

## **BETHLEHEM INN PASSES \$7 MILLION BENCHMARK BOLSTERED BY SUPPORT FROM LOCAL BUILDERS AND REALTORS**

*Bend, OR.* - Thursday evening, February 22nd, marked the “Grand Conclusion” of a friendly competition between Central Oregon builders and realtors who have joined together to support Bethlehem Inn’s *Transforming Lives Together* Capital Campaign. Members of the Central Oregon Builders Association (COBA) and the Central Oregon Association of Realtors (COAR) gathered at the Inn’s under-construction Family Residence and Service Hub for a tour of the facility, special program and surprise campaign announcement.

Campaign Chair Heather Tennant Salvesen announced that the Inn has now raised over \$7 of the \$9 million needed to replace the Inn’s aging buildings with facilities needed to serve more people, more effectively and with greater cost efficiency. COAR and COBA members have collectively generated more than \$760,000 to support the campaign to completely rebuild the Bethlehem Inn campus.

“COAR and COBA members have gone above and beyond to show their support for this campaign,” says Bethlehem Inn Executive Director Gwenn Wysling. “This collaboration and caring spirit demonstrates the true heart of our community. Our growth would not be possible without the shared commitment of so many who are rallying behind this campaign.”

In the friendly competition between regional builders and realtors, Bethlehem Inn declared COBA as the winner in the total giving category. According to Salvesen, “Realtors (COAR) had an edge for total number of givers, and COBA builders led the way on total giving. It was a tight competition and the builders edged out on top.” The prize: bragging rights and top billing on the recognition signage that will be installed in the new facility.

Construction is progressing on the Inn’s new 18,100 square foot Family Residence and Service Hub, located at 3705 N. Highway 97 in Bend. When complete in summer 2018, the new facility will double capacity for serving families experiencing homelessness, replacing a dilapidated five family shelter with room for 10 families at any given time. The *Transforming Lives Together* capital campaign continues with focus on raising the additional \$2 million required to complete the rebuilding of Bethlehem Inn, including a new facility for single men and women. To learn more about the Inn’s *Transforming Lives Together* capital campaign, visit. [www.bethleheminn.org](http://www.bethleheminn.org). Follow the Inn on Facebook and Instagram.

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