wells, and is designed to accomplish the following goals:

- **Build Community among nomads**
- **Educate people on how to live a safe and fulfilling nomad lifestyle**
- **Energize communities around the country to understand and assist nomads**
- **Socialize and have a great time!**



Since its beginning in 2011 with only 45 people in attendance, the RTR has grown through the years to welcome over 10,000 people! The program is now operated by Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc. and is dedicated to helping people who come from all over the USA, Canada, and several foreign countries.

We were ecstatic when the COVID-19 pandemic subsided enough to allow a return to in-person RTRs for 2022. Volunteers were required to wear masks but participants were given the option to wear or not wear. Traditional dispersed large group camping on BLM near Quartzsite wasn't possible due to the number of people attending so the Quartzsite City Parks was used for the seminars. Attendees found BLM camping spots with small groups of friends. The park was an excellent solution for the seminars with plenty of parking and a grassy field for chairs and blankets.



## Women’s Rubber Tramp Rendezvous (WRTR)

The WRTR is like the RTR but for women only. It is held just before the RTR. Women from all over the country converge to learn from seasoned nomadic women. Most importantly, they come to be with other like-minded women to find camaraderie and friendships. Education is focused on how to live a safe, secure, and productive life as a nomad. Many outstanding HOWA volunteers have come from this group of amazing women!



## Online RTRs

Due to the popularity of the videos from the 2021 Online RTR, six videos of the 2022 RTR seminars were edited and published on the HOWA YouTube channel where they can be watched at any time.



How to Use Phone Apps for Nomadic Living – Dawn of Vanlife – 2022 Rubber Tramp Rendezvous (RTR)

**Together we are changing lives, building supportive community, and preventing homelessness one person at a time.**

## Caravans

The Caravan Program started in November 2018 with unorganized, casual gatherings in the southwest deserts. This program is a wonderful way for people to camp together, build community, and make friends. The COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 and restrictions on gatherings meant the program was on hold until the fall of 2021. Happily, the caravans continued through the spring of 2022 with a break during summer as nomads scattered to cooler locations. They restarted in the fall when



people began returning to warmer climates. Caravan groups range from 5 to 75 people, depending on the number of participants and the size of the camping location. Campers are free to stay to themselves or join in, as they desire.

Caravan participants express their appreciation of the caravan program:

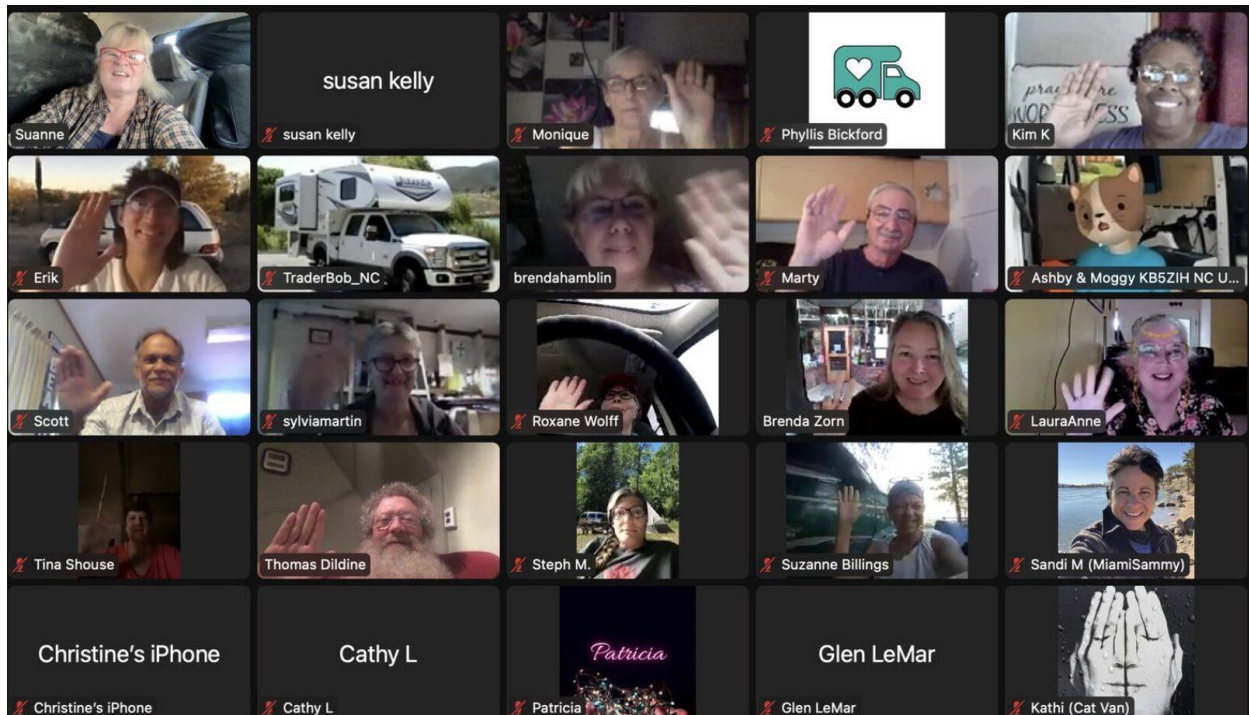


**James:** These caravans are one of the best things I've seen develop in the "vanlife" community. It really is a good way to meet new people and not be alone all the time.

**Cynthia:** Three years ago I was the newbie. The caravans were perfect. I learned a lot, and made some incredible friends. I still travel with some of the women I met thru the HOWA Caravans. I highly recommend that everyone check them out. Thanks HOWA

**Mary:** Your first year of caravans was also my first year on the road. Man did you save me a lot of fear and loneliness. Also gave my loved ones peace of mind knowing I was not out in the desert alone. I am so happy you are able to start them up again. Thank you,

## Virtual Caravans



When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, the in-person Caravan Camps were replaced by online gatherings called “Virtual CaravanConnections.” Using the online meeting program Zoom, nomads and aspiring nomads gather several times each week. Discussions related to the nomadic lifestyle are facilitated by volunteer leaders. The purpose of these online Caravan gatherings is the same as the in-person camps: to build community and make friends.

Due to the popularity of the Virtual Caravans, we will continue them even though in-person caravans can now be safely held.

Comments from Virtual Caravan attendees on what HOWA means to them:



**Kim K:** HOWA has been like a lifeline. After the military, it gave me a way to just be myself and give what I can. It’s an opportunity to serve a wonderful network.

**Richard:** HOWA has given us freedom, community, friendship, and love. It gave us a way to think differently about living on the road. We plan on doing much more to give back in the months and years to come!

**Barb H:** The Virtual Caravans have provided education, resources, and insights, and allow me to tackle tasks. They have helped me with isolation. I feel like I can now look at situations with more open-mindedness, less judgment, and more respect toward others than when I first came to these meetings



## BYOV

BYOV (Bring Your Own Vehicle) is HOWA's newest program, designed to help nomads who do not have the money or expertise to build out their current vehicle. The program was started after the increase in minivan prices during COVID made it difficult for HOWA to obtain suitable vehicles. BYOV recipients, who were full-time nomads with demonstrated financial need, camped in their vehicles on BLM land with fellow recipients and volunteers. Each project took three days between planning, building, and final finish. The first BYOV event was held in April 2022 with eight recipients. The second was held in October 2022 and, because of the success of the first BYOV, the event was expanded to help 18 recipients!



## BYOV Snapshots



Volunteers Diane and Anya work with recipient Aimee to fit vinyl sheet flooring onto the new plywood floor in her minivan. They also built a bed platform.

Jenny shows off her new custom-designed cabinets. She received a solar system and a vent with a ceiling fan too.



The bare metal ceiling and walls of Gravity's and Tam's van were insulated and covered with paneling. The floor was covered with vinyl sheeting. A vent with a fan was installed and they received a 200-watt portable solar system.

## Emergency Fund and Tent Program



The Emergency Fund began in 2019 with an anonymous donation of \$10,000. From 2019 to 2022 more than \$50,000 has been distributed allowing over 150 nomads to continue living in their newly repaired homes on wheels or buy necessary supplies. Your generous donations allow the Emergency Fund to continue helping nomads. Thank you!

Tents are provided to nomads in financial need who are currently traveling and living out of their vehicle. Tents are granted for emergency and medical needs.



## 2002 Roadtrek RV – A Build Program Grant



HOWA accepts vehicles from private donors with a few restrictions. They must be in good physical and mechanical condition, less than 20 years old, and with less than 100,000 miles. Donated minivans, cars, SUVs, and trucks go directly to someone who needs a safe and secure home on wheels. A lien is placed on the vehicle and the recipient contributes to an emergency-savings escrow fund managed by HOWA for a period of 3 years. At the end of 3 years, the balance of the fund, not used for repairs, is refunded to the recipient and the lien on the vehicle is removed.

Early in 2022, we were fortunate to receive a 2002 Roadtrek donated by Robert May of Las Vegas. To get the RV ready for a recipient volunteers sanded the exterior and completed some bodywork before giving it a two-tone paint job. The interior was cleaned and spiffed up. The oil was changed, new tires were installed, and all systems were inspected. Since RVs are more complicated than cars or SUVs applicants are chosen carefully to make sure they are capable of repairing and maintaining the vehicle. 79 applications were reviewed before a final decision was made.

In October 2022 HOWA handed the keys over to Karen Nall, a cancer survivor who had been a nomad before she started treatment. She now needed better climate control and refrigeration which she didn't have in her Honda CRV.



## Outreach & Desert Clean-Up

Social media plays an important role in allowing HOWA to provide educational programs and classes on how to live a safe, secure, and fulfilling nomad life. Our outreach sources included:

<u>FACEBOOK</u>	Members	<u>YOU TUBE</u>	<u>MEET UP</u>	<u>INSTAGRAM</u>	
• <u>Business Page</u>	8328	Subscribers	9250	Members 7902	2283
• <u>HOWA Group</u>	49142	Video Views	200,000+		
• <u>Camp Together</u>	8633	(including Virtual Classes)			
• <u>Market Place</u>	3271				
• <u>Women's RTR</u>	3188				
• <u>RTR Official</u>	3315				

### LEAVE NO TRACE

As ardent supporters of the Leave No Trace program to save and protect our national forests, parks, and all outdoor environments, we subscribe to and promote their seven principles:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- Respect Wildlife



Every Friday in April 2022 HOWA volunteers and staff joined with the Bureau of Land Management to clean up the land around Pahrump, Nevada. Volunteers put in hundreds of hours and picked up over 100 yards of trash.

Nicholas Pay, Pahrump's BLM Field Manager, shared a hearty thank-you message: **"Please pass on my thanks and admiration to the volunteers of your organization that have helped clean up our public lands ... The work that you accomplished in a relatively short time is absolutely incredible."**

## Sweepstakes Partnerships



**Almost \$113,000 was raised through sweepstakes drawings held on February 2, 2022. We are grateful for the donation of the sweepstakes items and the contributions from supporters. The funds helped support HOWA's programs in 2022.**



Bob Wells, president of HOWA, generously donated his 2015 GMC Savana 2500 Cargo van which was outfitted with everything necessary for a nomadic life. DeAnn H of Oregon was the lucky winner of Bob's Van

With Bluetti's blessing, Bob Wells also donated a AC200MAX and B230 module to HOWA. Kristine R of Texas was the winner.



Rick K of Texas won an ACOPower 42qt Solar LiON Fridge/Freezer with Built-In Battery & 90W Solar Panel donated by Bob Wells

## Our Leadership Team



**Bob Wells**  
President Co- Founder



**Suanne Carlson**  
Executive Director VP Co-Founder



**Brian Gifford**  
Treasurer Trustee



**Karen Battaglia**  
Secretary Trustee



**Arlo Kipfer**  
Governance Chair Trustee



**Bob Kent**  
Trustee



**Susan Merrill**  
Trustee



**JP Smith**  
Trustee



**Sarah Kuiken**  
Trustee



**Jaime Abbas Restorff**  
Trustee



**John Noland**  
Trustee

## Meet Our Staff



**Phyllis Bickford**  
Executive Assistant



**Bobbi Stice**  
Client Services Manager



**Lisa Bee**  
Virtual Caravan Coordinator



**Marieke McArthur**  
Technology Coordinator



**Tracey Power**  
Emergency Fund Coordinator

We have a small staff of hard-working full-time, part-time, and contract employees but we couldn't do all the important work that needs to be done without our volunteers!

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

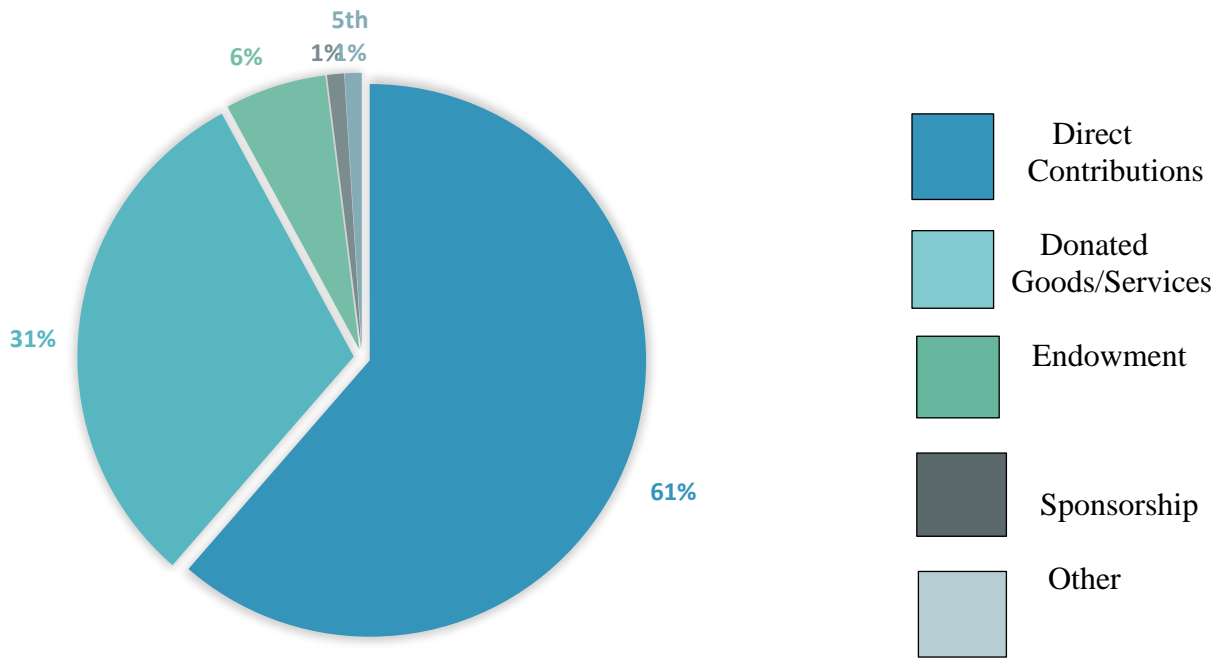


**Volunteers donated 15,092 hours. At \$10 an hour that's a \$150,920 value!**



# 2022 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

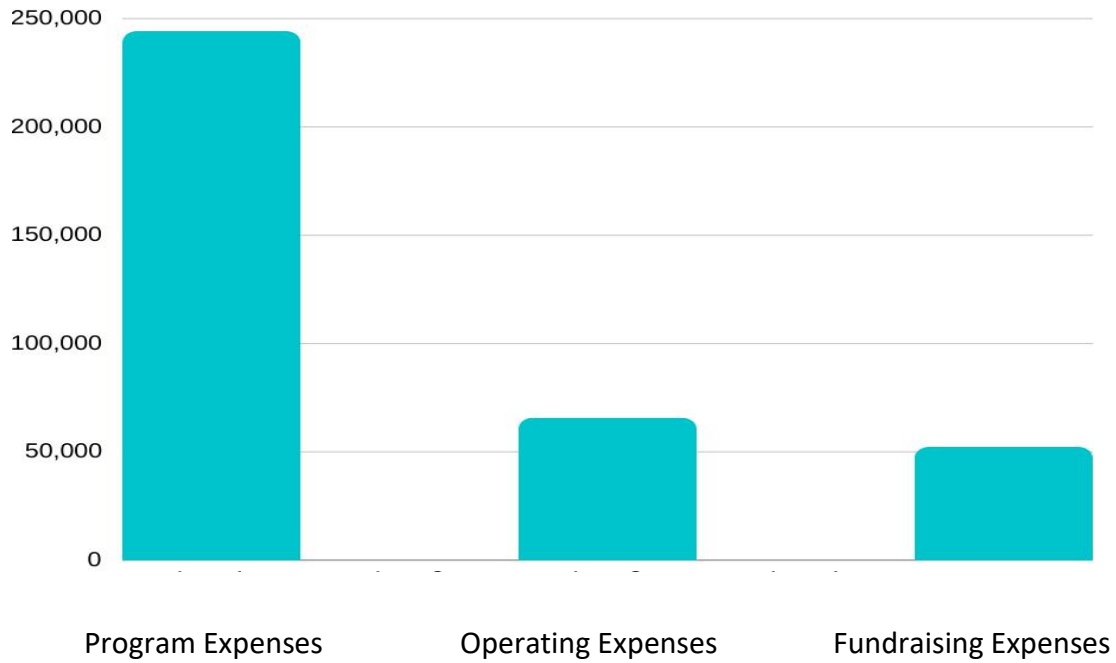
## 2022 Revenues



### TOTAL REVENUES: \$391,826

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$243,419	62%
DONATED GOODS & SERVICES:	\$121,364	31%
ENDOWMENT:	\$25,126	6%
SPONSORSHIP:	\$1,799	<1%
OTHER:	\$118	<1%
TOTALS:	\$391,826	100%

## 2022 Expenses



### TOTAL EXPENSES: \$362,187

PROGRAM EXPENSES:	\$244,214	67%
OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$65,701	18%
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES:	<u>\$52,272</u>	<u>15%</u>
TOTALS:	\$362,187	100%

### RECONCILIATION

TOTAL REVENUE:	\$391,826
TOTAL EXPENSES:	<u>\$362,187</u>
SURPLUS:	\$29,639

## Historical Performance

### Income

Year	Number of Months	Total Income	Program vs. Total Expenses
2018	4*	\$25,065	4.65%
2019	12	\$202,280	51.83%
2020	12	\$362,454*	28.67%*
2021	12	\$327,410	50%
2022	12	\$391,826	62%

### Expenses

Year	Number of Months	Program Expenses	Program vs. Total Expenses
2018	4	\$1,166	7.16%
2019	12	\$104,841	59.32%
2020	12	\$103,909	44.70%
2021	12	\$163,936	63.00%
2022	12	\$244,214	67.00%

#### NOTES:

- 2018: First year of operation: September 1 to December 31, 2018.
- 2020 Income: On 12/29/2020, HOWA received a donation and a non-government grant totaling \$105,000, thereby creating the surplus at the end of the year of \$130,020. Without these two donations, our "Total Income" would have been \$257,045 and the percentage of "Program vs. Total Income" would have been 40.36%. These funds will be used in 20

Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc.  
Statement of Financial Condition  
December 31, 2022

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1000 Cash

1010 Wells Fargo Unrestricted - 1914	171,513.03
1020 Wells Fargo Restricted – 3911	7,119.11
1030 Wells Fargo Escrow - 0253	10,511.68
1035 Wells Fargo Reserve Account – 1527	25,007.50
1040 Petty Cash	15.91

**Total 1000 Cash** \$ 214,167.23

**Total Bank Accounts** \$ 214,167.23

Other Current Assets

1400 Undeposited Funds	380.00
1500 Inventory	
1510 Inventory - Vehicles Program	20,000.00
1520 Inventory – Other	0.00
1530 Inventory – Sweepstakes	9,296.00

**Total 1500 Inventory** \$ 29,296.00

1600 Uncategorized Asset	0.00
1650 Endowment Account	25,125.64

**Total Other Current Assets** \$ 54,801.64

**Total Current Assets** \$ 268,968.87

Fixed Assets

1700 Fixed Operating Assets	
1720 Company Vehicle	5,033.00
1740 Land - Operating	3,750.00

**Total 1700 Fixed Operating Assets** \$ 8,783.00

1800 Accumulated Depreciation - Fixed Operating Assets 1,367.12

**Total Fixed Assets** \$ 7,415.88

**Total Assets** \$276,384.75

Statement Prepared Internally

Accrual Basis Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:11 PM GMT-08:00

Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc.  
Statement of Financial Condition  
December 31, 2022

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	0.00
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<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
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Other Current Liabilities

2600 Security Deposit Liabilities

2610 Escrow Account Deposits	12,372.22
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<b>Total 2600 Security Deposit Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 12,372.22</b>
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2650 Other Current Liabilities 0.00

<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 12,372.22</b>
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<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 12,372.22</b>
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Long-Term Liabilities

2700 Long Term Notes & Loans Payable

2770 Long Term Liabilities - Other

2771 Loan from Suanne or Other	0.00
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Total 2770 Long Term Liabilities – Other	\$ 0.00
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<b>Total 2700 Long-Term Notes &amp; Loans Payable</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
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<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 12,372.22</b>
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Equity

3050 Net Assets	234,373.62
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Net Revenue 29,638.91

<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 264,012.53</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 276,384.75</b>
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Thursday, Feb 08, 2024 01:54:07 PM GMT-8 - Accrual Basis



## Why Give Us Your Support?

We are a strong organization with compassionate, talented, and energetic people wanting to help those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in difficult situations and need a helping hand. We have either walked in their shoes or can think outside the box and offer creative solutions.

**This is who we are!** We hope the information you find in this 2022 Annual Report will inspire you to join our cause in helping people to help themselves.

## We Need Your Help

The huge number of pleas for help has FAR exceeded our capacity to meet those needs. The nomad lifestyle promoted by Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc. can help our fellow Americans regain security, happiness, and self-sufficiency... BUT not without your help! Thank You!

## Our Greatest Needs

- ✓ Money for Operations (“No Money ...No Mission!”)
- ✓ Program Support
  - Emergency Fund
  - Educational Programs and Gatherings
  - Build Out Programs
  - Vehicle Purchases
- ✓ Land to Grow
- ✓ Volunteers!!!



## Ways You Can Help

### Donate Cash

#### Online through-

- [Facebook](#)
- [Patreon](#)
- [PayPal](#)
- [Our website](#)

Consider Donating  
in Honor of a Loved One



You can also donate by mail. Please send your check to:

Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc.  
1970 N. Leslie #297  
Pahrump, NV 89060

### Donate Intangible Assets

Donate Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds



### Donate Tangible Assets

- Land (large acreage needed!).
- Donate your car, airplane, boat, van, truck, bus, or RV through CarEasy: [www.careasy.org](http://www.careasy.org) 855-500-7433
- Gasoline cards, gift cards





## Ways You Can Help

### Support a Specific Program

- Bring Your Own Vehicle (BYOV) Builds
- Emergency Fund for nomads in trouble on the road.
- Caravans for building community and nomad education.
- Rubber Tramp Rendezvous
- Women's Rubber Tramp Rendezvous
- General Operations


### Estate and Financial Planning

- Name "Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc." in Your Estate Plan Last Will and Testament or Living Trust
- Establish an Endowment to Benefit Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc.
- Name Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc. as a Beneficiary of Your: Life Insurance Policy or Retirement Plan (401k, IRA, Pension, etc.)

### Volunteers Make Difference

#### Volunteer Opportunities

- Assist with Fundraising.
- Land Search Teams
- Lead a Virtual Caravan or an In-Person Caravan
- Volunteer for the WRTR and RTR
- Volunteer for a BYOV

We  Our Volunteers

Call 757- 764 - 8115





## Thank You to Our 2022 Donors and Sponsors

\$15,000 and above	\$14,999 - \$5,000	\$4,999 - \$1,000	\$999 and Below	In Kind Gifts	Memorial Gifts	Honorarium Gifts
Anonymous	Robert Calcagni	Stacy Kay Moore	3,189 Donors	Over 50 people gave donations for build programs		
Derek Baker	Roger Dionni	Beverley Hall				
	Sue Measom	Sandra Scheuss				
		Colletts on the Move				
		Patricia Dasilvia				
		Joel Smith				
		Charles Elgart				
		Anonymous				
		Caren Crockett				
		Robert Groenendaal				
		Suzanne Hackett				
		Dale Montaque				
		Joseph Mutat				
		Carole Steinberg				
		Marilyn Stoner				





## **Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc.**

**1970 N. Leslie #297**

**Pahrump, NV 89060**

**Tel: 775.764.8115**

**[howa@homesonwheelsalliance.org](mailto:howa@homesonwheelsalliance.org)**

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

**Tax ID#: 83-1688307**



**Together we are changing lives, building supportive community, and preventing homelessness one person at a time.**

Homes On Wheels Alliance, Inc., Tel: 775.764.8115 Website: HomesOnWheelsAlliance.org is a 501(C)3 charitable organization registered with the Nevada Secretary of State, pursuant to Title NRA 82A.200. Its purpose is to assist veterans, seniors and the working poor with securing unconventional housing as shelter. CONTRIBUTIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAXDEDUCTIBLE, pursuant to provisions of Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C §170(c).