



TURNING HURT INTO HOPE SINCE 1999

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As I write this message it's March; the snow is falling and it's freezing cold! These are the kinds of days that I have a feeling of gratitude when I arrive at the Inn. After all, the cold weather is one of the reasons why you and our community help us provide services to people experiencing homelessness. Tonight over 100 people will come to the Inn for a safe, warm bed, a hot dinner and dignity. People like Kellie, who you'll have the opportunity to read about in this newsletter, is one of those people.



Kellie came to the Inn seeking relief. While we were able to provide her with the basic necessities of life, we were also able to help her understand that stable housing should be one of her primary goals. Kellie worked diligently with her case manager to find an appropriate housing option. While it took a bit of time, she is now in transitional housing, awaiting her very own studio apartment. On behalf of all of the people just like Kellie, THANK YOU! With your support, the Inn is not just a respite from the cold, but a stepping stone to stable housing. And with the completion of our new Adult Residence in May, that support will continue in a facility specifically designed for the services provided by Bethlehem Inn.

Your support means so much to those we serve. Please donate today by visiting bethleheminn.org/donate/monetary-donations/. We couldn't do what we do without people like you!

In Gratitude.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tara'.

Tara Feurtado
Next Steps Program Manager



Meet **DALE FOX**, Kitchen Manager!



Dale joined the Inn in August 2018 to oversee our Emergency Meal Program, which currently provides over 90,000 meals each year. Dale shares his great sense of humor, compassion and culinary expertise with over 1,800 meal volunteers, residents and staff on a daily basis. Many of you may have already met Dale, but if you haven't we'd welcome the opportunity to introduce you.

Dale loves to help others through food. "It is the one thing we all need and it puts a smile on our face in difficult times," Dale says, as he prepares dinner for over 100 people on an average day at the Inn. Dale's favorite part about his job is the interaction with

the many volunteers, who are always happy to serve the residents, and to see the joy that is spread through food. He is grateful to "be a part of an organization that helps others get to the next step on their journey in life," and what a journey it is! We are truly blessed to have Dale on our team!



Another **SUCCESS STORY** made possible by YOU!

Kellie's Story...

Kellie had a grown son, a job, a driver's license and a cat. And she had alcohol and meth. She found her way from Arizona to Bend and her sister...and a DUI. She lost her license and headed into rehab. A caring employer held her job for her while she was away. But she was homeless so the rehab staff suggested Bethlehem Inn. Kellie recalls, "I didn't consider myself homeless...but I was."

The Inn welcomed her and, in Kellie's words, "...never made me feel homeless." She credits the Inn's rules with helping her stay clean and sober. As for the staff, "They're awesome. I have nothing but great things to say about them." They pointed her towards a path of housing and health insurance. The Inn was there to help with food, clothing and bus passes. About the staff, "They were always available," says Kellie. "You could talk with them about anything." Now Kellie has been clean and sober for well over a year. She's in transitional housing as she awaits her own studio apartment. A place of her own will mean a reunion with her beloved cat, Sir Walter, who's staying with her sister. Kellie will get her license back, making getting to and from work easier. And her son Patrick? He's thrilled his mom will help him celebrate at his wedding early next year. And to think...all this started when a caring person suggested, "Why don't you call Bethlehem Inn?"



Your support helps people just like Kellie get back on their feet. Please donate today by visiting bethleheminn.org/donate/monetary-donations/.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT Nativity Lutheran Church

Thank You to Our Dedicated Volunteers!

Our monthly meal volunteer groups are the heart of our Meal Program! Without their dedication and help, serving over 90,000 meals annually would be nearly impossible! This month, in honor of our 20th Anniversary, we are highlighting Nativity Lutheran Church. Church members gather to prepare and serve dinner the fourth Friday of each month and have been involved with Bethlehem Inn since the very beginning.

Former Pastor, Milton Hunt, founded the "Bethlehem Inn Project" in 1999. The momentous occasion inspired fellow church leaders throughout Bend to partner with him in addressing homelessness in Central Oregon by opening their churches as temporary shelters in winter.

Congregates and leaders of Nativity Lutheran have supported the Inn since its inception, from their first rotation as the temporary shelter in February of 2000 to their monthly meal service today. Milton's legacy continues through the incredible volunteers, who selflessly give of their time and energy each month. They strive to make sure Inn residents are well fed, clothed, sheltered, and have their basic needs met as they transition to stability.

Thank you, Nativity Lutheran, for twenty years of volunteer service and our sincere gratitude to the late Milton Hunt, for his commitment to helping our community's most vulnerable population!



Transforming Lives Together Capital Campaign Update

We are thrilled to announce that we have raised \$8.6 million in support of our capital campaign! **This means we only have \$400,000 left to raise to reach our \$9 million goal!**

Together, we're confident you can help us reach this milestone! Your gift of any size can help us complete our campaign by August. Please donate today by visiting bethleheminn.org/capital-campaign/ways-to-give/. The new Adult Residence represents the final phase of our capital campaign. And with its completion in just a few short months, people like Kellie will benefit from your support and partnership.

We look forward to keeping you updated as we approach the finish line!

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT WE DO, IT'S HOW WE DO IT TOGETHER!

We would like to introduce our newest board members!



TOP ROW (L TO R): Leticia Aldaco, Tammy Baney, Mark Huffman
BOTTOM ROW (L TO R): René Kesgard, Lauri Miller, Dan Stevens

They join the following members currently serving on the Inn Board of Directors:

Howard Friedman, *President*; Megan Burgess, *Vice President*; Annette Liebe, *Secretary*; Jill Craveiro, *Treasurer*; Glenn Kotara; George Myers; David Gilmore; Mike Bonetto; Dr. Steven Koski

GET INVOLVED

Our need for volunteers continues to grow.

An increase in the number of people requiring Inn services means we are seeking additional volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Meal preparers and servers. This is a great opportunity to rally your church, business, friends or family to join you in serving a nutritious meal once a month
- Volunteers to help with coverage of our front desk
- Volunteers to help in our commercial laundry
- Volunteers to help process donations

Please contact Courtney at 541.322.8768 ext. 11 or visit bethleheminn.org/volunteer/ for other volunteer opportunities and a list of available meal dates.



Please join Our **BLUE BAG** Program!

Our current immediate needs include sliced lunch meat, sliced cheese, ramen, cup o' noodles, granola bars and fruit cups. One way to help us fill our pantry is by participating in the Blue Bag Program. It's a fun and simple way to share food and help meet the demands of the Inn's Emergency Meal Program.

HOW IT WORKS:

Share food: Ask for a reusable bag that will include a list of items needed by the Inn.

Invite others: Ask your neighbors and friends to get their own blue bag or when you drop off your filled bag, pick up some extra bags for your friends.

Drop off: Deliver your filled bag to the Inn Front Desk at your convenience.

For more information please contact Stephanie at stephanie@bethleheminn.org or 541.322.8768 ext. 16

DONATION HOURS

We accept donations **Monday - Friday from 9am - 4pm**. If you have donations that you'd like to drop off outside of these hours, please contact Courtney at volunteer@bethleheminn.org or 541.322.8768 ext.11 to schedule an appointment.