

## ANGEL – SPRING 2020

By the time Angel Mullins, mom and U.S. Army veteran, arrived at Bethlehem Inn, she was ready to give up. Ready, she says through tears, to hand her kids over to social services. She had hit bottom hard when the two younger kids who were with her asked, “Will we ever be warm again?”



The Inn staffer who welcomed her was compassionate but clear: “No, Angel. You’re not going to give up. WE’RE not going to give up.” Angel says, “It was a huge turnaround.” Angel had come home to central Oregon after escaping an abusive relationship. She was working hard but just couldn’t make ends meet and could find no place to live that she could afford. She and the kids lived in a hotel. They lived in a tent. In a motor home. In their car. Winter was coming on. Then came that wrenching question, “Will we ever be warm again?”

Desperate, Angel came to Bethlehem Inn. There were rules, structure. She and the kids were safe and warm and fed. Angel says, “My case manager was the most amazing woman I’ve ever met.” She laughs now as she recalls, “At first, I thought she was mean. But no. She’s honest...and she’s real. Exactly what I needed.”

Inn staff helped her connect with benefits she didn’t know were available. Angel found a job. With help from Inn staff and HUD, she found a home. Angel says she will return to the Inn...to volunteer. To be there as Inn staffers tell new arrivals what they told her, “No. You’re not going to give up. WE’RE not going to give up. Now let’s get busy.”