

The background features a collage of architectural elements. On the left, a 3D rendering of a red brick building with a green door is visible. The rest of the background is filled with various architectural drawings, including floor plans, elevations, and sections. A large blue circle is positioned in the upper left, and a red outline of a maple leaf is in the upper right. The title text is centered over these elements.

Making Supportive Housing Work for Canada's Most Vulnerable

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Susana Caxaj, Natasha Thuemler, Jason Gilliland, Sarah McLean, Vanisa
Ezukuse, Amy Van Berkum, Yinka Ariba, & Deanna Befus.

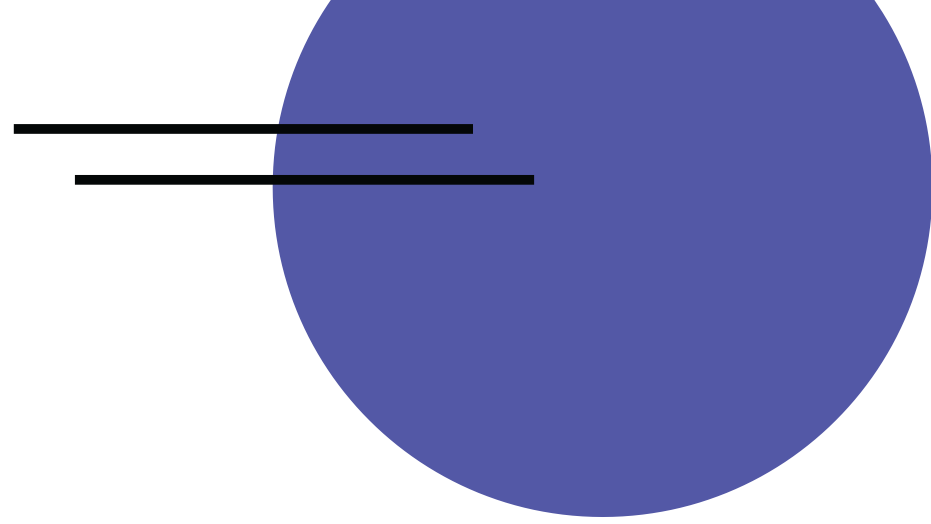
Presenters

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Associate Professor &
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Western University

Presentation Outline

- Research Project Overview
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Case Study: Indwell, Woodfield Gate
- Methods & Analysis
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

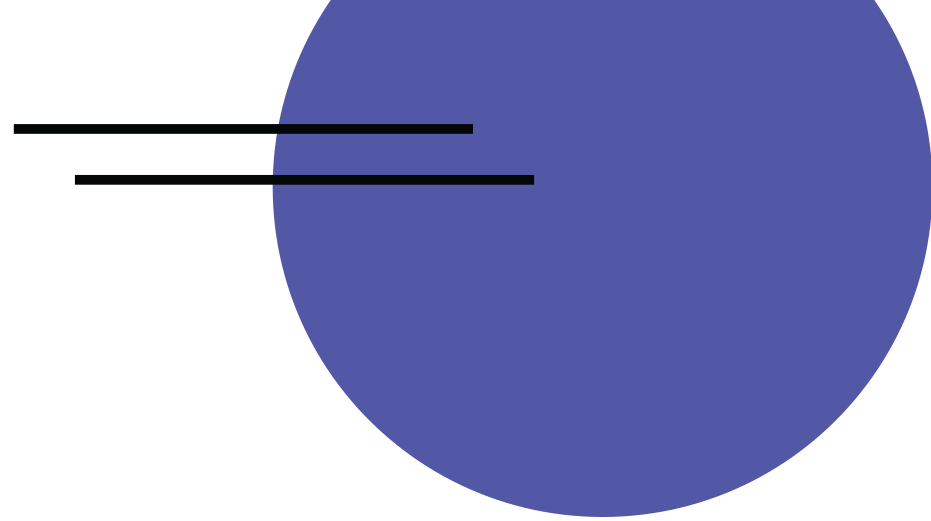


COLLABORATORS:



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
ON HEALTH EQUITY
AND SOCIAL INCLUSION





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Ce projet “Making Permanent Supportive Housing Work for Vulnerable Populations” a reçu du financement de la Stratégie nationale sur le logement. Cependant, les opinions exprimées sont les opinions personnelles de l’auteur et la SCHL n’accepte aucune responsabilité à l’égard de telles opinions.

Research Questions

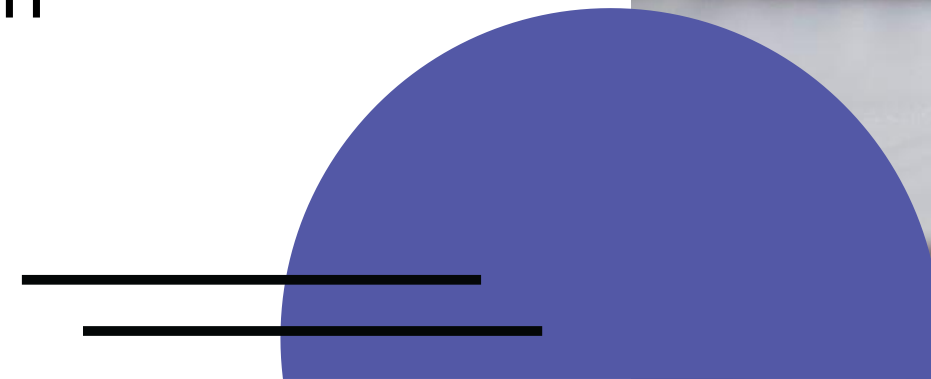
OVERVIEW

Phase 1:

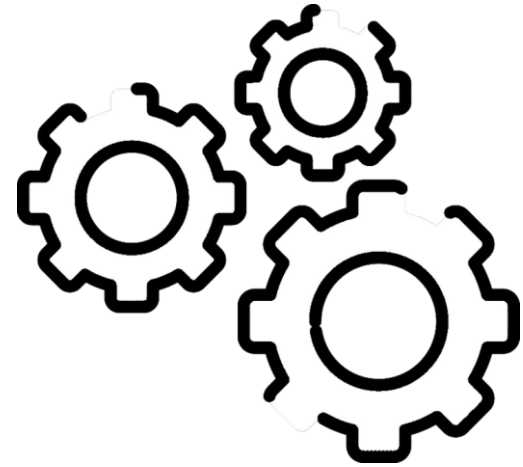
- How on-site services impact housing stability for persons recently re-housed?

Phase 2:

- What community integration really looks like in the lives of vulnerable persons living in supportive housing?



Methods



COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

Minker & Wallerstein, 2009

CASE STUDY

Merriam, 2009

PARTICIPANTS INTERVIEWED

Indwell tenants- 20; Staff- 4; and Leaders- 4.

Analysis



INTERPRETIVE DESCRIPTION

Thorne, 2016

Research Project

OBJECTIVES

1

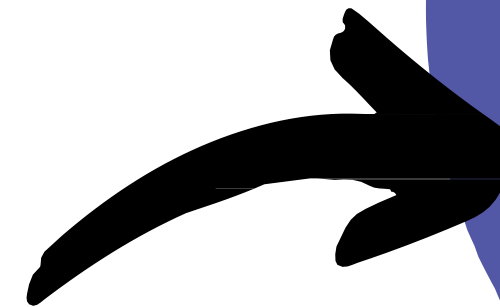
Assess the impact of Woodfield Gate in reducing chronic homelessness and the lived experience of individuals accessing such housing.

2

Determining future opportunities for reducing chronic homelessness in Canada through creation of high-quality affordable housing and supports.

3

Creating helpful resources, such as the "Best Practice Guideline: How to Build Supportive Housing in Canada."





HOUSING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT

&



ANCHOR FOR
PERSONAL STABILITY

**For some of Canada's most
vulnerable, housing stability is
not achieved without on-site
support.**

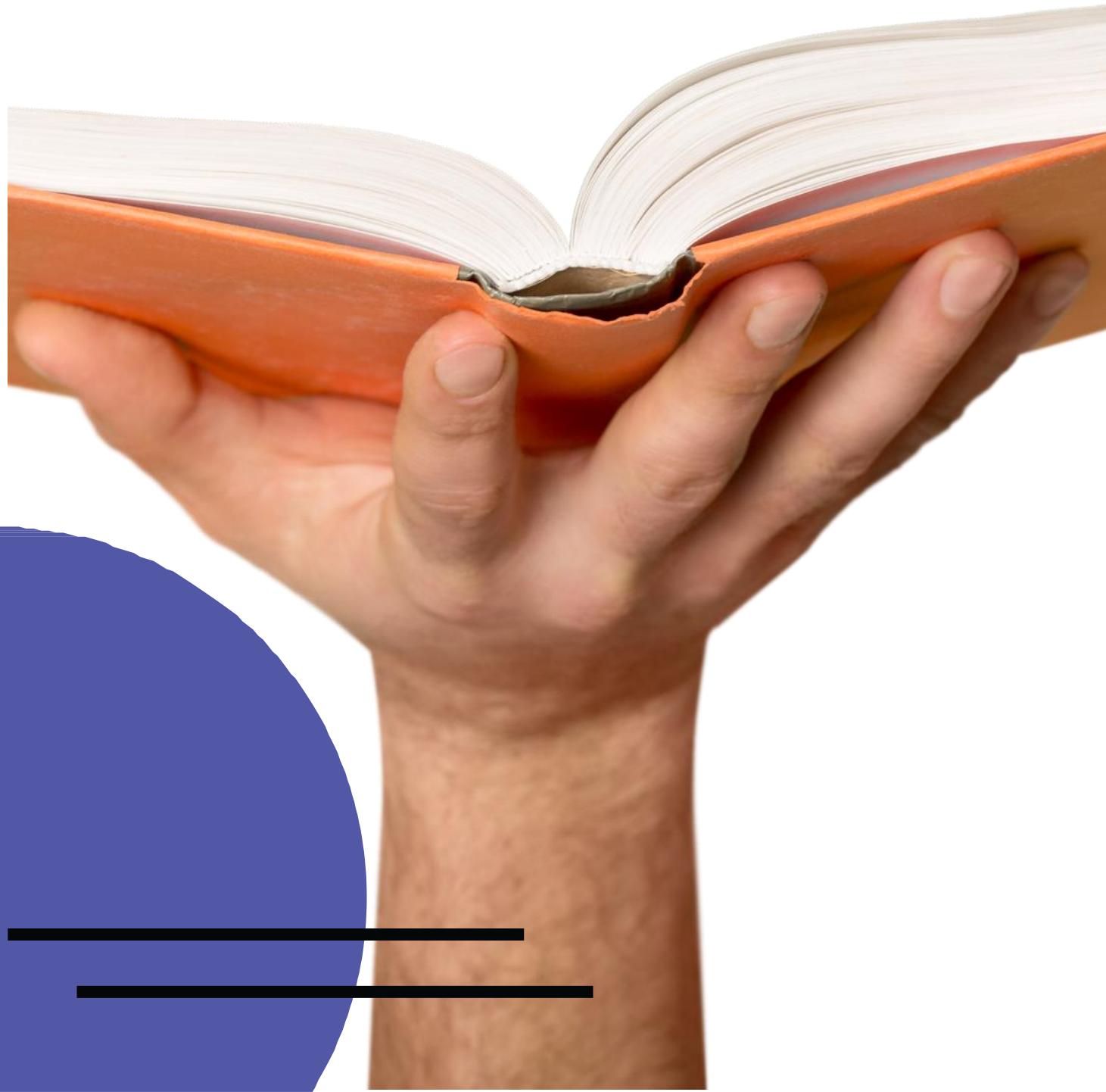


Permanent Supportive Housing

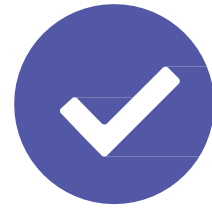
DEFINED

Provides a physical environment that is specifically designed to be **safe, secure, enabling, and home-like**, with support services such as social services, provision of meals, housekeeping, and social and recreational activities, to maximize residents' **independence, privacy, and dignity** (CMHC, 2018).

What do we know?



FOR THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH HOUSING STABILITY, LIFE HISTORIES ARE COMPLEX AND UNIQUE.



MANY INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES REQUIRE SOME LEVEL OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO ACHIEVE HOUSING STABILITY.



SUPPORTS: PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, TRAUMA, CULTURE, OR ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING.



WITH INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORTS BEING A KEY PRINCIPLE OF HOUSING FIRST, THESE PROGRAMS SEE HIGHER LEVELS OF HOUSING STABILITY THAN USUAL CARE.



Case Study: Woodfield Gate

EST. 2019

Indwell's first supportive housing in London, ON.

67 TENANTS

One bedroom or bachelor apartments.

ARRIVED FROM

Hospital, justice system, shelter services, or other forms of precarious housing.

Findings

BUILDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN
CANADA



Research Project

OVERVIEW

Phase 1 Recap:

Interviewed 20
Woodfield Gate
residents



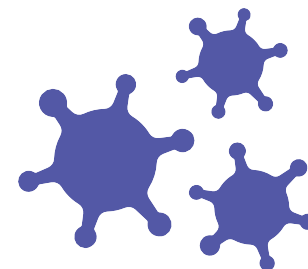
Available and timely supports



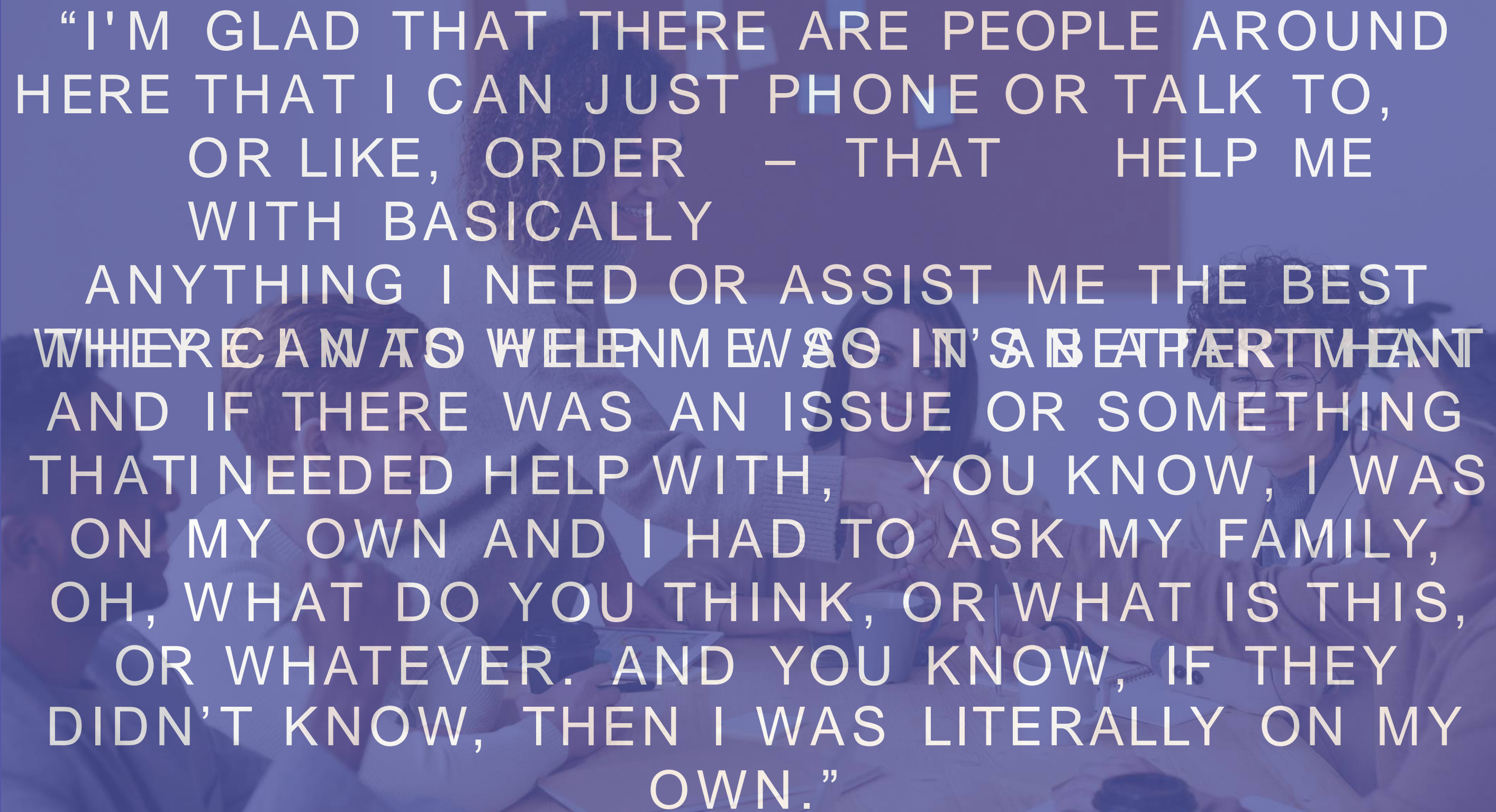
Community, but with independence



Affordability

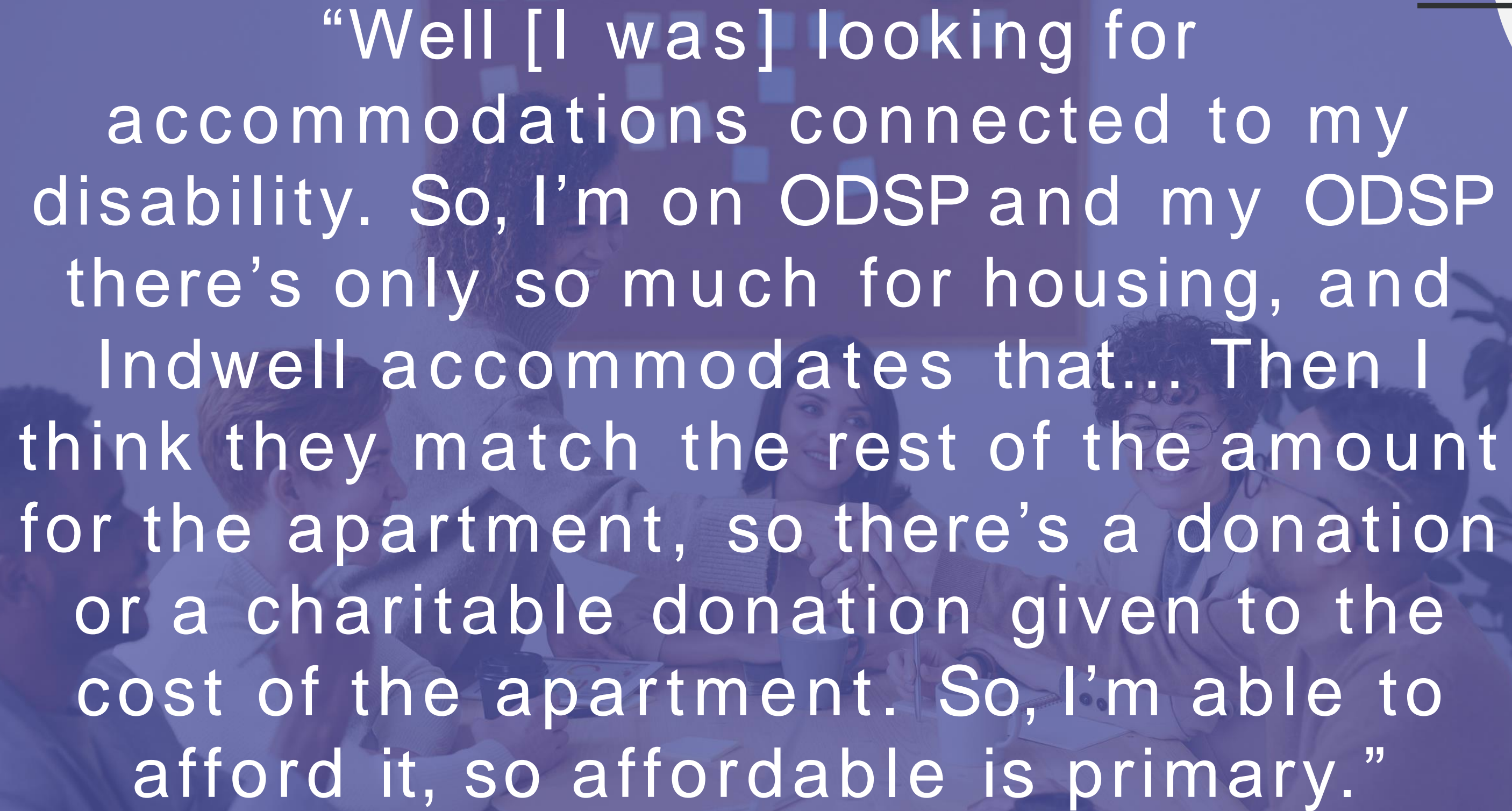


Pandemic worsened existing issues



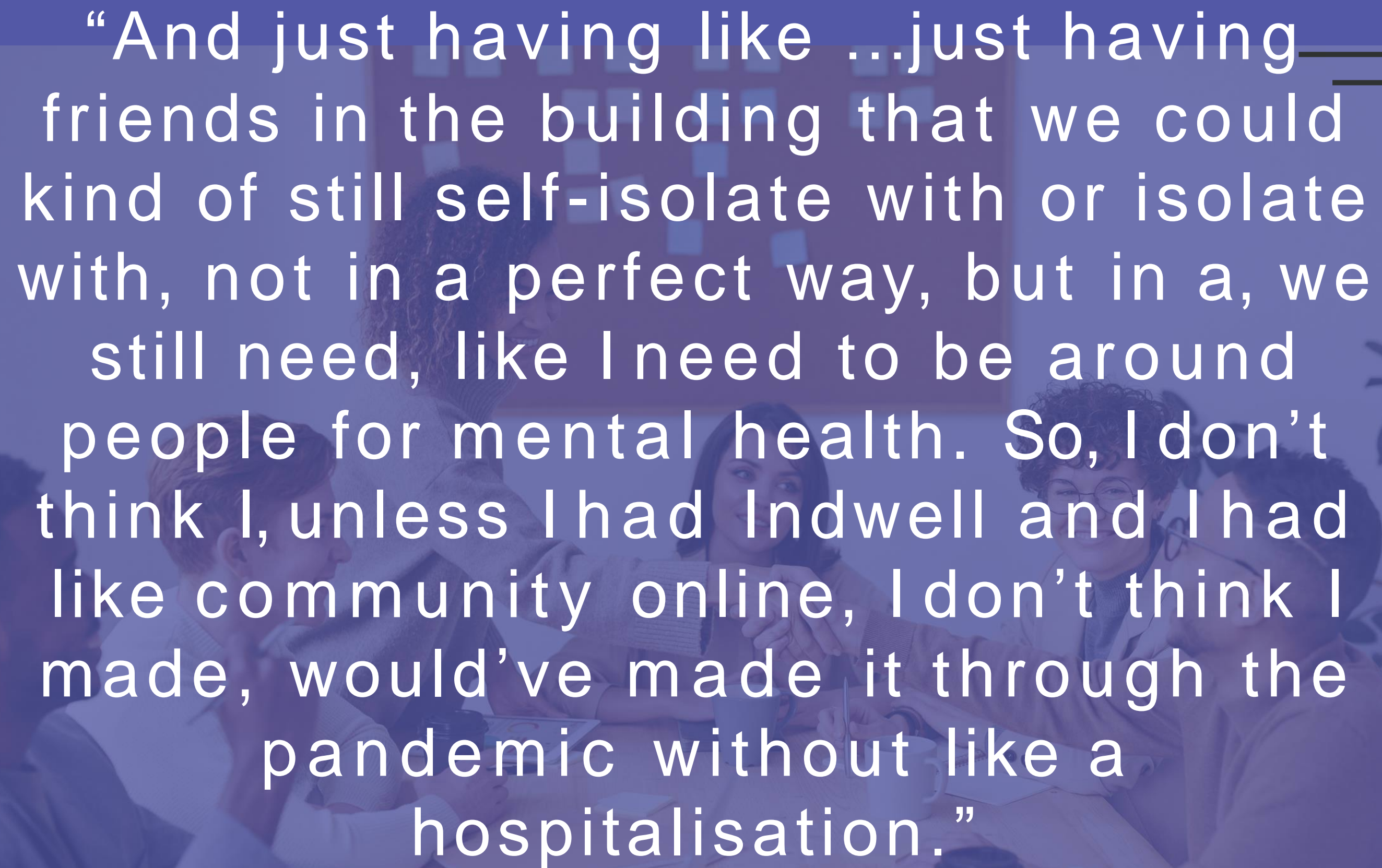
“I’M GLAD THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND
HERE THAT I CAN JUST PHONE OR TALK TO,
OR LIKE, ORDER – THAT – HELP ME
WITH BASICALLY
ANYTHING I NEED OR ASSIST ME THE BEST
WHERE I AM AS WELL AS IN A BERTHMENT
AND IF THERE WAS AN ISSUE OR SOMETHING
THAT I NEEDED HELP WITH, YOU KNOW, I WAS
ON MY OWN AND I HAD TO ASK MY FAMILY,
OH, WHAT DO YOU THINK, OR WHAT IS THIS,
OR WHATEVER. AND YOU KNOW, IF THEY
DIDN’T KNOW, THEN I WAS LITERALLY ON MY
OWN.”

–KAREN, WOODFIELD GATE TENANT



“Well [I was] looking for accommodations connected to my disability. So, I’m on ODSP and my ODSP there’s only so much for housing, and Indwell accommodates that... Then I think they match the rest of the amount for the apartment, so there’s a donation or a charitable donation given to the cost of the apartment. So, I’m able to afford it, so affordable is primary.”

Jane, Woodfield Gate tenant



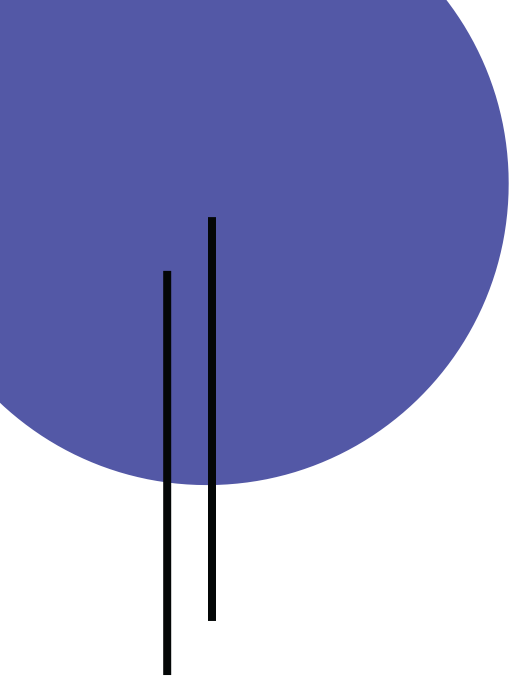
“And just having like ...just having friends in the building that we could kind of still self-isolate with or isolate with, not in a perfect way, but in a, we still need, like I need to be around people for mental health. So, I don't think I, unless I had Indwell and I had like community online, I don't think I made, would've made it through the pandemic without like a hospitalisation.”

Malibu, Woodfield Gate tenant

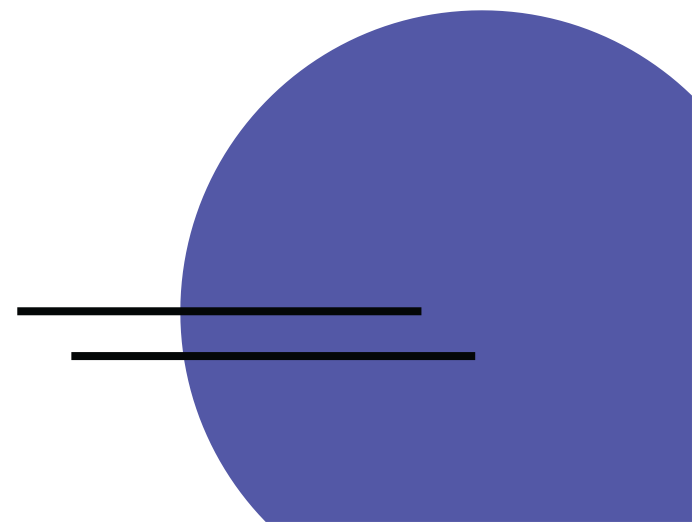
Quantitative Analysis

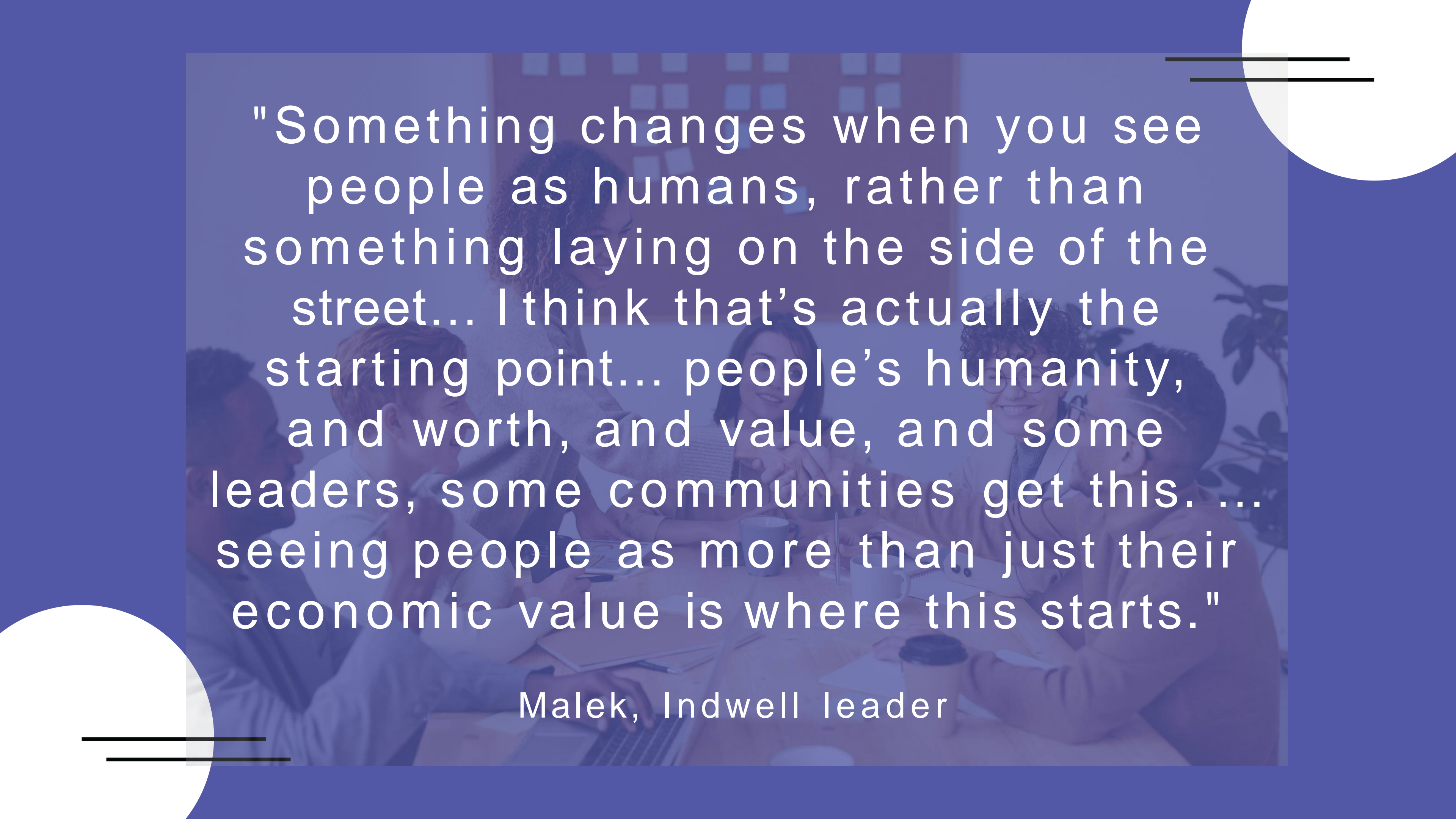
Gain- SS: significant positive changes in behavioural domains (n=20)

Community Integration Scale: positive changes in frequency of social participation, no significant changes in psychological perception of belonging




Making Permanent Supportive Housing Development Work





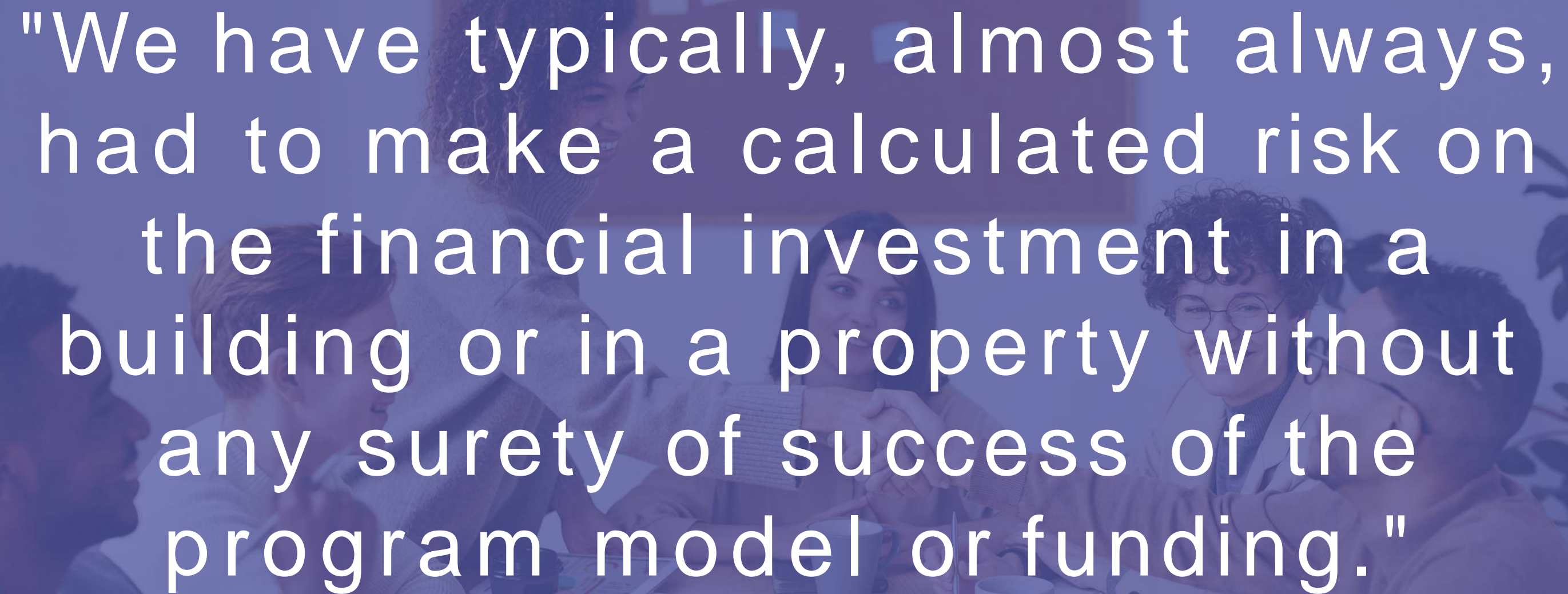
"Something changes when you see people as humans, rather than something laying on the side of the street... I think that's actually the starting point... people's humanity, and worth, and value, and some leaders, some communities get this. ... seeing people as more than just their economic value is where this starts."

Malek, Indwell leader

A group of diverse professionals in a meeting, with a quote overlaid on a blue-tinted background. The quote is in white text. The background image shows several people sitting around a table, engaged in a discussion. There are decorative elements: a white circle with two horizontal lines in the top right, and another white circle with two horizontal lines in the bottom left.

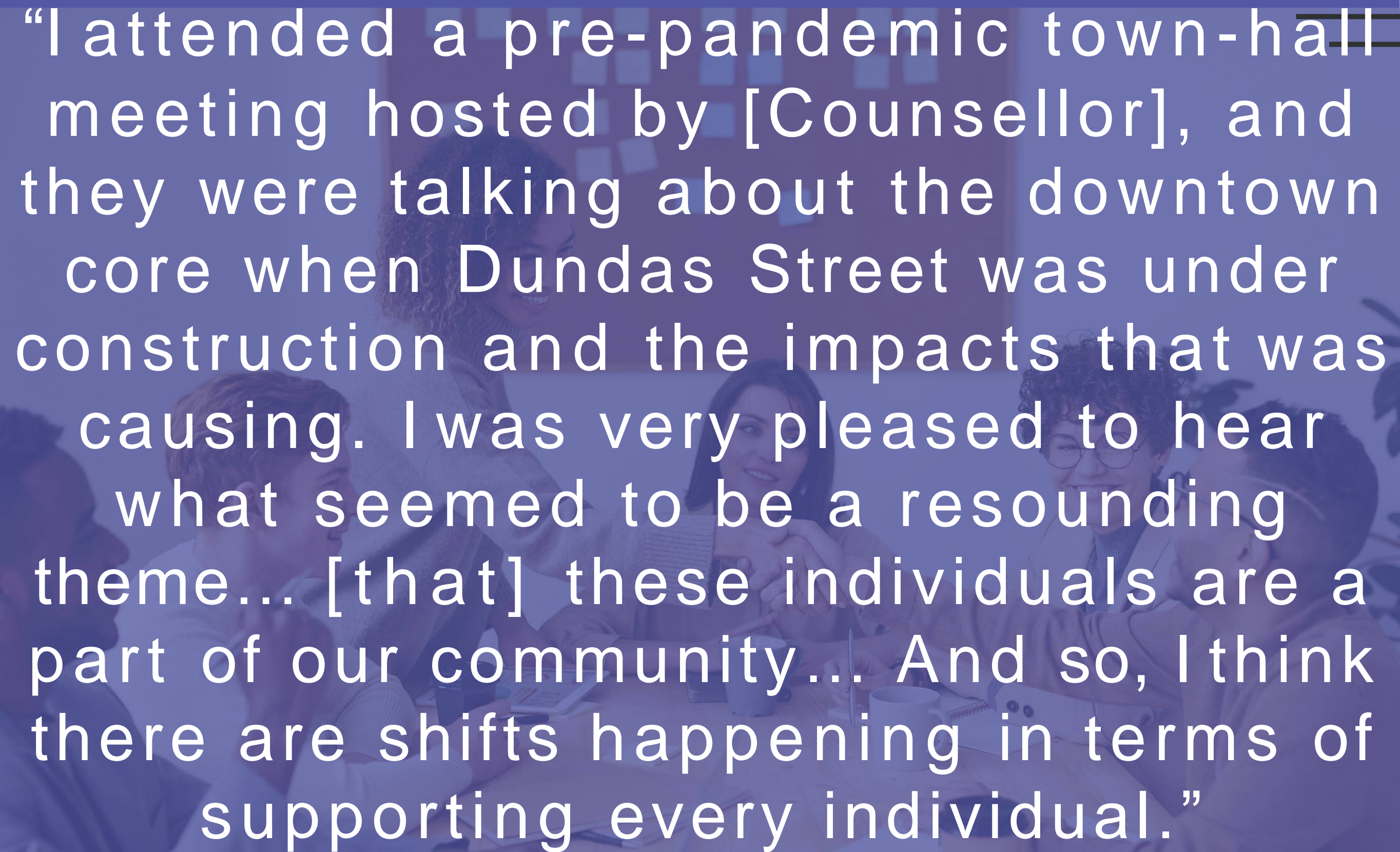
“Interestingly enough, it took 10 years of solid work, up until 2016, to convince any health planner policy decision maker that investment in a supportive housing development and builder and operator was worthwhile.”

Thomas, Indwell leader




"We have typically, almost always, had to make a calculated risk on the financial investment in a building or in a property without any surety of success of the program model or funding."

Aiden, Indwell leader

A group of diverse people in a meeting, overlaid with a blue semi-transparent rectangle containing text. The background image shows several individuals sitting around a table, engaged in conversation. The text is white and centered within the blue rectangle.

“I attended a pre-pandemic town-hall meeting hosted by [Counsellor], and they were talking about the downtown core when Dundas Street was under construction and the impacts that was causing. I was very pleased to hear what seemed to be a resounding theme... [that] these individuals are a part of our community... And so, I think there are shifts happening in terms of supporting every individual.”

Joan, Indwell leader

A group of diverse business professionals are gathered around a table in a meeting room. They are engaged in a discussion, with some looking at documents and others looking towards each other. The room has a grid pattern on the wall and a potted plant. The image is overlaid with a blue semi-transparent layer, and a quote is written in white text across the center. There are decorative white circles and black lines in the corners of the image.

"I love the creativity of seeing what doesn't exist and trying to make it happen. Finding the unlikely allies, the resources that aren't automatically fitting together and saying, ahh, that's the puzzle that fits here."

Aiden, Indwell leader

Best Practice Overview





What:

Overcoming barriers:

-
- Navigate complex funding
 - Create affordable housing
 - Consistent innovation
- 



Who:

Right people and the right partners:

- Dedicated direct support staff & leadership
 - Community involvement
 - Values based approach
- 



Why:

Ending homelessness for Canada's most vulnerable:

- Support tenancy
 - Healthy living environments
 - Professional, on-site services
- 





Thank you.

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