

bethlehem Linn *Twenty Years of Hope*

RESTORING HOPE FOR TWENTY YEARS! Winter 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago, the caring community of Central Oregon said "Enough! Something must be done," and this is when Bethlehem Inn came to be. This act of kindness equates to *thousands* of lives that have been touched by the Inn's mission and work to transform lives. This also includes the engaged activities of thousands of volunteers and donors who help day after day and year after year to make a positive impact in service to others in our community. This responsibility has been taken seriously. The need continues and the Inn strives to be here for each unique story, individuals and families, deserving of respect, empathy and safety.



In a period where homelessness is at a tragic level across the nation, we encourage all Central Oregonians to stand shoulder to shoulder with us to care for those less fortunate.

Residents, staff, partner agencies and supporters recognized the important work of Bethlehem Inn and thus a permanent home was finally achieved. As the *Transforming Lives Together* Capital Campaign came to a close and the full campus expansion was finally completed, the gratitude continues for all who made this possible. Thanks to you and our community, twice as many families and 30% more single adults have access to vital navigational and transitional services. What this means is that the beacon of hope shines brightly for an additional 50 people each night!

Your continued support and involvement is needed and greatly appreciated! Please donate today by visiting bethleheminn.org/donate/donation-form/ and know that your donation helps to end homelessness one individual and one family at a time.

In Gratitude,



Gwenn Wysling
Executive Director

Meet our Facilities Manager, **CRISTAL!**

Cristal is our incredible Facilities Manager, making sure all of the Inn buildings and their services meet the needs of residents, volunteers and staff. Cristal believes that a clean and well-functioning facility offers folks a positive first impression of the safety and services Bethlehem Inn gives to the people we serve. As a teenager she wanted to make a difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness so her work at the Inn has a very special meaning for her.



Cristal began her career at Bethlehem Inn almost 12 years ago as a Resident Monitor. As the Inn grew, Cristal grew too, ultimately into her position as Facilities Manager. She's seen and experienced a lot in her days here, and still remembers the residents she met on her first day. She hopes that she's been able to make a difference in their lives, and we know she has!

Thank you, Cristal, for all that you do; not only keeping the facility running so efficiently, but also keeping the people we serve safe and secure!

Meet **LISA & CHERYL**

Volunteers Extraordinaire!

Lisa and Cheryl, friends for over 15 years, found some spare time on their hands and knew that they wanted to give back somehow. They decided, after learning of the Inn's program in helping people through a rough time and enabling them to get back on their feet, to volunteer at the Inn.



Lisa has now been a dedicated volunteer at the Inn for almost five years, originally at the front desk and now assisting the Development Department with filing and various projects. Cheryl has been volunteering for almost two years. They truly enjoy the staff but the opportunity to volunteer for a program that helps people in need is the most rewarding of all.

Thank you, Lisa and Cheryl, for being the extraordinary volunteers the Inn needs to run smoothly! We appreciate you!

Another **SUCCESS STORY** made possible by **YOU!**

Nicole and Noah's Story

When she first thought about going to Bethlehem Inn, Nicole was scared. "I was sure it would mean horrible staff, horrible food, horrible everything." The reality could not have been further from that. Nicole and her fiancée, Noah, had lived in Central Oregon for two years. They were both working: he as a roofer, she at a supermarket. Their 10-year-old daughter was with them and later they had a baby. Things went well until they didn't. The home they rented was yanked out from under them even though they never missed a payment.

Then Noah ran into health challenges which meant cutting his work hours. The demands of child care also meant Nicole had to work fewer hours. With no place to live and shrinking paychecks, they were in crisis. So they came to "scary" Bethlehem Inn. Nicole laughs about that now. "The staff became my advocates. When I felt like giving up, they were there to encourage me." The staff pointed Nicole toward helpful housing search tools and they got busy. Nicole found a better-than-ever job. Noah was able to get medical help and can now work more. Nicole's dad is helping with child care. Their efforts to find a home paid off. Nicole now calls the Inn "...a godsend. A place to call home for a time, to feel safe, to get help." Nicole says it beautifully: "I was afraid Bethlehem Inn would be the end of the road. Turns out it was just the beginning."

Your support helps people just like Nicole and Noah get back on their feet. Please donate today.





SUPPORT THE INN through Amazon Smile!

Did you know that you can support the Inn through your online shopping with Amazon? Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to us!

Please check it out at **smile.amazon.com** and support us every time you shop!



UNDERSTANDING SHELTERS

Bethlehem Inn is a high-barrier emergency homeless shelter and serves up to 150 adults and children experiencing homelessness each night. The Inn's newly expanded facility allows us to provide this record-breaking level of service. Bethlehem Inn provides residency criteria and a case management program to support individuals and families to achieve agreed upon goals.

Our primary focus is the safety and security of the Inn's residents, who are actively participating in the Inn's program on a daily basis. During the cold weather season, we extend our intake times into the evenings to provide individuals additional opportunities to enter into our regular programs and/or provide limited warming shelter bed space (if available) to individuals who cannot enter into our program. We ask individuals to call ahead for potential evening intake.

To help clarify the services offered by high-barrier shelters and low-barrier shelters (warming shelters), below is a brief overview of each shelter type:

HIGH BARRIER

Bethlehem Inn

MUST PASS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEST PRIOR TO INTAKE AND RANDOMLY DURING THEIR STAY.

CANNOT BE A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER.

BETHLEHEM INN HAS A 5-WEEK CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. PAST THAT, STAY IS BASED ON GOAL SETTING. AS LONG AS AN INDIVIDUAL IS SETTING GOALS AND REACHING GOALS, THEIR STAY CAN BE EXTENDED ACCORDING TO THEIR SITUATION.

BETHLEHEM INN WORKS HARD TO ENSURE A CLEAN AND SOBER LIVING ENVIRONMENT TO SUPPORT IN THE RECOVERY AND SOBRIETY OF RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN ITS PROGRAMS.

LOW BARRIER

Warming Shelters

THERE ARE NO REQUIREMENTS OF BEING CLEAN, SOBER, OR SEX OFFENDER STATUS

PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE NO OTHER OPTION ARE ACCEPTED AS THEY ARE AND PROVIDED A SAFE, WARM PLACE OF SHELTER

EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT SHELTER ONLY, ALL INDIVIDUALS MUST LEAVE SITE EACH MORNING

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT WE DO, IT'S HOW WE DO IT TOGETHER!

HELP US MEET SOME URGENT NEEDS

We are currently in need of the following:

- Wash Cloths
- Laundry Detergent (High Efficiency - Liquid)
- Ice Melt
- 33 Gallon Trash Bags
- Gift Cards (Grocery, Retail and Gas)
- Granola and Cereal Bars
- Sliced Lunch Meat and Cheese
- Ramen and Cup O'Noodles
- Fruit/Applesauce Cups

To see a complete list of our immediate needs please visit bethleheminn.org/donate/currentneeds/



GET INVOLVED

Our need for volunteers continues to grow.

An increase in the number of people requiring Inn services means we are seeking additional volunteers to help in the following areas:

- To help organize donations Mondays & Thursdays
- To help process Inn laundry Mondays, Tuesdays & Saturdays
- Meal preparers and servers. This is a great opportunity to rally your church, business, friends or family to join you in serving a nutritious meal once a month
- To help with coverage of our front desk

Please contact Courtney at 541.322.8768 ext. 11 or visit bethleheminn.org/volunteer/ for other volunteer opportunities and a list of available meal dates.



Please join Our **BLUE BAG** Program!

One fun way to help us fill our pantry is by participating in the Blue Bag Program. It's a fun and simple way to share food and help meet the demands of the Inn's Emergency Meal Program.

HOW IT WORKS:

Share food: Ask for the reusable blue bag that will include a list of items needed by the Inn.

Invite others: Ask your neighbors and friends to get their own blue bag or when you drop off your filled bag, pick up some extra bags for your friends.

Drop off: Deliver your filled bag to the Inn Front Desk at your convenience.

For more information please contact Stephanie at stephanie@bethleheminn.org or 541.322.8768 ext. 16

DONATION HOURS

We accept donations **Monday - Friday from 9am - 4pm**. If you have donations that you'd like to drop off outside of these hours, please contact Courtney at volunteer@bethleheminn.org or 541.322.8768 ext.11 to schedule an appointment.