

JIM – FALL 2020

When Jim B. arrived at Bethlehem Inn, he says he was, “...in a really dark place.” Jim has faced hurdles all his life. Mental health challenges created most of them. A three-decade career in Oregon state government service ended abruptly. A lump sum pension lasted only so long. Untreated mental illness meant other jobs were won and lost. Money kept running out.



He was headed for life on the street when friends told him about the Inn. Jim didn't know what to expect but his first impression and every one after that has been positive. His efforts to get badly needed disability support finally paid off thanks to Inn staff working in coordination with Deschutes County Behavioral Health.

He got help from Inn staff signing up with the Oregon Health Plan so he could get badly needed medications. The words Jim uses most often when asked about his experience at the Inn are, “helpful” and “resources”. The Inn, he says, “has made a huge difference in my life.”

Jim is saving money now and searching for housing. The COVID-19 pandemic is delaying his departure from the Inn but that day will come. Over and over, Jim says he is deeply grateful that, with help from Inn staff, his life hurdles have been overcome and replaced with hope and promise.