

bethlehem Inn

shelter • help • hope

It's not just what we do, it's how we do it together!

Spring 2016 Newsletter



Wish List

Are you able to help?

We are in need of the following items:

- plastic forks and spoons
- paper bowls and 8 oz. paper cups
- individual packets of oatmeal; cereal

For a list of our other wish list items please visit bethleheminn.org/donate/other-ways-to-give/



Other Ways To Give

There are many ways to give to support the Inn such as donating a vehicle, stock, volunteering or organizing your own donation drive.

For more information please visit:
bethleheminn.org/donate/

Dear Friends,

Here's to the Inn volunteers! With their generosity and smiles, the possibilities and miracles seem endless.

This month we are honoring the thousands of volunteers that enable the Inn to fulfill our mission. The goal of our Volunteer Program is to provide the community with an opportunity to help people experiencing homelessness. But through that partnership we are personally honored to have the pleasure of working with so many compassionate volunteers, who have decided to engage with the Inn in a way that is meaningful to them.

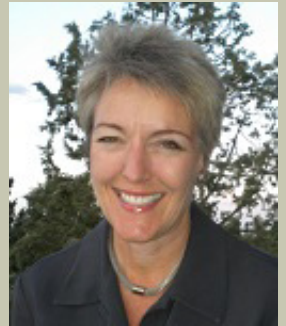
Every day of the year, dozens of community members come to the Inn to help by: managing the Front Office by greeting residents and donors or providing a hot dinner for an average of 75 people each night.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, who donate their time, talent and heart to help the adults and children in our community in crisis. And if you've never volunteered at the Inn, I encourage you to give it a try... it can be a very gratifying experience!

If you're not able to volunteer, but would like to help, please consider donating today.

Warm Wishes,

Gwenn Wysling, Executive Director





Upcoming Events

May 18 - Spring Open House

3:00 - 5:00 ~ Bethlehem Inn

Please join us for a tour and to learn more about the Inn.



October 14 – The Perfect Pair

5:00 – 8:00 ~ Deschutes Brewery

The Deschutes Brewery is the proud sponsor of The Perfect Pair, celebrating the pairing of the Brewery's handcrafted beers and the culinary delights created by local chefs. The Inn will receive all proceeds from the evening. Tickets will go on sale this Fall



Please visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/BethlehemInnBend](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemInnBend) to keep up on current events and news at the Inn!

Tim's Story

"I was hungry, dirty and not used to a helping hand. In my life, I've always been the one who helped the homeless, but was now homeless myself. I was really depressed and had the attitude that I wasn't homeless, but I was."

That was Tim Ballinger reflecting on what he was feeling when he got to Bethlehem Inn. Tim has been an executive chef and was a forest ranger in California for fourteen years. When his stint as a ranger ended, Tim came to Oregon and looked for work. Between jobs in late summer, Tim got into his first and only scrape with the law...a misdemeanor offense that put him in jail for four days. Released, he was broke, jobless and now homeless. Then his lawyer told him about Bethlehem Inn.



While staying at the Inn, he found day labor in Prineville. But one day he had a heart attack on the job and was rushed to the hospital. While there, his first call was to Inn staff. He soon learned he could trust and count on them. They checked on him every day and when he was released, they arranged for his transportation back to the Inn.

Tim credits Inn staff with getting him back on track with structure, rules, chores and goals. He will need heart surgery, but for now he's staying with a friend, applying for jobs. In an email to the Inn staff as he prepared to leave, he expressed his heartfelt thanks for "...your dedication and concern for myself and the homeless population in Central Oregon..."

Meet Our Volunteer/Outreach Staff!

Lynn Edwards, Volunteer Coordinator

Lynn just celebrated her 8th anniversary at the Inn! During that time, she has had the honor of meeting thousands of people, who made the decision to volunteer their heart and talent to help people less fortunate in our community.

"Our volunteers recognize their good fortune and have the desire to give back by helping others."

The Inn could not meet the needs of our Emergency Meal Program and Front Desk without the daily commitment of our volunteers. Every day Lynn feels blessed to meet new volunteers and reconnect with volunteers that she has known for years to simply say THANK YOU for all you do!





Anastasia Rock, Outreach Coordinator

We'd like to introduce Anastasia - our newest member of the team!

As a former Front Desk volunteer, she is humbled by the generosity of our community and their desire to help people in need.

Anastasia is looking forward to sharing her knowledge and stories about the Inn; helping the community understand how supporting individuals less fortunate can be a very rewarding experience.

"When residents successfully transition into stable housing and return to the Inn as a volunteer, I go to bed at night feeling blessed and know that we are getting it right."

- Lynn Edwards, Volunteer Coordinator

Vince Leon, Volunteer



You can catch Vince most days at Bethlehem Inn, not as a resident but as a community volunteer. Many years ago he was a resident, but he now has his own apartment and the ability to pay it forward. So he is now committed to spending as much time as he can serving Inn residents as, in his own words, "Laundry Man." He makes sure sheets, towels and cleaning rags are washed, dried and folded. He says the Inn staff, "never gave up on me" and that is why Vince is now sober and clean. And so is the laundry!

Thank you, Vince for all you do for not only our residents but for our community!

Ed Simper, Volunteer



Ed says he showed up at the Inn "...with all the stereotypes of homelessness in my mind", but what he found "was completely the opposite". He found a stable living environment, a caring and compassionate staff, and he adds "resources at your fingertips...and simple rules." Ed has left the Inn and now works as a journeyman carpenter and trades his skills for a place to live. So now Ed, no longer a resident at the Inn, comes back often as a community volunteer, doing painting, carpentry, and more. Says Ed, "They helped me more than I could ever repay. So I come back to do what I can to help them."

Thank you, Ed for helping us in every way possible!

Volunteers that make a difference!

Meet Our Front Desk Volunteers

Did you know we have over 60 volunteers that provide front desk coverage from 6am - 10pm (each in 2 hour increments) 7 days a week? That equates to almost 4 full time employees! We'd like to THANK YOU for making such a difference for our residents and staff. We couldn't do it without you!



Meet Our Emergency Meal Program Volunteers

1,800 volunteers generously donate their talent and time to make sure each resident and others in crisis enjoy a hot dinner EVERY night of the year! Last year that represented over 72,000 meals along with weekend breakfasts and lunches. We are truly amazed and so very grateful for the giving spirit of our community that gives people less fortunate the opportunity to sit down, take a deep breath and enjoy the company of others, while enjoying a delicious dinner!



We love our volunteers because they care for our residents and remind us of how important the Inn's mission is to the community. They help make Bethlehem Inn a very special place!



Bethlehem Inn

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