



Home for  
those Who  
Have Been  
Deprived of  
Housing.

The Importance of Low-Barrier Options for stabilization and moving towards HOME.

# Why We are Here...

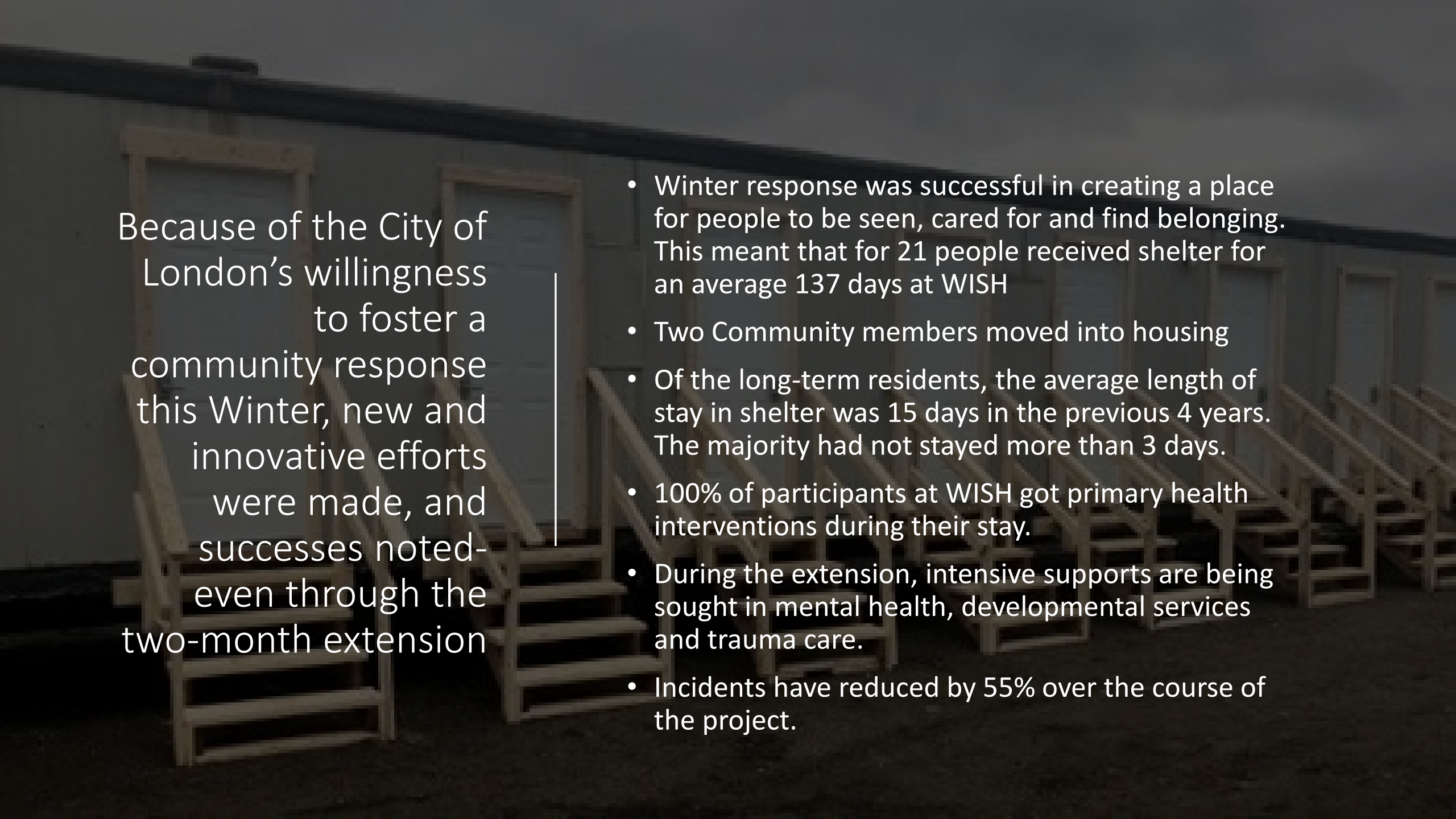
Our residents who have stayed on average 4.5 months with our program, identify their space at 415 York St. as Home.

They are insistent that the low barrier, welcoming, accepting and supportive environment has been critical to their being able to stay and create home together.

Sabrina, a Leader among the community, is ready for a more permanent home. She recognizes however that some at our location and moreover on the streets need these different and transitional spaces to begin their journey HOME too!

London should be proud of this innovative-first of it's kind project and ensure we reap all there is to learn from the experience and share the incredible outcomes.





Because of the City of London's willingness to foster a community response this Winter, new and innovative efforts were made, and successes noted—even through the two-month extension

- Winter response was successful in creating a place for people to be seen, cared for and find belonging. This meant that for 21 people received shelter for an average 137 days at WISH
- Two Community members moved into housing
- Of the long-term residents, the average length of stay in shelter was 15 days in the previous 4 years. The majority had not stayed more than 3 days.
- 100% of participants at WISH got primary health interventions during their stay.
- During the extension, intensive supports are being sought in mental health, developmental services and trauma care.
- Incidents have reduced by 55% over the course of the project.



# What we are asking...

- First, while York Street is unable to continue as a Winter Response site, **we encourage council to support future low barrier efforts, to work towards more services of this kind, or to consider more innovative ways to reach the population that needs different services.**

# What we are asking...

- Second, we want to assure you that we are preparing an alternative space in line with our long-term goals. These include graduated housing from the stabilization that has taken place on York to permanent housing. Our team will develop new skills in supporting housing stability through the same low-barrier, harm reduction, person-centred approach that drove the initial WISH project. With the approved contract to support people to December, **we only ask for consideration for expanding this effort to ensure people are not abandoned as we know supports first housing is a need in our community.**





## What we are asking...

- Finally, we offer care to our homeless friends and the businesses/ neighbours who have been generous and supportive of our work. **We will continue to support those who are not yet sheltered in the system of service offerings that exist in our community.** We ask for low barrier self sheltering locations where people can safely be until we have enough low barrier, culturally appropriate, safe, supported, and stable shelter and transitional housing options to meet the need in our community.