

# bethlehem Inn shelter • help • hope

## Spring 2014 Newsletter

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### **The Inn's Current Needs**

#### **Feel like helping out today?**

Our immediate needs include:  
Lunch meat, sliced cheese, fresh fruit, salad dressing and sliced bread.

**For a list of more items needed please visit our website at [bethleheminn.org](http://bethleheminn.org)**

### **You're Invited!**

First-timers and old-timers alike are invited to join us for our annual Open House scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, from 3:00 - 5:00pm. Get to know the staff, have a tour and see first-hand how YOU make a difference!

### **Dear Friends,**

And so once again, we gingerly step into Spring here in Central Oregon. It is a time of renewal and fresh beginnings. In past years, it was also a time when the Bethlehem Inn experienced a relative lull in families and individuals seeking shelter. This year that lull has yet to happen. Currently, it is not unusual for there to only be 3 or 4 empty beds available in our singles unit for both men and women; the family units are consistently at capacity.



Some might ask what is different this year. Well, the availability of affordable housing in Bend and to some extent in Redmond has plummeted in the past 6 months. Rents have started going through the roof and it is not unusual to be competing with a dozen other applicants for a single unit. We have working men, women and families staying with us that cannot overcome these very real barriers to housing. Even people with vouchers, which guarantee a level of state support, struggle.

There are no easy answers. Over the past two years, the Inn served 1,600 adults and children with 129,406 meals. Additionally, the Inn gave 2,195 food boxes to people in crisis. This year the Inn will mark the 15th anniversary of the Inn providing emergency services to men, women and children experiencing homelessness.

We are able to mark this milestone because of the generosity of our community...It is people like you, who allow us to continue to provide the basics of life to those less fortunate. So, I urge you to please continue to support us in whatever way you can; knowing you are making a BIG difference in the lives of hundreds! Please make a donation today by visiting [bethleheminn.org](http://bethleheminn.org)



Gwenn Wysling  
Executive Director

## You Can Make a Difference!

April 6 - 12 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week, so what better time is there to thank YOU, our community, for your continued support? The Inn would not be where it is today without the outstanding contributions of our community members, Board of Directors, financial and in-kind donors, businesses, agencies and service organizations. On behalf of everyone at the Inn, thank you for your kindness and genuine concern for those who are facing homelessness.

Our annual "Extraordinary Hearts" Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon recognized the contributions of our front desk and administrative volunteers as well as the thousands of meal preparers who made and served over 67,400 nutritious meals in 2013! Wow!

## Resident Story

### Susie Britz, Former Resident

Suze Britz took the long way home. Born in Bend, young Suze went from one foster home to another. As an adult, her life started to come together. She became a social worker and married.

But the sudden death of her husband left her struggling financially and resulted in one move after another.



In 2013, Suze's birth mother tracked down Suze and her teenage daughter, Hailee, while they were living in Hawaii. She asked them to return to Bend. Suze made the move, but the relationship did not work. Suze and Hailee were asked to leave. While Suze had just found a job, she and Hailee had no place to stay. They rented a room, but money was running out fast. Suze called Bethlehem Inn.

Now Suze is working in an assisted living facility. Hailee is studying nursing at COCC. The staff at Bethlehem Inn connected them with a transitional housing program.

As she prepared to leave the Inn, Suze wrote a letter to the staff. It reads in part, "Bethlehem Inn doesn't just give you a Band-Aid to fix a broken leg. They help you get your leg set in the right place, so it will heal correctly...You can feel their love and encouragement. Mealtime is an atmosphere of love and acceptance. My daughter's comments with her meals included, 'Someone mixed a lot of love in this food!'" Godspeed, Suze and Hailee. And welcome home.

## Special Thanks To...

Carole DeRose of La Rosa for catering our Extraordinary Hearts Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon! The food was amazing!

Marilyn Lebowitz for providing the delicious cookies to our volunteers that attended the luncheon on April 2nd!



# Bethlehem Inn

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