



# ROGUE RETREAT NEWS

## What Do Cities Owe To Their Unhoused Residents?

By Julie Akins, Ashland City Councilor

It's as if the world changed overnight. Covid-19, the name we have given the pandemic, is causing people all over the world to experience quarantine, people have become ill from its hard hitting symptoms and many have died.

Isolation and fear of losing resources as basic as food and housing is sweeping through even our local communities. With places of business closing, can workers receive a paycheck? Will they be able to pay rent or a mortgage? Can owners keep their businesses open? Will our communities run out of food?

For our brothers and sisters already living unhoused, this pandemic adds yet another layer of fear and uncertainty. Will they be able to receive a place to stay clean and to rest as needed?

We as residents and city leaders must respond to the cries of our frightened populations with care and

inclusion. When this is over, and it will end, we may emerge as more skilled and loving with a clearer understanding of the value of helping each other.

As an elected city councilor I am entrusted to lead. The way I choose to do that is inclusion. Bring everyone into our society and set a place at our big

metaphorical table--black and white, rich and poor, housed and unhoused.

It's not only loving but practical.

Exclusion of any resident is costly in so many ways. Without a place to go those on the outside of society are always where they are not allowed to be. Not offering safe housing to the homeless creates catastrophic health consequences from the spread of infectious disease due to lack of hygiene space for the unhoused (most public restrooms are locked at sunset and businesses do not allow hand washing for

non customers) and the long term illness created by lack of sleep, medical care and proper nutrition is also costly in every way.

1.5 million children in our country are without a home. That's a crisis.

These children grow up without sleep, food and hygiene. They struggle in school, they are often ill and their life spans are shortened. They become adults in a world they are unprepared to govern.

But we can begin renewal.

Cities can:

- Declare an emergency and clear hurdles for immediate housing
- Offer space for car and tent camping with access to bathrooms and trash pick up
- Offer free or low cost land for development of tiny house villages and shelters
- Cap rent prices, limit numbers of units owned by single owners
- Create workforce housing indexed to incomes

I urge all residents of all cities to ask this and more of their local governments. There is enormous pressure not to address poverty and homelessness. But you can demand meaningful action to insist cities take care of all of residents.

We must do this now more than ever. The world has changed overnight.



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### Special points of interest:

- ♦ 180 Club now has over 120 members!
- ♦ Rogue Retreat partners with City to Open Summit House
- ♦ Over 60% move from Rogue Retreat Programs to self-sufficiency
- ♦ The Kelly Shelter receives many donations



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# The Power Of Our Case Management Program To Change Lives

By Liz Adams, Rogue Retreat Program Director

From the moment someone enters Rogue Retreat's program whether it's a shelter, tiny house community or an apartment of their own, their life begins to change. This change looks different for every single one of our folk. They start feeling a sense of community and they start feeling like they belong. For some, they are terrified and grateful all at the same time.

They begin by sitting down with a case manager who deliberately and compassionately learns who this person is and what their journey thus far looks like. This may not happen all at once. It may take a few meetings to break through years of trauma. This person has been broken at some point in their life. It's not up to us to fix them, but to give them the tools, courage, compassion and support they need to fix themselves. Understanding their journey allows our team to strategize and build their individual case management program.

We seek to determine: do they need counseling, mental health treatment, do they suffer from substance use disorder, are they trying to regain custody of their children, do they have a driver's license, what does their credit look like, and the list goes on and on. Using our basic case management guide, we start checking things off the list they have accomplished. Praise is given for each and any little accomplishment. This keeps the momentum going.

Yes, there is accountability also, which sometimes means consequences are given. It's not the end of the world. It's an opportunity to learn and grow. Where there's life, there's hope.

As our case managers start building a relationship with their client, the client begins to trust. The more they trust, the more willing they are to make the changes that will lead them to being successful. Many of our case managers have gone through the same or very similar struggles, so they get it. They understand what challenges are being faced. They understand the fear. They understand the battles within.

Establishing relationships with our most vulnerable population is vital in making changes within our community.

A recent conversation with an applicant opened my eyes a bit wider as to the trauma many in our community experience. When asked: "What is one thing we can do for you that will make the greatest impact." After careful consideration the answer came. "Trust."

Out of millions of people in the world this person didn't have one person they trusted.

For many of Rogue Retreat participants, life looks different today than it did when they first walked through our doors. They have moved on from our program to become self-sufficient in society.

We often end up hiring some of our participants because they have lived through an amazing life change and are forever grateful for the person they have become. Who better to help those coming into Rogue Retreat who need life change?



Matt Epstein, community leader, recently volunteered to come to the Rogue Retreat Staff to talk about the mission of Rogue Retreat.

Rogue Retreat's Staff are highly skilled and capable life coaches for the people and population we are privileged to work with.

## Joyce's Success Story

Joyce came to us in early December in crisis. Her basic needs were not being met such as shelter, food, water and no place to safely to take her insulin for her diabetes.

One of her biggest struggles she had while on the streets was not having a safe place to put her belongings. Every time she would go to a store or agency she wasn't able to take her bags in with her. She constantly was trying to find a safe place for her stuff. Her belongings were stolen time after time. When people are living on the streets the only thing that they have is their backpack and broken heart. Not to mention they are beat down by inclement weather and the constant run around between agencies.

Joyce found out about Rogue Retreat and made it a point to fill out an application for the Kelly Shelter. After consistently checking in for some time she was finally invited into the shelter.

Joyce was ready for immediate change. Rather than wait the customary seven days for case management services she made it a point to sign up on the first day. She wanted to start changing her life the moment she had a chance.

While she was at the shelter she made many connections with other guests and staff. She was able to work on Clean Sweep and make a connection with leader Chris who helped her apply for a job at Circle K. She landed the job with help from Justin who is guest host at the shelter. He helped her with her resume and supported her through the entire process.

Her Case Manager, Jennifer, and two peer support specialists helped her enroll in intensive outpatient at the ARC and Columbia Care. Joyce started going to Drug and Alcohol groups and counseling appointments. She obtained her Oregon ID Card received a bus pass through her health insurance. She took every suggestion with grace and ownership.

Joyce shares how grateful she was the shelter provided her with her basic needs and so much more. She initially thought the shelter was just a safe place to be for her and her belongings. She had no idea what we had in store for her.

We believe fully in giving people a hand up and not a hand out. We provided Joyce with love, compassion, resources and support under which she flourished.

Joyce has now transitioned into Hope Village where she is reunited with her significant other. Because of her circumstances she had no contact with her daughter and granddaughter for over a year, but today her daughter is proud of her and looking to her for support. She gets to see her granddaughter on a regular basis.

Joyce is a true success story. Every person who comes to our shelter has the opportunity to overcome and blossom into the individual he or she wants to be.

Margarita Moody, Kelly Shelter Manager



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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

# The Warming Center In Grants Pass Serves Over 100 Homeless Persons

By Phil Johncock, Warming Center Manager

In the neighboring city of Grants Pass (in Josephine County), less than half the population of Medford but almost double that of Ashland (in Jackson County), a unique, cross-county collaboration has emerged resulting in 121 homeless neighbors (31.4% disabled, 35 females) staying warm during 12 nights so far in 2020 when temperatures drop below freezing. (As of March 16)

## How and when did this partnership happen?

Of course, there have been many happenings behind the scenes. Here are six:

First, Kelly Wessels and the United Community Action Network (UCAN), secured funding and leased the old DMV building in Grants Pass on December 24.

Second, Wessels and UCAN reached out to Rogue Retreat's Hope University to train 35 volunteers on January 18 and to create a customized policies and procedures manual and emergency response PLAN based on "best practices."

Third, on January 31, the Grants Pass Fire Marshal, Joseph Hyatt, issued a



Warming Center Manager Phil talks with center volunteers about procedures for center.

temporary "operational permit" to UCAN for 90 nights of shelter in the next 12 months.

Fourth, UCAN contracted with Rogue Retreat to operate its Warming Center and provide a manager, fire watch coordinator and over a dozen experienced hosts from the Kelly Shelter to work side-by-side with local volunteers.

Fifth, UCAN contracted with Saint

Vincent's de Paul to prepare over 500 meals in 12 nights for hundreds of hungry neighbors including guests and anyone who stops by for a meal and place to get warm.



Warming Center Staff Member Chris checks in a center guest

Sixth, local volunteers have stepped forward to donate 441 hours (value = \$7,581.90) in the first 12 nights. They prepared over 400 bag lunches for guests to take with them.

## What difference does it make having Kelly Shelter hosts around?

Check out some of these comments...

*"Very cordial to all and was able to de-escalate a loud, obnoxious client."*  
*"Is an asset to Rogue Retreat and the effort of the warming center."*

*"Competent and a pleasure to work with."*

*"Ready and willing to take responsibility to instruct newbies (volunteers)."*

*"Calm, professional and compassionate."*

*"Great worker. Very helpful."*

*"Very knowledgeable with procedures and was able to handle any situation that arose."*

*"Very professional with a great attitude."*

*"Cares about this project."*

*"Has easy rapport with clients."*

In fact, Wessels adds: *"I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to meet some of your people and appreciate the effort you have made for the partnership to be successful."*

## Drop In... For Now

Unlike our Kelly Shelter, that pre-screens its guests and provides a bed until housed, the Warming Center in Grants Pass currently is a "drop in" program activated on freezing nights without wrap-around case management. At least, for now.

If this innovative, multi-county, rapid response collaboration that launched a successful warming center for 121 homeless on 12 freezing nights so far in 2020 is any indication, it will not be very long before the Grants Pass community has its Foundry Village and possibly in the near future even a seven-night-a-week shelter with pre-screening and case



Warming Center volunteer Geneva makes Warming Center Guest animal welcome

management to help its homeless neighbors move along the path to self-sufficiency.



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# Foundations For Recovery Helped Me Prepare For Service

By Ricky France

For most of my life I have felt like something was missing, but I could never put a finger on exactly what it was until the first time I tried my drug of choice. When I was using, all I wanted was to be happy for a moment. What started out as “happy” soon turned to “hopeless.”

Looking back at it now, my life before recovery was very scary. I wanted to die. I had lost everything. I had nothing to live for. Living on the streets, my life was out of control. Going from 17 years in the military, striving to be the best I could be, to a heroin addict in a matter of 2 years was devastating. I was severely injured in Iraq in 2010, abruptly ending my career. I was lost. What was going to happen to me now? I was getting pain medication for free every month from the VA, no questions asked.

In addition to my injury and resulting addiction, I had experienced a significant amount of loss that left me feeling numb and unprepared to navigate through life. Determined to rediscover a sense of aliveness, I finally found recovery-not because I had a prison sentence hanging over my head, but because some men at the treatment center showed me that I was

loved. Peer support mentors that could relate to me was a key to my recovery.

This is why I chose to go through the Peer Support Training at Foundations for Recovery. I wanted to be equipped to give back what was so freely given to me. These past 2 years and 27 days have been the most phenomenal time of my life. What I've seen through other peers and sponsors has connected me to something vital and enduring- something I wouldn't trade for all the drugs in the world!

One thing I value is friendship; someone who always brings out the best in you, who has also seen you at your worst. My best friend, Jonathan Tidwell, and I spent 17 years together in the US Army. The bond we created was unparalleled to any other in my life. We were inseparable, so when he passed there was a void that could not be filled. At that point, I really understood what it was like to have a best friend. Being a part of Foundations for Recovery as a new volunteer is important to my recovery because I need that sense of connection. That, along with other connections in the recovery community, is where I can both find support from people



Ricky (center) with recovery coaches Scotty and Greg from Foundations For Recovery

that have good clean time and give support and encouragement to others.

You have to love what you are doing- if not then you will definitely burn out. Knowing my limits and keeping my desire to help just one person is my goal. If I help more than that's just icing on the cake.

# Haven Houses Help Those In Recovery Find Hope

By Sharleina Stein, Women's Haven Houses Peer Support Specialist

I have been working with Crystal Beachler for four months. She has been in our program for seven months total. I am very impressed with the strides she has made. She has stayed clean and sober, found employment, and has a great relationship with her son.

I asked her to write a short story about herself and her journey so far. This gives you an idea how important the Haven Houses are for Rogue Retreat participants.



Crystal Beachler lives in Rogue Retreat's Heather's Haven House

*“Hello my name is Crystal Beachler. I am 42 years old and I am a very super grateful recovering addict. If you would have told me nine and half months ago that I would be where I am today, I would have totally laughed at you, and here is why:*

*First of all, I have been doing drugs since I was 13 years old. The last four years I was homeless, and the last year I was actually living and sleeping on the streets, outside in the cold, scared and alone.*

*On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 I had a major life scare. I was admitted into the Emergency Room for emergency surgery. When I woke up a week later, I said to myself, ‘Crystal you’re finally ready. It’s over.’ I was then placed into residential treatment at the ARC and graduated. But, I didn’t know what to do next.*

*‘Where do I live?’*

*That’s when, by the grace of God, Rogue Retreat stepped in. A true Blessing.*

*Since being at Heather’s Haven, I*

*have learned and achieved all the skills and basic fundamentals I need to be able to live and function in real life.*

*In this nine-month journey, I have met so many truly genuine people that have really guided and have helped me achieve goals I thought weren’t every going to be possible. Before all of this my faith in my higher power, myself, and just about everything was nonexistent. Now, with the help and love of my higher power, Rogue Retreat, the ARC, and all the wonderful people, my faith in everything has been restored.*

*There’s nowhere to go now but to reach for the stars.*

*Thank you Rogue Retreat.”*



# Community Fundraising Events Help Rogue Retreat

Rogue Retreat has been blessed lately with various fundraising events sponsored by community individuals and groups. Here is a list of what has been happening to support Rogue Retreat work in Medford and Grants Pass.

**The Marrow Collective group** put on a 6x6 Pop Up Art Show on February 21 in downtown Medford. The show highlighted works from Medford area artists. It was sponsored by the City of Medford and all proceeds were given to Rogue Retreat. The event raised about \$6,000.



Board member Curtis Robertson at Art Show with wife Amy and mother-in-law Chris



Artist Ginny Matheson

**Ginny Matheson** wanted to help support Hope Village so donated 33 pieces of art for us to use at the village or to create funds for the expansion of Hope

**Nina Bradley, teacher and Mark Losinski, Media Specialist** came to visit Rogue Retreat with the Community 101 class students.

Village. We are doing an online auction of her art to raise funds.

**McLoughlin Middle School** in Medford brought their Community 101 Class to visit Rogue Retreat. They were asking all about what Rogue Retreat does in effort to make a decision about providing a grant to help fund a new playground at our Grape Street' s apartments. The group asked great questions and were very interested. We haven't heard back yet as to their decision, but it was great to meet them and get them introduced to who we are and what we do. There were two fundraising events in Grants Pass this past month to raise funds for Foundry Village. **St. Bethany Church** had a concert on



Nina Bradley, teacher and Mark Losinski, Media Specialist came to visit Rogue Retreat with the Community 101 class students.



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Looking in a window at the 6x6 Pop Open Art Show in Medford

Space Pandas which raised over \$2,800.

We are so grateful to these groups and individuals and what they are doing to make Rogue Retreat a stronger program to serve more people.

Saturday, March 7 highlighting music from a musician from Africa. Along with a silent auction the group raised over \$5,200.

The **Barnstormers Theater** had a special presentation of *Revenge of the*



The St. Bethany Church in Grants Pass helped raise over \$5,000

## The 180 Degree Club Is So Important



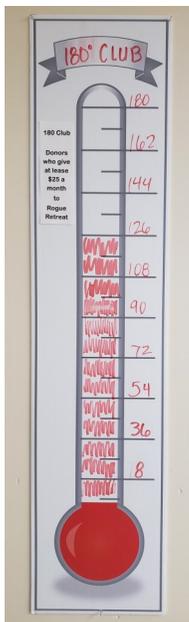
Rogue Retreat participants do a 180 degree turn in their lives as they engage and follow their Life Coach's leading through the five-level Case Management program.

We've started a donor support 180 Club asking for 180 individuals and families to donate at least \$25 a month to keep Rogue Retreat strong.

We need 60 more generous people who will dedicate at least \$25 a month or \$300 a year.

Use the enclosed envelope to make your donation and indicate we can count on you to be a member of our 180 Club.

Thanks for all your support!



## Impacts of COVID-19

Here are some impacts COVID-19 is having on us operationally that we could use assistance with:

1. Expense for additional hygienic staff to help with cleaning and sanitation at The Kelly Shelter. Our regular staff are spending so much time cleaning they are unable to accomplish their regular jobs.
2. Funding to help pay staff quarantined due to sickness or are unable to work due to childcare issues with the school closure.
3. Our Thrift Shop has taken a hit financially and we had to close for the time being. Funds from the Thrift Shop support our Case Man-

agement services. This will end up creating a funding shortfall.

4. Many of our Participants are out of work and unable to pay rent. If they can't pay Rogue Retreat will be impacted significantly not to mention our participants' personal lives.

To help please mail checks to the address listed below. Thanks. Your generosity is so appreciated at this time.



**ROGUE  
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**711 E Main #25  
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97504**

# Why It's Important To Create A Clean Sweep Program In Your Community

By Chris Hyde, Clean Sweep Coordinator

It is the responsibility of the citizens who live in the community to care for and maintain the clean image of the place they call home. Of course, there are efforts in place in most suburban or urban jurisdictions the cities have in place, such as street sweepers and maintenance crews, Public Works and Parks departments, but those efforts combined can't possibly keep up with the requirements of thousands of people working, playing, camping, or littering on a constant daily basis.

It's important to note that **Population**, not just the homeless population, is increasing at rapid and exponential rates and therefore resulting in an increase of trash, cardboard, recyclables, clothing, glass, non-biodegradables of all types, left behind, outdoors, in our community. This is left for businesses and community members to contend with, and many people lead very busy lives. It is hardly in anybody's schedule to go out and clean up trash or messes of any kind that they are not directly responsible for leaving.

What's more, the homeless population, not surprisingly, has also increased tremendously nationwide in recent years and it's unclear to some of the general public what purpose they serve in the community, how to help them, or what can be done to initiate that effort.

That's where a Clean Sweep program comes in.

## Kelly Shelter Receives Many Donations From Community

Since The Kelly Shelter has opened individuals, groups and organizations have been donating to help us serve the homeless living in the shelter.

Each night someone brings in the evening meal to serve 54 people. We've had literal feasts and the people in the shelter are gaining weight which is really a good thing since many were very under nourished when they were on the streets. We are still in need of another five individuals or groups to volunteer for an evening meal. Contact Kitchen Manager, Shannon at 541-821-1434 to get more information.

We've had donations of toiletry items



Another nourishing meal donated at The Kelly Shelter

It provides a mutually beneficial service to the community and to the homeless population living in that community. Nobody takes more pride in the neighborhood streets than the people who call it home. The homeless population take great pride in cleaning the streets, and have a tendency, when involved, to play a positive influential role amongst other people also living in their situation, working daily to keep the streets clean, while attempting to break down the divide

**"Nobody takes more pride in the neighborhood streets than the people who call it home"**

between themselves and the rest of the community.

Finally, the program provides an opportunity that may be otherwise unavailable.

Many people who find themselves on the streets don't want to be there, they just have odds stacked against them. It is not likely many folks are going to call them in for a job interview when they are just sitting at a traffic light.

However, the folks who show up on Clean Sweep are VOLUNTEERS, taking their time to actually come to work to get results. They could be doing anything else but they show up consistently to clean the streets and be productive members of society. They establish healthy work habits such as, consistency, punctuality, dependability, completion of tasks, etc.

They are also establishing specific work habits that they could possibly transfer into independent employment.



Rogue Retreat Clean Sweep volunteers cleaning up a portion of the Green Way in Medford

They are developing a work reference with the Coordinator of the Clean Sweep Program, in which he/she can speak on behalf of the participant when they apply for jobs. Many of these folks perhaps may have otherwise lost contact with or not had recent references to turn to.

Clean Sweep has helped place eight people in full-time employment since January 1. It is a mutually beneficial program for all members of the Community.

For more information on how to start your own Clean Sweep program listen to the audio training available through Hope University at: [rogueretreat.org](http://rogueretreat.org)



## Spring Cleaning with Clean Sweep

Keep the homeless employed and the community clean during these trying times.



For more information please contact Chris Hyde, at 541-499-0880 or by email at [Chris@rogueretreat.com](mailto:Chris@rogueretreat.com)

# Rogue Retreat Partners With City And OnTrack To Open Summit House

On March 19 Rogue Retreat in partnership with the City of Medford and OnTrack opened the Summit House. This house provides five bedrooms for men coming out of The Kelly Shelter who have proven themselves ready to move on and out of the emergency shelter to a more permanent living situation.

Men in the Summit House will be part of Rogue Retreat's case management program and be working through the five level leading to self-sufficiency.

The Medford Police's Livability team will be working very closely with the house by helping oversee it and providing stable support. The Livability team currently works closely with The Kelly Shelter helping identify individuals who are on the Continuum of Care's Coordinated



The first five residents for Summit House with Medford City Police Livability officers and Rogue Retreat staff.

Entry System list. They have a vested interest in seeing people find a way to get off the Greenway and into some type of housing. The Summit house is a next step for those in the shelter and with case

management help will be a stepping place for moving forward into Hope Village or an apartment in the community. The Summit house is owned by OnTrack and funding for this program was provided by a grant from Providence which the City received as a pilot program.

Is your community struggling to address homelessness? Learn through Rogue Retreat's experience and discover how to create tiny house transitional communities, winter shelters, employment programs and more in your own community. The time is now to improve our housing and shelter opportunities.

## Hope University Available Audio Courses:

### Community Village 101

Discover "How to Launch Your Own Tiny House Transitional Village for the Homeless in Your Community."

### Winter Shelter 101

Winter Shelters 101 covers the most important issues for your community to address and how to turn problems into opportunities for creative partnerships.

### Clean Sweep 101

Discover How To Create Your Own Community Clean Sweep "Job Readiness" Program For Your Homeless to Clean Your Streets!

Let Hope University help coach your community to develop shelter and housing programs.



To learn more or to purchase a course please visit: [www.rogueretreat.com/hope-university/](http://www.rogueretreat.com/hope-university/)

## Dealing With The Virus

**Beginning Monday, March 23rd, Rogue Retreat offices will be closed to the public however clients and community partners will continue to be seen by appointment only. Our staff will still be working during this limited closure.**

We will not be accepting applications in person for two weeks. Applications can still be submitted via fax at 541-690-1670 or email at [office@rogueretreat.com](mailto:office@rogueretreat.com).

We have no confirmed cases among our employees or program participants and are taking a preventative approach within our facilities to minimize risk and protect our role in serving the public. We are prepared to manage through this evolving situation and appreciate the support of our employees and all those we serve.

We are following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and regional health organizations

and have taken a number of additional steps, out of an abundance of caution, to preserve health and safety and minimize the spread of illness, including:

- Increased sanitization efforts across Rogue Retreat offices
- Increased hand washing signage across Rogue Retreat properties
- Placing extra handwashing stations and protective masks in our year-round shelter
- Providing additional sanitation products to outreach staff and Clean Sweep participants
- Canceling group gatherings of Participants and Staff
- In the event of an outbreak, Rogue Retreat will work with local health officials to help contain the spread of the virus

We are maintaining appropriate staffing for all business functions. Rogue Retreat personnel will continue to perform services to the homeless in Southern Oregon and will continue to do so in a manner that preserves the safety of our staff, unsheltered, and the community.



*In Loving Memory*



**Stan Lyon**

a Friend of Rogue Retreat.

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# ROGUE RETREAT

711 E Main #25  
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**Mission:**  
*Creating Opportunities  
For The Homeless To  
Have Hope.*

**Vision:**  
*Rogue Retreat envisions  
a community where all  
homeless have a place to  
call home and are  
empowered to  
strengthen the quality of  
their lives.*

## Rogue Retreat Alumni Club Being Created



We are starting an alumni supporter club for past Rogue Retreat participants to give back for the life-changing opportunities received while being in Rogue Retreat. We have a challenge.

Will past participants give at least \$5 a month to be part of this new club? Will they pay it forward for another person to create their own success story?

Send us your first \$5 this month stating you want to be part of this new club. We anticipate creating officers of this new club, scheduling alumni events during the year and finding ways for participants to share their ongoing stories. We can only imagine what this club will help create! For more information call our development department at Rogue Retreat. 541-499-0880.

## Finding Hope Podcasts

Several months ago we brought Stan Littrell into our Rogue Retreat family. He was introduced to us through a local program which finds employment for those with disabilities. Stan is blind, but he has a great history of working with radio. The idea of creating a podcast for Rogue Retreat was developed with Stan taking the lead and making the 30 minute programs a reality. Nearly 30 podcasts have been recorded and shared so far. Most are of Rogue Retreat employees who share their personal stories

of "Finding Their Hope."

Some are of

community partners sharing their stories of how hope changed their lives and their connection with Rogue Retreat.

You can hear the "Finding Hope" podcast online at: Anchor Fm and other places podcasts are found.



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