



# SHELTER HELP HOPE

Happy September! As summer slowly transitions into fall, we would share how grateful we are for having the opportunity to see so many familiar faces and meet so many new people at a wide variety of events this summer.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary of helping people find their silver lining, we would like to thank you and our community for giving us the opportunity to serve over 1,000 people each year in our Bend and Redmond facilities.

In our September newsletter, you'll read how your support has helped a former resident, upcoming opportunities to help the vulnerable people in our community and some insights on our fantastic staff and volunteers.

Here's just one of the many stories that your support helps make possible.



# Story of Hope

Former resident Mel calls Bethlehem Inn "home...until you can find a permanent home." Mel came to Bend from the Oregon Coast to escape an abusive relationship. A plan to live with a relative fell through and Mel and her five kids found themselves in a motel she couldn't afford.

Money and hope were running out when she heard about Bethlehem Inn. She says, "When you hear 'shelter,' you think 'bunk beds...dark...dreary.'" The Inn was an eye-opening experience.



"My kids' eyes lit up when they saw our room and started running around and picking their beds." Inn staff, working with the Family Access Network Advocate, made sure the kids stayed in the schools where they were known and comfortable. Mel had been a stay-at-home mom for years. She was painfully shy and landed a job that would mean all-day contact with the public. With encouragement from Inn staff and co-workers, she met the challenge with grit and grace. Next up: finding housing. "No one will take me with five kids," she thought. But she kept at it and with guidance from Inn staff and NeighborImpact, she now has a house of her own. The kids, in Mel's words, "...are thriving." Mel came to the Inn, "...like a door mouse...shy...scared." She has grown and flourished. She says she has found her voice and her strength and, with a lot of thanks to Bethlehem Inn, a promising future.

Mel and her family are safe and stable thanks to your support. If you are able to give at this time, please click the button below to make a gift of compassion.



# Heartbeat of the Shelter

Your support allows Bethlehem Inn provides shelter, assistance, and, most importantly, hope for our community's most vulnerable population. We are so lucky to have dedicated staff that sit down with participants and begin with a simple statement: "I know it's tough right now, but I'm here with you. How do we get you out?" We'd thought you'd like to meet a few staff members who play an integral role in the services we provide.

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## Jason - Site Coordinator at BIRCH

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my job is interacting with residents and overseeing their progress through case management. People are often surprised to learn that our work goes beyond housing assistance, encompassing employment support, health resource connections, and community engagement. I wish more people understood the depth of understanding and personalized support that goes into being a case manager here at Bethlehem Inn, where we strive to rewrite positive endings for our residents' stories.



## Jared - Program Manager

Interacting with the genuine and down-to-earth members of our society is one aspect of my work that I particularly cherish. Surprisingly, many people are taken aback when they learn about my work with the homeless population, often holding misconceptions about their nature. Yet, the most rewarding aspect of my job is witnessing the resilience of our residents, which serves as a humbling perspective on life.

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# Harvest for Hope

Starting in September, Bethlehem Inn is launching our Harvest for Hope food drive campaign as a part of Hunger Action Month. The days are getting shorter and cooler and the summer is coming to an end, signalling families to begin their back-to-school preparation and shopping. As you shop for your kids' breakfast and lunch, consider grabbing something extra for the folks here at Bethlehem Inn. Check out the list below to see how you can make an impact.

## Grocery List

- Granola Bars
- Oatmeal
- Coffee
- Cereal
- Fruit Cups
- Ramen Noodles
- Snack Packs

If you would like us to shop on your behalf, please click the "Give" button. Every dollar will be matched up to \$10,000 thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor! If you prefer to shop online, check out our Amazon Wish List below.



# Volunteer Gratitude

This summer, the gratitude for our volunteers was celebrated at the first Extraordinary Hearts event in four years. We are so thankful for those who give back to their community and help to support Bethlehem Inn's mission.



"It feels so good to give back when your own life has been so blessed. It could be me on the other side of the desk."  
-Marie

"To help Papa"  
-Tadeuse

"The people, I love seeing people get help. It is wonderful!"  
-Connie

"I enjoy making an impact on my local community and also working alongside the amazing staff!"  
-Kevin

"I love volunteering at BI because it allows me to serve a population of our community I would not engage with in my normal day to day life. It is a privilege that blesses me greatly"  
-Steve

"I enjoy doing something constructive in the company of positive and caring people"  
-Rich

"I have been retired for nearly 18 years and promised myself I would volunteer in my 'next life'. I found my calling with my second family, my group #4 of 'Inn-Comparable Cooks'. We have, for the most part, been together for most of 10 years. We're more than team members - we're friends - and we're committed to the mission of bringing healthy meals to BI."  
-Valerie



"Love the support and guidance given  
to those in need"

-Tom

"I love being a volunteer because it  
fills my heart with joy and gratitude"

-Alan

"Because I receive so much more than I give!"  
-Jane

"Bethlehem Inn has long been one of the  
organizations making an active, positive impact in the  
lives of Central Oregonians. I enjoy supporting a team  
committed to providing action and solutions when most  
turn away."

-Max

