

# bethlehem Inn shelter • help • hope

## Spring 2015 Newsletter

### The Inn's Current Needs

**Please consider a donation.** Our immediate needs include: 10 oz. cups, paper plates and bowls, 13 and 30-gallon trash bags, #12 lunch sacks, fresh fruit, sliced bread, lunch meat and snacks for sack lunches.

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

### Other ways you can help

#### Vehicle Donations

Do you have an old vehicle you are interested in donating for a tax write-off? If so, please visit [www.centerforcardonations.com](http://www.centerforcardonations.com) for more information

#### Redeemables

Your redeemable cans and bottles are a valuable source of income for the Inn. You can drop them off at the Inn anytime!

#### Planned Giving

Planned giving is a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy, while fulfilling your philanthropic goal of helping adults and children in crisis. It is a legacy that truly benefits the next generation. Please see our website for more information.

### Dear Friends,

Spring always brings to mind new beginnings. And so it is fitting that just days after the start of a new season, it was announced that the Redmond-based non-profit Housing Works had entered into an agreement to purchase the Bethlehem Inn site from Deschutes County. The reasons why the purchase was handled through a third party are complex, but suffice it to say this move will allow the Bethlehem Inn greater flexibility as we prepare for improved facilities. We are very grateful for the past support of the County and look forward to our continuing collaboration.



Every day we see the increased need for our services. Central Oregonians are challenged by a tough affordable housing market and wages that can make self-sufficiency difficult. A recent Housing Alliance study found that it takes an annual income of \$25,800 to afford a one-bedroom apartment in our community! If you compare that to a veteran's pension of only \$12,652 or the average senior citizen's social security income of \$15,181, you'll understand why we are serving so many people in crisis.

The Bethlehem Inn is a critical component in the area's safety net of services. We are committed to offering safety and security to those most vulnerable in our community.

We truly appreciate the community's investment and ask that you continue to support our program.

Please make a donation today by visiting [bethleheminn.org](http://bethleheminn.org).

Gwenn Wysling  
Executive Director

## Volunteers Needed

### Love to cook?

We are currently looking for someone to adopt dinners on the third Monday of each month. We also have quite a few weekend breakfast dates available in the upcoming months. If either of these opportunities appeal to you, please visit our website for details or call Lynn at 541-322-8768 ext. 11 or email her at [lynn@bethleheminn.org](mailto:lynn@bethleheminn.org)

## Community Support

### Fred Meyer's Community Rewards Program

Fred Meyer shoppers can now link their rewards card to a charity of choice for giving! For more information, please visit [www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com)

### AMAZON Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. To select the Inn, please visit [Smile.amazon.com](http://Smile.amazon.com)

## Resident Story

### Kevin Yasuda, Former Resident

Kevin Yasuda found himself with very few choices in the fall of 2014. He had just finished 22 months of a 24-month sentence in Idaho for driving offenses. Once out of jail, he needed to figure out how to move forward with his life.



He knew his first step was to find a job. He was fortunate. He was hired in a sales position, but soon realized that wasn't for him. So, he headed for Bend.

Kevin knew of the Inn's reputation for helping people in need, so he decided to make the call. "I'd never stayed in a homeless shelter before, so I didn't know what to expect" Kevin remembers. "I was worried, but then once I arrived it felt like it was a good fit."

Kevin's case manager encouraged him to seek employment, so he began the process of completing job applications. Miraculously, he was offered work in a retailer's warehouse and one week later he was offered another job in construction. He managed to coordinate the two schedules, so he could keep both jobs!

Over the next 3 months, Kevin worked every hour he could; saving enough money to purchase a vehicle and build a hefty nest egg. During this period, Kevin reached out to people he'd worked with in the past and eventually secured a job near Vancouver, Washington where he now lives.

Kevin attributes his successes to the staff at the Inn..."I didn't know what to expect when I showed up, but the Bethlehem Inn staff gave me everything I needed to succeed," Kevin says. "I truly believe that if you are motivated and work really hard it's possible to put all the pieces together with their help. I don't know what I would have done without their help."

## Your support this past year allowed the Inn to:

- Provide shelter and emergency services to 110 children and 686 adults;
- Serve 74,876 meals with the support of over 2,500 volunteers;
- Distribute 1,119 food boxes to exiting residents and non-residents;
- Provide on-site computer training for residents to assist them in finding housing, employment, and access to other essential services.



# Bethlehem Inn

3705 N. Hwy 97, Bend, OR / 541-389-2820 / [info@bethleheminn.org](mailto:info@bethleheminn.org)

