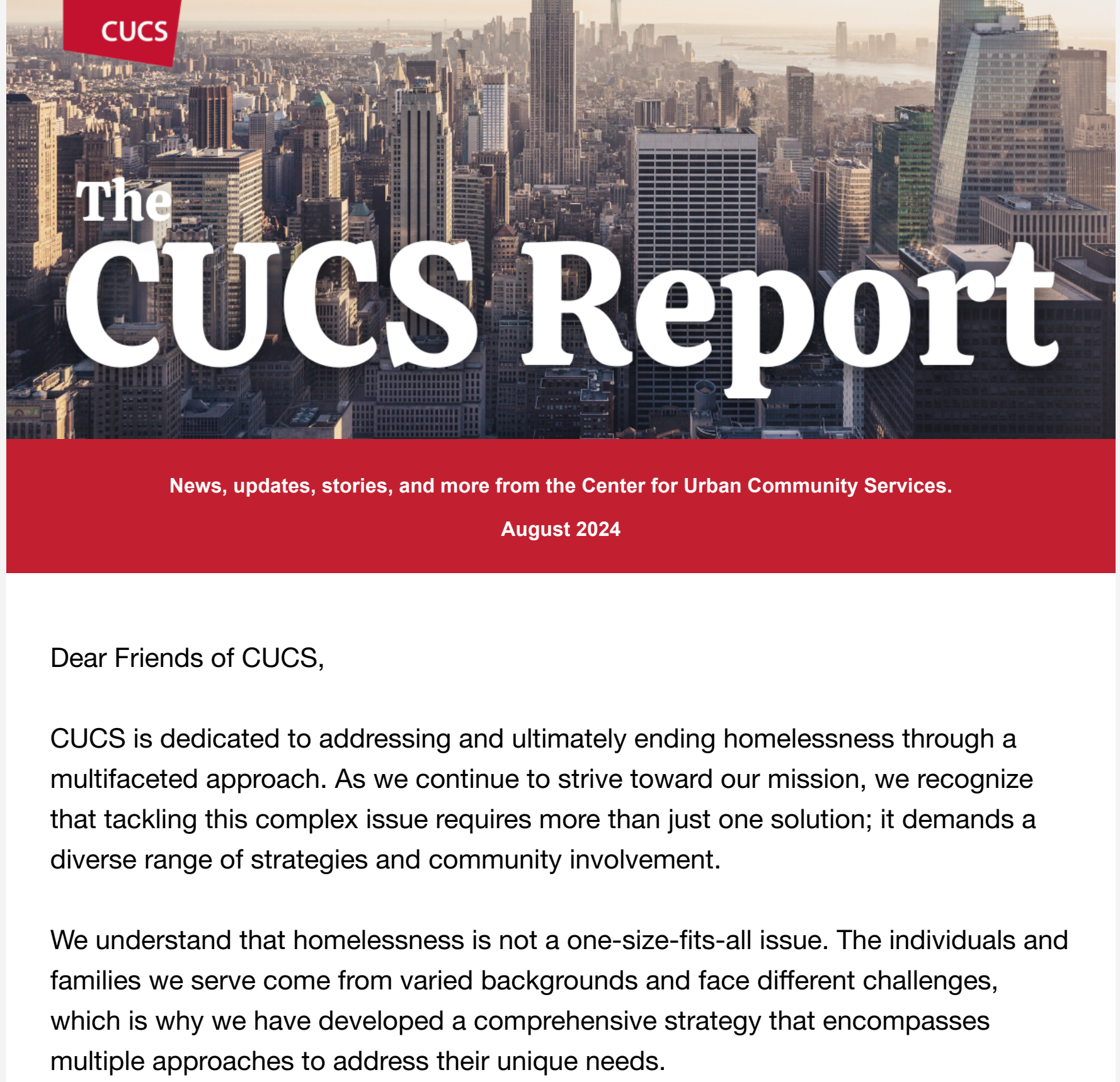


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Dear Friends of CUCS,

CUCS is dedicated to addressing and ultimately ending homelessness through a multifaceted approach. As we continue to strive toward our mission, we recognize that tackling this complex issue requires more than just one solution; it demands a diverse range of strategies and community involvement.

We understand that homelessness is not a one-size-fits-all issue. The individuals and families we serve come from varied backgrounds and face different challenges, which is why we have developed a comprehensive strategy that encompasses multiple approaches to address their unique needs.

In this August edition of the CUCS Report, we focus on the Safe Haven model of care. You will learn about the new Safe Haven we are opening in the Financial District, as well as the Safe Havens we are currently operating. Safe Havens offer people the opportunity to safely transition from living on the street to living in a permanent supported home.

We are grateful for your support and invite you to join us in this critical mission to end homelessness. Your support will not only provide immediate relief but also foster long-term solutions that empower individuals and families to achieve stability and independence.

As always, please feel free to reach out and let us know what you think.

With deepest gratitude,

Rise Roth
Chief Development and Communications Officer

The Value of Safe Havens

Comprehensive Support to Exit Homelessness



A CUCS client meets with his health care provider at the Kelly Safe Haven.

Imagine the person you see living on the streets is struggling with traumatic experiences and severe challenges like mental and physical illnesses going untreated, with no place or person to help them. Imagine they don't trust the traditional systems in place to help them. They are tired, vulnerable, and afraid. For this person, exiting homelessness is very complex — but there is hope for them with the CUCS Safe Haven model of care

A Safe Haven is a transitional housing program that offers robust, comprehensive support for New Yorkers experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Dedicated staff assesses each client's unique needs and lived experiences to provide everything they needs to stabilize. This includes primary medical care, psychiatric care, substance treatment, counseling, job placement assistance, and more. Most importantly, Safe Havens offer clients a clear path to a permanent home of their own.



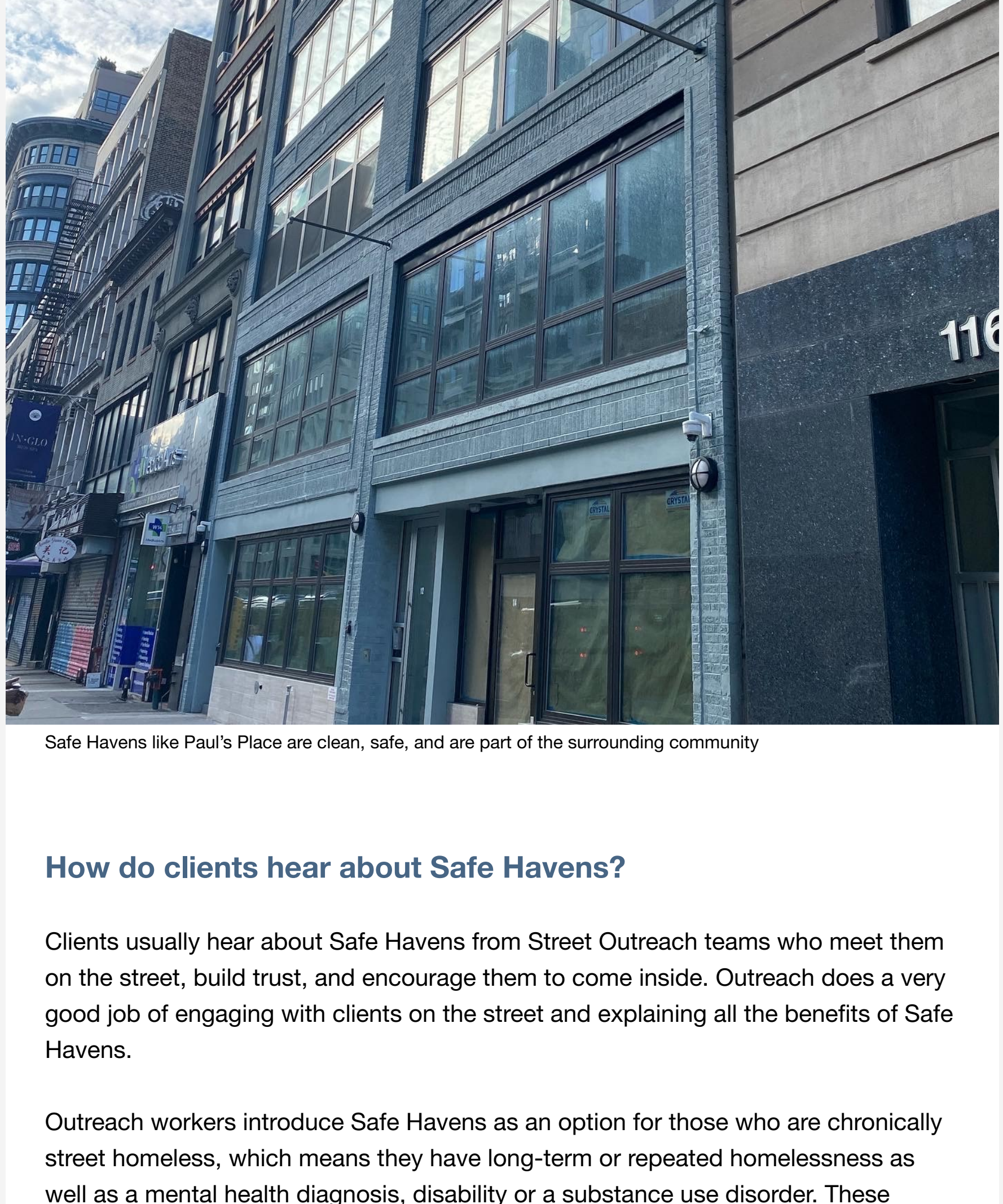
A typical unit at the Paul's Place Safe Haven - all the essentials in a clean, safe and welcoming environment.

Another valuable benefit of the Safe Haven model is the focus on community and social integration. Many individuals experiencing homelessness suffer from isolation, and Safe Havens help clients reconnect with others, build community, and develop the social skills that are key to ensuring a stable, sustainable housing placement when they are ready.

Ultimately, Safe Havens mean fewer people living on the streets, which benefits everyone. For many New Yorkers experiencing homeless, Safe Havens are their best hope for a better life.

Ask the Experts

Paula Laidley
Program Director, Washington Street Safe Haven



What makes Safe Havens so effective at helping people exit homelessness?

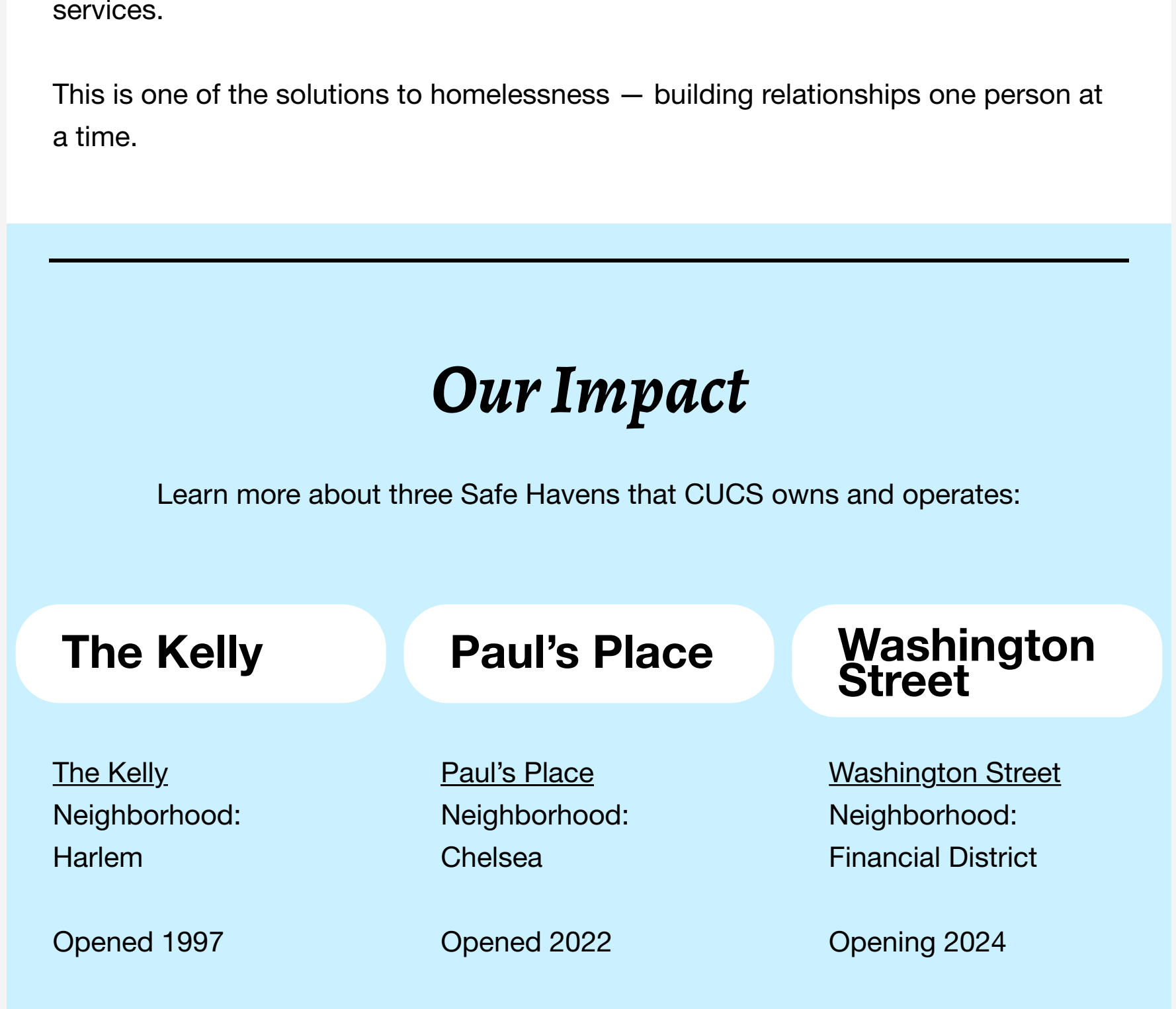
Safe Havens are effective because they provide all the support needed for someone to make the transition out of homelessness. Permanent housing is the goal for everyone who comes to a Safe Haven, so we provide everything a client needs to get back on their feet, get healthy, and get on the path to a home of their own.

The path out of homelessness requires making and keeping multiple appointments, but our clients are vulnerable individuals who often have difficulty traveling or navigating the city. So we offer many of those services and appointments on-site. This on-site support helps clients meet their goals, builds trust and prepares the client for successful housing placement.

What is an average day like for someone staying in a Safe Haven?

A Safe Haven is a client's temporary home and they do what we all do at home – talk to friends, make phone calls, relax, and go to sleep at night to get ready for the next day. The specifics vary depending on each person's needs, but it always starts with waking up in a safe, clean place and having a meal.

Clients also work to improve themselves, and might meet with their case manager or social worker to go over their priorities, or they might have appointments with on-site psychiatric or medical services. There's also recreational space with computers and, at Washington Street, plans for a library. We offer various groups, from recreational activities to therapeutic and skill-building sessions that support clients in their journey to housing. For clients looking for work, we refer them to the [CUCS Career Network](#) to work on resumes and finding (and keeping) a job.

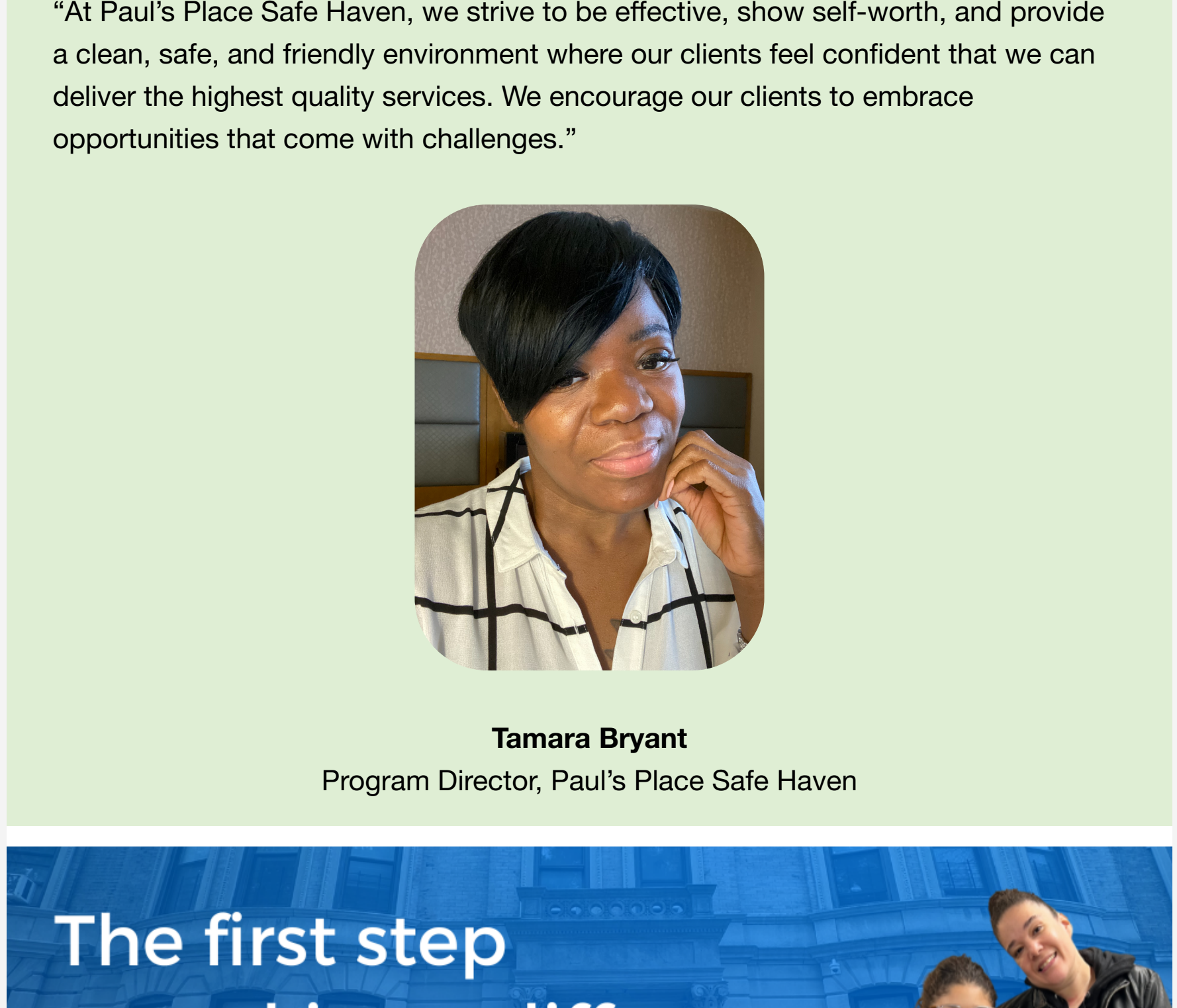


Safe Havens like Paul's Place are clean, safe, and are part of the surrounding community

How do clients hear about Safe Havens?

Clients usually hear about Safe Havens from Street Outreach teams who meet them on the street, build trust, and encourage them to come inside. Outreach does a very good job of engaging with clients on the street and explaining all the benefits of Safe Havens.

Outreach workers introduce Safe Havens as an option for those who are chronically street homeless, which means they have long-term or repeated homelessness as well as a mental health diagnosis, disability or a substance use disorder. These clients are very vulnerable, and they need a lot of specialized support as they transition from the street to permanent supportive housing.



Safe Havens offer robust, wraparound services to clients, and also provide a safe place to socialize and build a community.

What are the effects of a Safe Haven in a neighborhood?

Safe Havens reduce homelessness in neighborhoods. A Safe Haven means there is a safe place where homeless individuals can go, so they will no longer be on the street. At Washington Street, we are prioritizing clients who are homeless in the local neighborhood. So the effect will be seen in this neighborhood.

We're already seeing support from the community. Local residents have reached out, wanting to help their homeless neighbors by seeing if they qualify for Safe Haven services.

This is one of the solutions to homelessness — building relationships one person at a time.

Our Impact

Learn more about three Safe Havens that CUCS owns and operates:

The Kelly

[The Kelly](#)
Neighborhood:
Harlem

Opened 1997

60 Safe Haven beds

When it opened in 1997, The Kelly was New York City's first transitional housing program of its kind, offering robust services to clients with serious mental illnesses who were long-term shelter stayers. Today, the Kelly Safe Haven model has been adapted to other successful programs throughout the city.

Paul's Place

[Paul's Place](#)
Neighborhood:
Chelsea

Opened 2022

24 Safe Haven beds

In addition to the Safe Haven, Paul's Place offers 70 seats in a Drop-In Center, offering emergency and essential services to homeless people living on the street.

Washington Street

[Washington Street](#)
Neighborhood:
Financial District

Opening 2024

84 Safe Haven beds.

Washington Street Safe Haven is a six-story former residential building in Manhattan's financial district. The building is being fully renovated and converted into our newest Safe Haven. Once complete, CUCS will provide primary care, nursing, psychiatric, security, and consultation services.

A Place of Opportunity

"At Paul's Place Safe Haven, we strive to be effective, show self-worth, and provide a clean, safe, and friendly environment where our clients feel confident that we can deliver the highest quality services. We encourage our clients to embrace opportunities that come with challenges."



Tamara Bryant
Program Director, Paul's Place Safe Haven

Thank you for reading the CUCS Report. Our goal is to make sure New Yorkers are well-informed as we continue our work to help people rise from poverty, exit homelessness, and be healthy.

The CUCS Report is a publication of the Center for Urban Community Services.

Do you have questions about the CUCS Report, our services, facilities or programs? Contact:
devcom@cucs.org

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