



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

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We are so excited to share news about our *Transforming Lives Together* capital campaign! Many of you who have visited the Inn recently have seen the beginning of our dreams come true! If you haven't stopped by lately, I invite you to come on down!

On May 2nd, the City of Bend gave us the authorization to proceed with plans to construct our new 18,600 square foot Family Residence and Service Hub. When completed in mid-2018, the new facility will double our capacity to shelter homeless families, replacing the aging five-family residence with space for 10 families at any given time. This will be the first facility in Central Oregon specifically designed to support families and individuals transitioning from homelessness to stability.



Our goal is to complete construction without interrupting or diminishing the critical services we provide every day. So, before we start building the new Family Residence, we will install a portable structure that will allow our program to continue operating during demolition and construction.

We expect the new facility to open in about one year. The building will accommodate approximately 120 families each year, which is a 100% increase from our current capacity. The service hub will include our new commercial kitchen and dining facilities, classrooms and program space for services that will help up to 1,150 adults and children transition from homelessness to stability.



We are deeply grateful for our generous community and their donations to our *Transforming Lives Together* capital campaign. With over \$5 million donated or pledged to the campaign, we are well on our way to fulfilling our vision of completely rebuilding the Inn.

If you would like to support our capital campaign or if you have any questions, I invite you to visit bethleheminn.org or give me a call at 541.322.8768 ext.15

Warm Wishes,

Gwenn Wysling
Executive Director



Here is just one example of success: Charleen and Luke's Story

Sometimes the difference between comfortable, stable living and homelessness comes in a flash. For the Dawson family, Luke, Charleen and their daughter, it came in the form of an electrical fire that destroyed the home they rented and almost everything they owned. Luke was already facing life-threatening health issues that ended a fifteen-year construction career. He has heart disease. And epilepsy was found when he experienced a near-deadly seizure while driving. With nowhere to live, they turned to Bethlehem Inn. Their experience? In Charleen's words, "They showed us the steps to take to clear every hurdle we came to. We put in the work, but they were there to point the way." School was still in session and Inn staff, working with the Family Access Network, had their sixth-grader back in class in two days. Bethlehem Inn connected the Dawsons with NeighborImpact for housing assistance. Says Charleen, "Bethlehem Inn just kept opening doors for us. Things like rental denials turned into acceptances." Within two weeks of getting to the Inn, the Dawsons were set to move into rental housing. Luke calls the multi-faceted help "...a circle of care...and a huge stress relief." The Dawsons expressed their gratitude for Bethlehem Inn and acknowledged that the support and their own hard work helped them find their way to a new and promising "normal."



Your support means so much to people and families just like the Dawsons. Please donate today by visiting bethleheminn.org/donate/monetary-donations/.

New Donation Hours

Due to on-site construction, storage is limited. We are now accepting in-kind donations **Monday - Friday from 9am - 4pm**. If you have an in-kind donation that you'd like to drop off outside of these hours, please contact Courtney at 541.322.8768 ext. 11 to schedule an appointment.

Donation Alert!

Construction means less storage space, which requires us to limit the type and quantity of donations we can now accept. Store gift cards and cash are greatly appreciated and preferred as they allow us to purchase items when needed.

Urgent Volunteer Needs

We need your help in preparing and serving meals for residents this summer! Several dates are unfilled. Please visit bethleheminn.org/volunteer for a list of these dates and information on how to sign up to help. We also have ongoing needs for front desk volunteers. Please email Courtney at volunteer@bethleheminn.org for more information on volunteering!

Support Our Virtual Food Drive!

The Inn will serve 70,000 meals this year. However, because our pantry and freezer space is extremely limited due to construction, we are facing some significant challenges.



We are asking for your continuing support of our Emergency Meal Program, while our new building is under construction, through the donation of gift cards and cash rather than in-kind food donations. This will give our staff the ability to purchase meal items as needed.

For more information on this special giving opportunity, please visit bethleheminn.org/virtual-food-drive/.

Save the Date!

The Great Drake Park Duck Race - September 10, 2017



We are thrilled to have been one of the charities chosen to benefit from the Duck Race this year! Tickets are available for purchase through bethleheminn.org/news-events/ or at the Inn.

Proceeds from this year's Duck Race is part of a multi-year pledge from ALL four Bend Rotaries to help us build a new commercial kitchen. Thanks to our local Rotaries and Rotarians, this was the critical seed money that helped launch the project that is now finally underway. The Inn's need for a commercial kitchen and space for all of our residents to dine has been a dream for many years. Thank you Rotary of Bend, Greater Bend Rotary, High Desert Rotary and Mount Bachelor Rotary!



Bethlehem Inn
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