

bethlehem Inn shelter • help • hope

Winter 2015 Newsletter

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The Inn's Current Needs

Feel like helping out today?

Our immediate needs

include: ice melt, coffee, creamer, 10 and 33 gallon trash bags, thermal underwear and hand warmers.

For a list of more items needed please visit our website at bethleheminn.org

You Can Make a Difference!

A heartfelt "thank you!" to each of our many community members, who unselfishly donate their passion, time and resources during the holidays to brighten the days of our residents!

Dear Friends,

There are so many things we take for granted. For many of us having a warm, safe place to lay our heads is not even a thought. But for the 80 to 90 men, women and children who spend each night at the Bethlehem Inn, it's an answer to a prayer.



Everyone who comes to us is in crisis...a family with a special needs child, an elderly gentleman with a disability, a young woman fleeing from domestic abuse. Regardless of their situation, our goal is to give each person a place to call home and a chance to breathe, reflect and chart a new course.

For over fifteen years, the Bethlehem Inn has provided that place to call home with the offerings of shelter, help and hope to thousands of individuals and families. This has only been made possible by YOU and a caring community of volunteers, advocates and partner agencies.

We are so very grateful for the daily reminders from people like you that show us how much our community cares and inspires hope through compassion, generosity of spirit, time, and selfless acts.

Thank you for the special ways you take care of people in need, helping to foster a stronger community and brighter future in Central Oregon. You can continue to help by visiting our website at bethleheminn.org and donating today!

Warm Wishes for a Happy New Year!



Gwenn Wysling
Executive Director

Donation Drives

While the holidays may be over our needs continue throughout the year. Donation drives can be a fun and easy way to help. Everyone from families and friends to businesses and civic groups can easily organize them. It's also a fun way to spice up your next party! We've simplified it all by creating a list of drives and the items needed. Email Lynn at lynn@bethleheminn.org for a list and let us know if you would like to sign up to conduct a drive.

Resident Story

Tina Ferguson



Tina Ferguson has a warm smile, a 12-year-old daughter, an education, her own business...and a mental illness. She is 44 years old now and did not receive a clear diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder with Attention Deficit with Hyperactivity Disorder until she was 39. Her years after high school found her gaining and quitting job after job. Then came a long, tangled attempt to obtain disability benefits. Finally, attentive medical caregivers diagnosed Tina and stabilized her with medication. But by then Tina was homeless. She is very clear that it was her arrival at Bethlehem Inn in early 2013 that helped her stay stable and move forward. In Tina's words, "Bethlehem Inn gave me a hand up, not a hand-me-down. The Inn offered me stepping stones to a new life." Tina recalls one short stretch during which she was slipping into depression and did not realize it. An Inn staff member did and gently prompted Tina to get immediate care.

As for Tina having her own business? That came directly from a conversation Tina had with Inn staffers about next steps. Tina was thinking about starting a housecleaning service. "Perfect," said one staffer, "you should do it. You could call it 'Cleaning Up with Tina.'" So, in January 2014, Tina, confident, happy, and ready, left the Bethlehem Inn, moved into an apartment and started her own business. Guess what she calls it.

**Happy New Year from the Bethlehem Inn Residents,
Staff and Board of Directors!**



Bethlehem Inn



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