

SHELTER

HELP

HOPE



As the days grow longer and blossoms brighten our world, spring arrives with a gentle promise of renewal. At Bethlehem Inn, this season reminds us of the fresh starts and new hope that are possible for everyone—especially for the adults and children who come through our doors seeking help.

Because of your kindness and continued support, lives are being transformed. You're helping provide not just shelter and meals, but a sense of safety, dignity, and the tools to begin again. In this newsletter, we're honored to share stories of resilience and renewal, highlight upcoming events that bring us together, and offer meaningful ways you can continue to make a difference. Together, we are planting seeds of hope and growing brighter futures—one step, one person, one act of compassion at a time.

Thanks to you, this story of hope became a reality:

♥ Story of Hope

Matt H. knows a thing or two about the kindness of strangers. He credits many of them with helping him emerge out of despair and addiction. Matt is a Veteran of the U.S Navy, who served in posts all over the world. He was in south Texas looking to start over after a painful divorce. Turned out his best friend from high school lived in Bend. Matt got here, got work and ran smack into Bend's housing prices. He stayed in a motel for a while burning through what little cash he had. Insult to injury, he wrecked his car. He got in touch with COVO (Central Oregon Veterans Outreach) where a kind stranger named Allison told him about Bethlehem Inn. With no car, Matt called a taxi. Another stranger named Danny picked Matt up, found out he was now a homeless vet, refused to take his money, drove him to Jake's Diner, a popular eatery with vets and then on to Bethlehem Inn. Enter a whole raft of strangers, the staff of the Inn. Matt was struck by the kindness and support from everyone. He also got the Inn staff's message, loud and clear: "Look for work. Look for housing. You do the work. We'll help."

Which they did: stronger connections with veterans support groups, leads on work. Matt did well...until he didn't. He didn't stay sober and had to leave the Inn. But after a stretch of once again being clean and sober, he returned to the Inn. This time, Matt was all in. And the Inn staff was always there to help and encourage. He got in touch with yet another stranger, a woman named Mary at the VA who helps vets with housing challenges. He now has an apartment. He's been clean and sober for nearly three years and has just started working in a counseling position at one of the region's premier drug and alcohol treatment programs. In that job, Matt is now doing what others did for him: being a stranger who helps others find their way to a better life.

Matt is sober, safe, and able to turn his story into action because of your support. If you are able to help support other residents at this time, please click the button below to make your gift of compassion.



Heartbeat of the Shelter

Your support enables Bethlehem Inn to offer shelter, assistance, and, most importantly, hope to the most vulnerable members of our community. We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated staff, who take the time to sit with residents and begin with a simple yet powerful message: "I know things are tough right now, but I'm here with you. How can we work together to help you move forward?" In this edition, we'd love to introduce you to our Kitchen Manager, Bethlyn, who is working to reignite our Work Experience Program, so folks staying at Bethlehem Inn can gain applicable job skills. Click below to hear her vision.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

Volunteer Gratitude

Volunteer Spotlight: Newcomers of Bend Serving with Heart

At Bethlehem Inn, volunteers play an essential role in creating a warm and welcoming space for our residents. This month, we're thrilled to shine the spotlight on the Newcomers Club of Bend (NCOB) and their dedicated meal-serving group, the INNcomparable Cooks. Their commitment to service has been a meaningful part of our community for over a decade.



What is NCOB?

The Newcomers Club of Bend is a social organization open to all, whether they are new to Bend or simply looking to build connections and explore new activities. In 2013, NCOB members decided to add a service element to their social calendar, leading them to Bethlehem Inn, where they formed the INNcomparable Cooks.

A Tradition of Giving

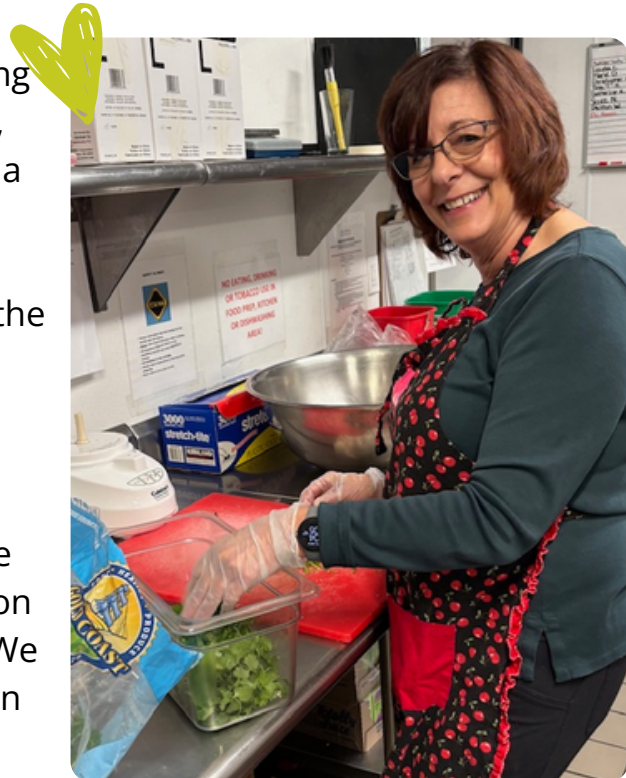
Over the past 12 years, NCOB has maintained an active presence in our kitchen. Their volunteer-driven cooking groups, each consisting of about ten members, prepare and serve meals every three months. The groups are entirely self-funded, with members contributing toward meal costs, and many of the original volunteers from 2013 are still serving today!

More Than Just a Meal

Beyond nourishing meals, the INNcomparable Cooks bring creativity and camaraderie to Bethlehem Inn. One group, led by Mimi, has turned their small but mighty team into a well-oiled machine, forming deep friendships with each other and the Inn's staff.

"We don't think we could manage in the kitchen without the illustrious, cheerful, and calm Elijah," Mimi shared. "He makes us feel like we actually know what we're doing!"

Their mealtimes come with a touch of extra care, decorating tables with colorful tablecloths to brighten the dining experience. Residents often ask if a special occasion is being celebrated, to which the group happily replies, "We just wanted to make it a bit more cheerful, every meal can feel like a party!"





A Recipe for Connection

Among their most popular dishes is a flavorful enchilada casserole, served with roasted veggies, a large green salad, and homemade brownies or cookies for dessert. The clementines they offer as an extra treat disappear just as quickly as the sweets!

The NCOB volunteers cherish their time at Bethlehem Inn, knowing that a warm meal and a welcoming space can make a difference for those in need. Their story is a testament to the power of community, and we hope it inspires others to get involved.

Thank you, NCOB and the INNcomparable Cooks, for bringing generosity and joy to our table!

Get Involved 



July 25th, 2025

Summer is just around the corner, and so is **Extraordinary Hearts** our annual volunteer appreciation event! Mark your calendars for **Friday, July 25th, from 5–7 PM at Shevlin Park**, where we'll be firing up the grill and celebrating the incredible heart and dedication of our volunteers.

Expect juicy burgers, sizzling hot dogs, and ice-cold drinks all on us! Plus, we've got **raffles, games, and plenty of good vibes to go around.** Whether you've given an hour or a hundred, this night is all about YOU!

Bring your friends and family, and let's celebrate another amazing year together! See you there!



Sign Up

HAULIN' ASPEN

Half As, Half & Full Trail Marathon

BEND, OREGON

August 9th, 2025

This will be Bethlehem Inn's second year participating in the Haulin' Aspen! Join as a participant in the race, or as a volunteer at the race representing the Inn. Volunteers at the event will spend the morning/afternoon cheering on, and hydrating, racers as they run 6 miles, 13 miles, and 26 miles through the Deschutes Forest just south of Bend. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to support the Inn, be outside, and be a part of one of Central Oregon's iconic foot races!

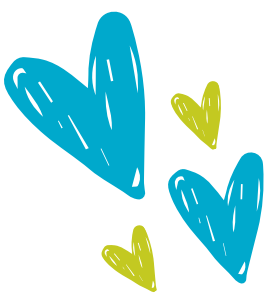
Email Jordon for more information at volunteer@bethleheminn.org



Current Needs:

- ☐ JAM/JELLY
- ☐ MENS UNDERWEAR
- ☐ USDA EGGS
- ☐ BREAKFAST SAUSAGE
- ☐ LOTION
- ☐ FRESH OR CANNED VEGGIES
- ☐ 33G/13G TRASH BAGS
- ☐ TRAVEL SIZED SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER
- ☐ TOILET PAPER
- ☐ BLEACH





Thank you to our Community Partners!

