



BETHLEHEM INN

Spring Newsletter 2023

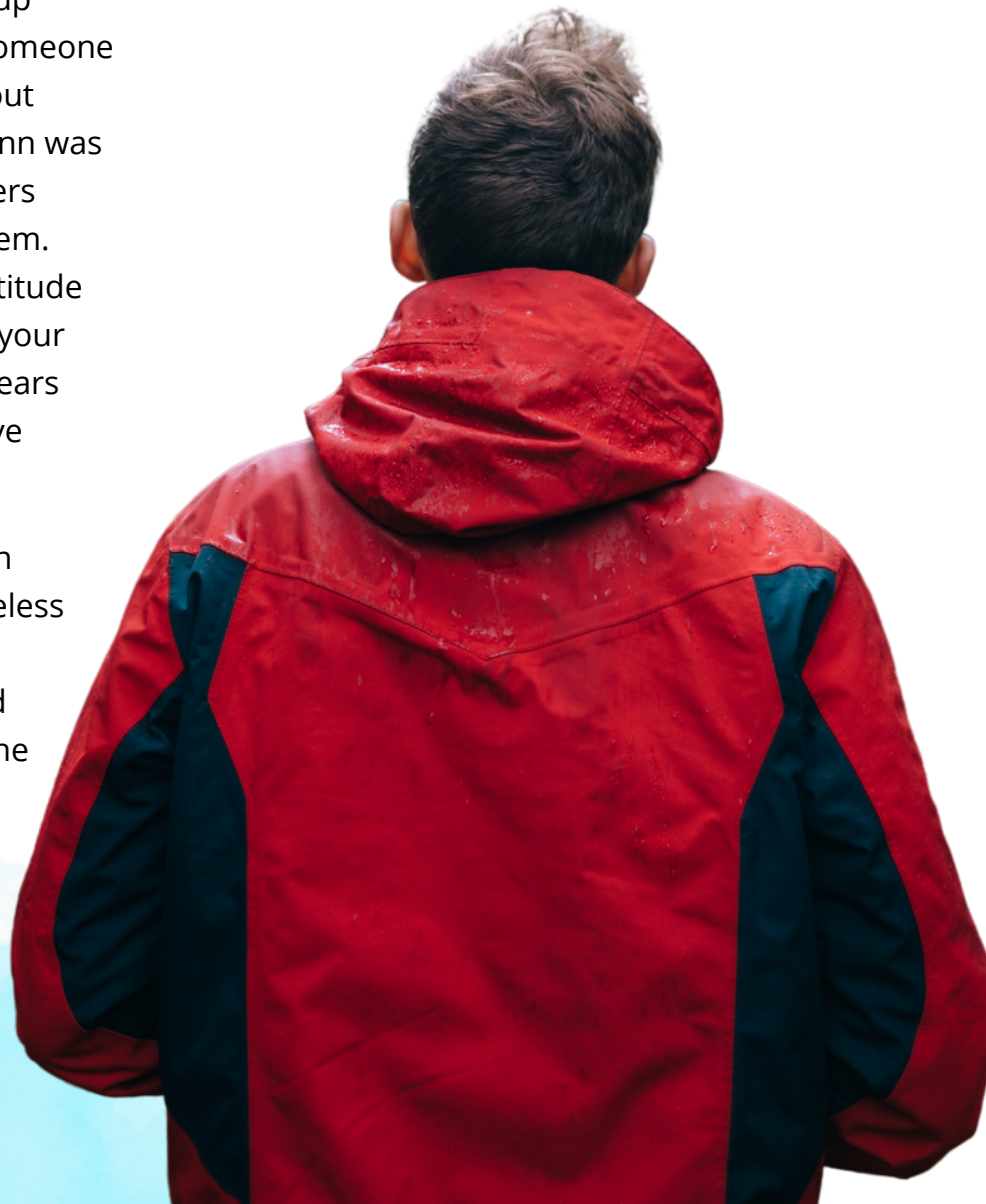


STORY OF HOPE

Montana native Evan U. came to Bend because a friend offered him a place to stay while he looked for work that could take advantage of his experience with sales in the insurance and auto fields. The place to stay didn't work out and none of the jobs Evan found paid anywhere near enough to afford a decent place to live. Money ran out and Evan ended up sleeping in his car. He ran into someone at a Bend park who told him about Bethlehem Inn. Evan says, "The Inn was clean and well-run. Case managers didn't wait for you to come to them. They approached you with an attitude that said, 'Let us help you figure your challenges out.' The Inn is light years ahead of other shelters where I've been."

Evan talks about things at the Inn that many folks who aren't homeless take for granted: a clean, comfortable, safe and structured environment." While staying at the Inn, Evan worked different jobs and saved money thanks to being able to stay at the Inn.

He eventually saved enough to head home to Montana where he now works full time in the forensic mental health unit of a state-run hospital. Evan makes no bones about the fact that Bethlehem Inn was there for him at a point in his life when he needed it most.



VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

Winter this past year meant "community" and "support". Through the winter months, our stalwart volunteers prepped hearty meals, navigated services at the front desk, organized our clothing closets, and supported community events (BINGO especially!).

This spring we are celebrating our volunteers and our community.

Without their support, we would not be what we are today. Bethlehem Inn began as a completely volunteer-run organization in 1999. Over the past twenty-four years we have seen their support swell, matched only by our gratitude for their compassionate service.

From humble beginnings of serving crock pot dinners for a few dozen residents to preparing meals in a commercial kitchen for 150+ people, Bethlehem Inn volunteers have always been here to make a tangible difference for people on the brink.

Throughout this newsletter you will see volunteer contributions of art, time, and dedication.





self-realization

are we good; if not, can we be
can we turn away the convenience of self-promotion
and replace it with self-realization
for it is in self-realization we find the realization
of what has laid dormant for so long
we cannot exist inside ourselves while existing outside of others
for true fulfillment is a fair and just collective of brotherhood
which fills in the gap darkened by intolerance, and indifference
are we lucid; are we well of being
if not, can we be
have we not been divinely equipped to discern helping others
fulfills the contentment that brings us full circle
to our own self-realization
let us realize we can make a difference when we nourish the empty stomach
when we warm the unclothed body
when we shelter the prisoner of the street
and in doing, rehearse the words of gandhi
"in a gentle way we (you) can shake the world"

-Patrick R.
Bethlehem Inn Volunteer

Choices.

Fourteen years ago, I walked into Bethlehem Inn seeking a volunteer position to feel more involved in our community, never realizing what an impact it would have on me. Immediately, I saw how the entire staff accepted and assisted the residents, no judgment involved, just helping them take charge of their lives and get on a healthy path.

The main lesson I've learned from the shelter is that we all are constantly making choices, and those choices are often based on what we were taught growing up.

One morning as I was working at the front desk, a guy was teaching a *Ready to Rent* class to some residents in the adjacent dining room. He started by asking for examples of what was an important thing that the residents had to buy. "Gotta get 5 lottery tickets every Saturday" said one of the residents, hopeful for a solution to his current financial hardships. Without skipping a beat, the instructor responded with empathy "I see this is important to you... let's figure out how much money you'd save in a year buying fewer tickets."

And so they did. Together.

So much respect, non-judgment, accepting another's values that might not match your own while gently reinforcing positive lifestyle changes. And that's what I'm taught every time I volunteer at Bethlehem Inn. Common knowledge is not necessarily common; we all learn different life lessons, like how to handle money, or how to control our emotions, or how we decide to navigate difficult life circumstances. Choices.

Residents choose to come to Bethlehem Inn to get that help to get back on an independent path. The incredible staff provides the knowledge to make informed choices, and accepts those that choose to take the path less traveled.

And I choose to remain a part of this team as long as they'll have me.



Jane Raleigh
Bethlehem Inn Volunteer



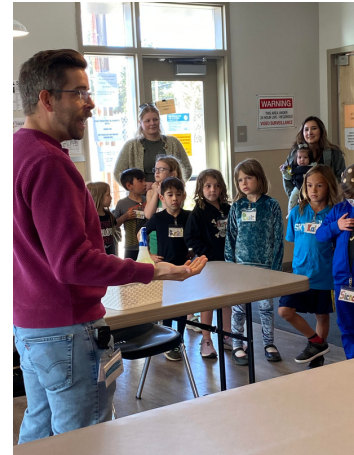
February was the month of compassion. Schools from around Central Oregon came together to make a difference in their community. Support was seen from Terrebonne Community School, to St. Thomas Academy, to Bend International School. Every school found a unique way to support the most vulnerable in the community.

IT'S NOT JUST
WHAT WE DO,
IT'S HOW WE
DO IT *together*

Bend International School students, our neighbors, focused their efforts on actualizing compassion. Each grade from the school combined their efforts to make nine unique works of art (kindergarten-8th grade). Now the Inn's cafeteria is exploding with color and compassion.

Later that month first graders from Maestra Tere's class (pictured right) surprised us with a food drive they'd completed. Working together, they collected dozens of bags of fresh fruit, hygiene supplies, and pantry staples. In-kind donations like this one help Bethlehem Inn provide three nutritious meals every day for up to two hundred residents.





Engaging with youth provides an opportunity to demystify and remove much of the fear that surrounds houselessness. Over the past year, Bethlehem Inn has been engaging schools around Central Oregon and inviting them to *be part of the solution*.

Terrebonne Community School kindergarten class (above middle) worked together to collect canned food, and then made a poster of all of participating students. The kindergartners would later visit Bethlehem Inn Redmond, talk to staff, and tour the kitchen where they could see their donations put to use by other volunteers.

St. Thomas Academy of Redmond (below) raised over \$2000 with a *spare change drive* over the winter months. Hundreds of students searched the deep recesses of their living room couches to make a difference in their community.

Redmond Proficiency Academy High School has been helping make freezer meals for our residents since last November. This spring their middle school jumped in to make chili and chicken tortellini for the Redmond Bethlehem Inn.





BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Start a Fulfilling Career

Working at Bethlehem Inn provides fulfillment through service to others, working collaboratively with experienced and dedicated staff members, and opportunities for personal growth.

☎ 541.322.8768x31

✉ jobs@bethleheminn.org

Volunteer for a Brighter Future

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

☎ 541.322.8768x11

✉ volunteer@bethleheminn.org

Make a Gift In-Kind

Clothing, canned goods, fresh fruit and veggies all make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Make a personal donation or start a drive!

Visit our website for more information. To be added to our in-kind donor list reach out to the contact info below.

☎ 541.322.8768x16

✉ development@bethleheminn.org

Make a Gift of Hope

Every monetary donation makes an immediate impact at Bethlehem Inn, and we could not do it without your support. You can help us provide shelter, help, and hope to Central Oregon's most vulnerable with a one-time or ongoing donation!

☎ 541.322.8768x16

✉ development@bethleheminn.org

Bethlehem Inn is a 501(c)(3)
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