



# ROGUE RETREAT NEWS

## A Vision for Housing in Grants Pass It Takes A Community

By Roy Lindsay, Grants Pass Mayor

A shortage of affordable housing is a national problem, and government can help, but they are not the full solution. Governments do not have the expertise, and certainly lack the resources to successfully construct and manage housing projects. That task is best left to the private sector.

However, local governments do have a valid and definite responsibility to encourage and even assist the private sector in developing affordable housing projects. Currently, the building community finds it difficult to achieve a solid bottom line when building low-income units. Whose fault is that?

Governments do shoulder some of the responsibility, but there are certainly much greater barriers than just local building codes. Local governments are subjected to forces imposed upon them by county, state and even federal agencies. Rules imposed by outside forces are sometimes nearly impossible to either mitigate or even follow. The final impact of these restrictions falls upon the builders themselves, resulting in construction of fewer units. Of course, some of the major impacts involve costs of materials and labor. That is market forces in action.

Thankfully, the picture is not entirely bleak. Local governments can and do use innovative methods and actions to help alleviate the shortage. By removing unnecessary requirements, providing defined incentives, and even non-monetary actions, local governments are helping builders find ways to move forward. That is what is happening here in Grants Pass.

Some of the actions that the City Council has taken to help the building community have been items such as reducing sidewalk

requirements to the actual property completed to the nearest more traveled road; or reducing fees on adding auxiliary housing units to an already occupied lot. These smaller units can often either be

attached or not to the main house.

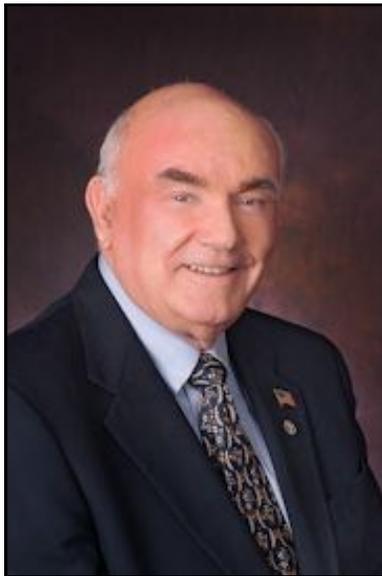
These are just two of the many significant options local government can offer to help fill the need for affordable units.

Grants Pass has a Housing Advisory Committee that has been actively exploring innovative ideas to help enable builders do what they are best at doing.

Other partners in the effort to alleviate the shortage have been nonprofit organizations, such as Foundry Village Donors, Rogue Retreat, and other non-profit

organizations, and the city of Grants Pass have come together to create a demonstrable example of what can be accomplished through public-private partnership efforts in this area. Foundry Village has demonstrated clear proof that no matter what the obstacle, the job can be accomplished.

Vision, determination and follow-through are the hallmarks of any effort. As a result, the entire community can benefit. Thanks to Foundry Village, segments of our homeless population will have a path forward. Residents there will see the tangible help that is being offered, and the entire community will see an example demonstrating that citizens here do indeed care. That is the most wonderful aspect of it all.



Roy Lindsay, Grants Pass Mayor



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# Follow the Heart

By Lori Paris, CEO/President, Addictions Recovery Center

This year has been extraordinarily challenging, and most especially for those who are unsheltered. We know that safe housing is critical. For someone contemplating treatment for substance use or mental health disorders, it is even more critical. We know how difficult it is to find safe housing for everyone who needs it and it is easy to imagine how the COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated this.

At Addictions Recovery Center (ARC), we have been asking ourselves what we can do to help, and we had an idea. It turns out that the ARC has a lot that has remained vacant for a number of years and we wanted to put it to good use. We asked our partners at Rogue Retreat if they would be interested in working with us to establish a tiny house village on that lot. The answer was a resounding “Yes!” and the concept for Heart Village was born.

ARC and Rogue Retreat will establish a tiny house village on ARC’s West Main campus similar to Hope Village that Rogue Retreat opened in 2017. It will provide short-term transitional shelter and case management for individuals or couples to help move them from homelessness and ultimately into long-term housing, while providing them access, when needed, to treatment and recovery support services.

Heart Village will be a temporary housing space using the best practices of other tiny house communities, blended with the proven case management structure from Rogue Retreat’s other programs, along with ARC treatment and recovery support services. We hope to break ground on the Heart Village project in September and open in the fall of 2020. We envision a beautiful

village with green spaces and a central heart-shaped community space.

The ARC and Rogue Retreat teams are very excited about this initiative, and we are very grateful for the incredible generosity of community members who are taking this project into their hearts.

Practically speaking, the 10 units comprising Heart Village will provide safe and stable housing for approximately 40 individuals a

year, at a time when our community faces a crisis-level shortage of such housing opportunities. In a broader sense, the ripple effect of this housing initiative exceeds measure. Those who access the case management and treatment services offered through Heart Village will have a real chance for a life of recovery and self-sufficiency, where they may rebuild and strengthen relationships with friends and family, and become contributing members of our community – which ultimately benefits us all.



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# Family Self Sufficiency Program

By Dave Ruckman, Housing Authority of Jackson County

Rogue Retreat has been a great partner in the quest to help people move in a more positive direction. Quite a number of our participants have been Rogue Retreat residents, and their successes have been inspiring. Let me share a few:

**Tammy** was, in a word, fearful. She was mostly fearful of change. She had been through a number of traumatic events in her life, and more than anything else, she valued the stability which eluded her. Problem is, nothing ever stays exactly the same in life. Change is the norm, and to be expected. What Tammy really needed was to learn to manage change in a way that reduced her fears and gave her a level keel. After several aimless years in the FSS program, she decided to attend RCC and take some classes. Then the Southern Oregon Hope grant program came along. She applied and was accepted. Over time, Tammy realized that she was actually pretty darn smart and could learn just about anything she applied herself to. She became certified as an Administrative Medical Assistant. She had hope for a brighter future, and the hope gave her the ability to handle changes in her life. She believed in herself again.

**Crystal** came to the program with a partner, Michael. They shared similar goals and were both driven to do things differently than they had in the past. They really wanted to begin building a future for themselves and their children. Crystal listened intently when we discussed the steps to success. When we had written everything down and created the plan, she was all in. She and Michael began to methodically complete each small step that led to a stable job for him and higher education for her, followed by employment in the job she had hoped for. Step by step they worked on resolution of credit issues, creation of savings, advancement in employment, and movement towards the BIG GOAL; buying their own home. While that goal has not yet arrived, they are well on their way and I have no doubt whatsoever that it will happen for them.



In FSS, we start with the most important question: ‘What do you really want?’ It’s often the hardest question to answer. Sometimes it takes awhile before the answer begins to take shape. That’s OK.

Once a person can begin to form their vision of the future, they can begin to create it. They learn what to ask for, and how to act. Action and vision bring force and resources to the task. In a very real way, what you think becomes what you are.

We’re here to help you form your vision and create it.

# Capacity Enhancement and the Growth of Rogue Retreat

By Casey Woodard, Philanthropist, Advancement Professional

In 2017, the **Gordon Elwood Foundation** made a strategic capacity building grant to **Rogue Retreat** for a campaign readiness assessment in support building Hope Village. I was honored to be selected to conduct the study, interviewing 30 individuals throughout Jackson and Josephine Counties. There are two types of nonprofit organizations:

1. Those which **provide a pleasurable experience**, such as a performing Arts theatre; and

2. Those which **strive to address and solve a problem**. Rogue Retreat is tackling, head-on, one of the single, most systemic and challenging **problems** of our time: homelessness.

Whereas I have become hardened to being the "skunk at the garden party" when reporting findings and recommendations to a Board of Directors, for Rogue Retreat, my message was especially sobering.

NIMBY (Not in my back yard), communication with key constituents & stakeholders and name & brand awareness were, at that time, seemingly insurmountable



**Casey Woodard**

obstacles for Rogue Retreat to simultaneously address and overcome.

Fast forward three years, and the **growth and effectiveness** of Rogue Retreat is transformational. Having taken to heart the recommendations, considerations and criticisms expressed by those whom I interviewed, today Rogue Retreat is a changed organization.

## Employee Spotlight— Jody Lotz

By Jamie Langdon, Human Resource Specialist

I would like to introduce our newest staff member of Rogue Retreat. Jody Lotz. Although Jody has only been employed with us for about a month she has a very important role. She is our new Payroll Specialist. We are super excited to have Jody onboard. Here is her story.

Jody was born and raised in England. Her family moved from Europe when she was 12 years old. She grew up in a military home and was able to experience different parts of the world at such a young age. Despite her family being strict with a military background as well as being religious, her parents were heavy drinkers. They still held down their responsibilities but she believes their excessive drinking helped attribute to her addiction. Jody was moved around from California, Nevada, and Oregon. She moved to Oregon when she was 27 has been living here now for 22 years. In Jody's eyes Oregon is the closest place to reminding her of Europe with all of the beautiful greenery.

At the age of 34 Jody had a beautiful daughter named Emmah. Emmah was born Craniosynostosis. This is when the bones fuse and a baby is born without soft spots. Despite the challenges that Emmah has endured she is super smart, athletic, and absolutely amazing. Emmah is Jody's entire world.

Jody has struggled with addiction most of her life. Her greatest fear was to wake up from a black out while driving and to be told she had killed someone's child. She also has medical issues and her addiction could have resulted in death. She knew she had to do something. She admitted herself into inpatient treatment in 2016. She stayed for 30 days due to having to leave and take care of her child at home. Jody has been in recovery ever since.

Jody believes someone is watching over her. She attends Celebrate Recovery to maintain her recovery. Jody has always worked some type of finance job such as payroll, bookkeeping, Credit Union, etc.

When she ended up losing her job after 13 years, she decided she was

going to back to school. She graduated with a degree in Business Administration with an Accounting option. But, even with her degree she chooses to work for Rogue Retreat. She is so grateful and blessed to be able to work for an amazing organization with so many loving and caring individuals who give back to our community. She is excited to be able to give back what was so freely given to her.

"My goal is to become a better person, because that's where it starts. I want to be able to be there for another individual who might need my help."



**Jody Lotz**



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# Revisiting Aesop's Fable in the Age of COVID

By Nina Egert, Ashland Community Member

Some of us are grasshoppers; others of us are ants.

In Aesop's famed morality tale, a self-indulgent grasshopper scoffs at a group of industrious ants collecting food in preparation for winter--only to find himself left out in the cold.

The real world is not quite as just as in Aesop's imagined universe. True, human "grasshoppers" can often find themselves left without resources.

However, as the recent economic shutdown revealed, even prudent human "ants" are not always guaranteed job security or financial stability. Luckily, some human "ants" were not completely upended by the turbulence.

The COVID crisis also confronted both "ants" and "grasshoppers" with the sobering fact that anyone can get sick and die at any time -- a reality that shed new light on estate planning and charitable giving.

Cautious "ants", motivated by the nagging fear that they might outlive their savings, had prudently created retirement nest eggs. With no real handle on how much might remain at one's passing, estate

lawyers recommended clients allow for flexibility by assigning percentages of their remainders to heirs and favored charities, rather than specify exact amounts.

In certain circumstances, splitting one's remainder up by percentages might be a wise tactic. However, in the age of COVID, one could pass suddenly, leaving years' worth of retirement funds intact. In that case, dividing up the remainder by percentages might not be the most productive way to use the funds.

An alternative to that would be to leave the bulk of the remainder essentially intact, and use this to fund a major charitable project--perhaps endow an academic chair, or underwrite a PBS show, or create transitional housing by installing some tiny houses on a piece of land.

This proposal had its advantages and disadvantages. The upside is that one would be leaving behind a personal legacy--something that an individual of modest means might not normally be able to afford. The downside is that, unlike donors who are able to make contributions while still alive, a donor "ant" would not



be around to oversee the project. One would therefore need to find a reliable and trustworthy organization capable of following through on the project in one's absence.

Again, in the face of many unknowns, flexibility needs to be written into the plan. Partners might discuss an initial blueprint, and then review the vision on an annual basis, taking into account factors like decreases in the size of the remainder, community needs, and changes within the partnering organization.

Given that the size of a remainder is contingent upon an individual's longevity, one lawyer I spoke to suggested including financial trigger points in the Will -- realistic levels above and below which funding certain types of projects would be feasible. Should the remainder be worth less than a specified trigger point, dividing it up by percentages would then make good sense.

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# Event Weather Shelter Story

By Pastor Murray Richmond, Medford 1st Presbyterian Church



It was the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and a bitter cold front was blowing through town. I was working on getting the Thanksgiving sermon done, when I was called to a pastoral emergency. One of our regulars was outside our door, weeping.

I went out to meet him. He was almost incoherent, but I managed to make out that he was very, very cold. He had a coat, but I looked at his hands and saw they were bare. "You want some gloves?" I asked. He nodded, and when I gave him some I found in our office, he hugged me, and thanked me.

But then I had to watch him walk away in the cold, to spend a freezing night outside. I was heartsick. "What can I do to help him?" I prayed.

He was still on my mind when I was at the Kelly Shelter Steering Committee the next day. We talked about the latest thing

from the city council—they wanted to make it easy to house people in a weather emergency and were willing to wave some code requirements if a church would step up. Connie Wilkerson, from the

Continuum of Care office was also there, and she said there was money for an emergency weather shelter. Someone there said that the Compassion Highway Project could supply volunteers.

Have you ever had the experience where you prayed for something, and God answers partially, then expects you to take it from there? That is exactly how I felt. I tentatively offered the building at First Presbyterian, if I could get the board elders to agree.

I left the meeting saying, "I have to make a lot of phone

calls." This was the second part of the answer to my prayers. Every single elder said yes. Not only that, with the grant that

the Continuum of care I was able to hire a night manager, a man I had been working with to get him back on his feet. (He now works for Rogue Retreat.)

We opened our doors, and the prayer I prayed that Tuesday was answered. We worked with the City of Medford, Rogue Retreat, Compassion Highway Project and the Continuum of Care, and were able to house people for some of the coldest days of winter.

I was amazed that it all went off without a hitch. But then, why should I have been amazed? Did I not think God would act?

Over the course of the winter, we opened four different times, each during a weather emergency. Fifty people were able to eat and spend the coldest nights of the winter indoors in a warm, safe place. During the winter, we reunited a mother with her daughter, got a couple up to Portland where they had family, and got medical treatment for several people. It was a pleasure working with Rogue Retreat, the City, Continuum of Care and Compassion Highway Project.

It is amazing what God can do when you are willing to do your part!



Pastor Murray Richmond

## Alumni Spotlight: Justin's Story

Justin first heard about Rogue Retreat in 2009 while he and his wife Sharleina were attending church at Set Free Christian Fellowship. While Sharleina was in jail Justin called her and she told him she wanted to go to Set Free when she got out. When Justin heard this he found hope for help in his addiction. When he got off the phone he was ready to start a new chapter of his life.

Before long Justin and Sharleina were

accepted into Rogue Retreat and during this time one of Justin's Case Manager (Chad) encouraged him to get his Contractors License when he discovered he had a skill to do professional painting. This was a way Justin could find work without the damage of his past.

Justin got his Contractors License, but felt pulled in another direction. Justin followed his heart and starting doing maintenance work for Rogue Retreat. "I love being with people and love helping them," he says. "I'm glad I followed my heart."

That was 10 years ago and today Justin is still working at Rogue Retreat. It is the longest he has ever worked for one company. He is the Facilities Director for Rogue Retreat and oversees all property maintenance. When he started working for Rogue Retreat there was only two or three facilities. Now Justin has an assistant and is responsible for scattered sites across Southern Oregon.

One of the reasons Justin loves his job is that he can talk to people and tell them

where he was at one point in his life and how much things have changed. He loves to give people hope. He has always wanted to help people and this job gives Justin the chance to do what he wanted to do.

Justin works in the facilities with many of Rogue Retreats Participants and tells them if they really want to change their life get to know the people at Rogue Retreat because there are people who want to help them and we all have backgrounds.

Participants can ask Justin anything and they tell Justin "We appreciate you" because he doesn't stop with the maintenance.

What's great about Justin's job is that he can take a few minutes and tell them "This is how we did it."

"I treat them like a valuable person and that is big thing because when people are in their addiction other people shy away from you."

Justin says it is important for those in recovery to know and feel there is hope and they can be trusted to live a different life.



Justin Stein

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# Housing Authority Makes an Impact in Southern Oregon

By Cara Carter, Housing Authority of Jackson County

Since its formation in 1969, the Housing Authority of Jackson County (HAJC) has grown to become the largest developer and operator of affordable housing in our region. Currently, HAJC serves over 2,400 households in our Section 8 Voucher program and owns and operates over 1,600 units of affordable housing in both Jackson and Josephine counties.



The Section 8 Voucher program serves households up to 50% of the area median income. In this program, families are issued a voucher that helps them pay their rent. Households will typically pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income toward rent with the balance being paid by HAJC. In its property management portfolio, HAJC attempts to assist households across the spectrum of need from 0% of area median income all the way up to 80% of area median income. There are over 40 different properties/programs available for families to sign up for who need a decent, safe and affordable place to live. With rents in Jackson County skyrocketing and vacancies plummeting, even families who work hard and earn a decent wage are finding themselves in need of services more than ever before.



In order to fulfill the other half of the mission statement, promoting efforts toward self-sufficiency, HAJC provides a wide variety of programs to its participants and residents. Programs such as Family Self Sufficiency and the resident services provided by HAJC for tenants living in their properties are designed to enhance employment skills, parenting, budgeting, nutrition and overall wellness. By developing these skills while receiving assistance from HAJC, families can work toward the goal of great self-sufficiency and better quality of life.

However, despite the programs HAJC is able to offer, it is not able to provide the intensive case management

needed by those most vulnerable in our community. In order to successfully house, and keep housed, those individuals and families in our community who struggle with homelessness, it requires partnerships with agencies such as Rogue Retreat.

In 2011, HAJC partnered with Rogue Retreat to create Housing Retreat, a combination of 23 rental units located throughout our community that house chronically homeless individuals and families. HAJC purchased the units and provides the rental subsidies and maintains the units while Rogue Retreat offers the case management services needed to keep these families housed long term. Since its inception, Housing Retreat has helped over 140 families in our community obtain permanent, supportive housing.

Since establishing its partnership with Rogue Retreat, HAJC has gone on to partner with other agencies throughout our community as well including Maslow Project, Pathway Enterprises, On Track, Living Opportunities, Department of Human Services, Community Works, and Access to bring resources together to provide much needed support and a new beginning to those in our community who need our help.





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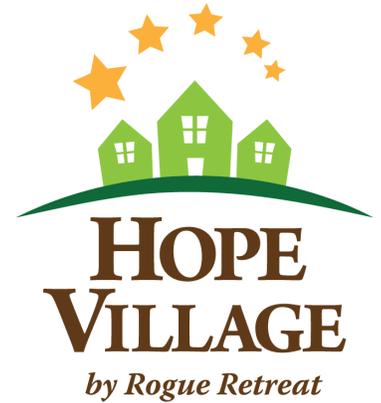
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# Housing Crisis Exacerbated

By Senator Jeff Merkley

The coronavirus pandemic has presented us with a host of new and unprecedented challenges, but it has also exacerbated a number of familiar and vexing problems—none more so than Oregon’s housing crisis.

If there’s one defining feature of our global response to the pandemic, it is the need to stay home as much as possible to slow the spread of the virus. But it’s impossible to stay home when you don’t have a home. That’s why, as we continue to work as a community to battle coronavirus, we have to include the housing assistance Oregonians need to keep roofs over their heads, and to protect the most vulnerable among us who don’t have homes or access to critical sanitation services.

I’m pleased that a number of federal grants—including \$32 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and \$68 million in awards from HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grants—are making their way to our state to help provide that essential support, including social services and homelessness assistance programs. These grants will support critical renovations and upgrades at public facilities, motel rooms, and emergency shelters. In addition, they will help support essential services for shelter residents, help re-house homeless individuals and families, facilitate important engagement with families and individuals who are experiencing

homelessness, and fund other interventions to assist homeless Oregonians.

Still, we have much more work ahead of us to both ease the symptoms and remedy the root causes of our housing and homelessness crisis. For the short term, I’ve been pushing President Trump and his administration to immediately extend the nationwide moratorium on all foreclosures on and evictions from properties owned by federal entities, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Federal Housing Administration, Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Housing Service.

I’ve also cosponsored legislation, the Protecting Renters from Evictions and Fees Act, that would extend existing eviction moratoriums through next March and also expand their reach so that they protect virtually all renters.

But it’s critical to recognize that this housing crisis started before the pandemic, and will persist past it unless we take bold action. We need a comprehensive approach to ensure that every American has a home they can afford, by dramatically increasing the supply of affordable homes, lowering the cost of housing for lower-income



Senator Jeff Merkley

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.

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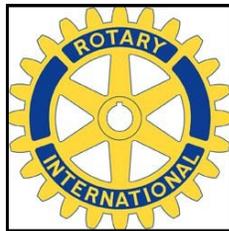
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people, boosting our investments in supportive services, and directly confronting the legacy of racial discrimination in housing.

Every Oregonian deserves health and safety during this public health emergency. And every Oregonian deserves security and opportunity. These things are impossible without a safe place to call home. Let’s invest in the services and housing infrastructure to make sure every Oregonian—regardless of the color of their skin, where they were born, or the community they call home—has a safe and reliable roof over their head.

# Medford Rogue Rotary Brings Light and Hope to Hope Village

For over 40 years the Medford Rogue Rotary Club has sought out ways to improve people’s lives locally, nationally, and internationally. During these four decades, involved club members have taken the lead on numerous projects, always with the goal of living up to Rotary’s motto of “Service above self.” One such member currently is Tim Chesley, who has participated in projects ranging from providing clean water to remote villages in Guatemala to supporting the work of Rogue Retreat.



The club has identified helping the homeless in the Rogue Valley as a priority, which has led to partnering with Rogue Retreat on two projects, so far. Chesley and other involved Rotarians shared the scope of these projects at the club’s weekly meetings, which inspired club members to get involved financially and by volunteering their time and talents. Last fall, this led to the club’s involvement in providing solar power lights and charging stations in each house in Hope Village. The club raised \$8,000 in donations, and

then provided volunteer labor to do the installation. Club members with construction and electrical experience capably led this effort.

Then in June this year, the Medford Rogue Rotary Club raised \$20,000 to purchase a new building, consisting of two additional tiny houses. The houses were constructed in Albany, then transported and installed in Hope Village to expand the housing capacity. These new tiny houses had an immediate impact, expanding the capability to serve the local homeless population.

“It is such a great feeling when we can offer help and support to achieve the goals of an impactful organization like Rogue Retreat,” said Chesley. “The entire Club celebrates this partnership. We are humbled to be a small part of what is being done with Hope Village.”

The Hope Village project fit in well with the other work of the club, including an annual scholarship program benefitting 419 students over the past 38 years, fundraising and volunteer labor for playground

construction at numerous elementary schools and the Olsrud Family Community Playground at Bear Creek Park, and partnering with Kids Unlimited on the Rotary Pass to Play Youth Basketball program for 15 seasons of fun and team-building.

The Medford Rogue Rotary Club is the largest club in southern Oregon. Club members meet weekly (currently via Zoom) for fellowship and educational and informational presentations. But the core of the organization is service. Through involvement with Rogue Retreat and the Hope Village project, club members have been able to give financially and volunteer their time in pursuit of helping those in our community who need a hand up. These projects have resonated with the core values of Rotary and seeing them come to fruition has been celebrated by Rotarians locally and at the District level.

Working with Rogue Retreat on the Tiny House program has been a highlight of the Club’s involvement in recent years. There is a second Rotary motto, in addition to “Service Above Self” mentioned above. It goes like this: “One profits most who serves best.” From that perspective, the profit from these projects is beyond calculation.

# The Need for Transitional Housing for the Post-Incarcerated

By Nin Egert, Ashland Community Member

A few years back, I was sitting at an outdoor café, when a seriously disheveled young man walked by, mumbling to himself -- clearly suffering from schizophrenia. I attempted to engage him in conversation.

A native of Ashland, he had become unhoused when his mother lost the family home in the 2008 financial downturn. The kid had no roof, no place to clean up, no work, no medical services to stabilize him on proper medication.

On this particular day, he had been sitting on the sidewalk, when a police officer ticketed him for loitering. The officer made no effort to help the kid to obtain shelter or mental health services--just directed him to an encampment on the outskirts of town.

Realistically, the officer had no resources to offer. Oregon simply does not have sufficient public mental health services. According to Jackson County Health and Human Services, the county reserves only a handful of beds in a Medford hospital for severely acute mental health patients. Everyone else is on their own.

On a recent zoom meeting with the local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), a woman described the incarceration of her schizoaffective son. The teen, who was hearing voices, had lashed out at a victim, stabbing him several times. Though this was clearly a crime, in a properly functioning justice system, the boy would have received a psychiatric diagnosis, been declared innocent by virtue of insanity, and admitted to the appropriate medical

facility. Instead, an over-eager prosecutor had convinced the frightened teen to plea-bargain for a ten-year sentence.

Now in prison, the boy receives no mental health treatment. When he is eventually released back into the community, he will be branded with a criminal record. Luckily, unlike many prisoners, he will have a family and house to go home to.

By contrast, one can imagine what befell the houseless young man in Ashland. At some point his citation would have come due; with no money to pay the fine, he would have been picked up by the police, and incarcerated. Unable to make bail, he would have spent days, weeks, months, in jail, receiving no medication or counseling.

Having committed no real crime other than being ill and poor, he would exit jail with a criminal record, complicating his

ability to locate employment or housing. Most likely, he once again found himself out on the streets.

Improperly treated mental health issues and criminal records are only two of many reasons why people end up without a roof over their heads. If our society is going to solve the houseless crisis, we need to be remediating each set of circumstances on an individual basis. Hope Village can certainly be applauded for making inroads into this, but the scope is even broader.

We need to redirect tax dollars toward better mental health services. We need to proactively treat ill individuals before they commit crimes, help offenders once they are incarcerated, and provide transitional housing with sufficient social services once they are released.



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## Thank You Schlage Lock Company

By Krystal Perkins, Marketing and Procurement Coordinator

When Rogue Retreat opened Hope Village in October of 2017, the village consisted of 14 tiny houses. That was quite an accomplishment, but as always the vision didn't end there.

Between 2018 and 2019 the organization was blessed with the means to add another 16 houses. Another 16 individuals/families are not left out in the elements.

More recently Hope village was made complete with the addition of four more tiny houses -bringing its total to 34.

As we forge ahead we often realize areas that need improvement and we learn of new and more feasible ways to do things.

Part of the Rogue Retreat program is our weekly inspections. All participants living under a Rogue Retreat roof have inspections of their units to ensure:

- 1) that all properties are being maintained for safety and longevity of the residence and
- 2) for teaching purposes. To help the participants learn the importance of

good housekeeping skills.

As the village grew larger with the addition of each tiny house, so did the key ring holding a key labeled for each and every unit. It became quite challenging to juggle all of the keys and complete inspections of 34 units in a timely manner.

With such gratitude Rogue Retreat is thanking Schlage Lock Company for their

amazing donation of 34 keyless entry (keypad) locks. Not only is this donation a huge blessing of convenience but gave Hope Village a

beautiful and classier new look. The participants no longer have to worry about losing their keys and being locked out or paying for replacements.

They now have the comfort of knowing that they have chosen their own "secret pin" and that the door locked behind them when they ventured out to tend to their daily tasks.

It is because of generous donors just like Schlage that Rogue Retreat has become what it is today and is able to serve and bless those with our services.



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# Once Again Rogue Retreat Answers The Call

By Scott Clauson, Medford Chief of Police

Three months ago the Sheriff, Medford City leaders, and I began having conversations about the extreme fire danger we were anticipating along the Greenway this summer. We know from experience that campers along the creek light warming and cooking fires on a nightly basis. Every summer we have a wildfire or two get out of control, which endangers neighboring businesses, homes and lives. The Coronavirus, with the “stay in place” order, slowed our normal progress to get campers off of the Greenway and into services.

Collectively, we came up with the idea to create an urban campground which would allow tent camping, but also provide centralized services for food, toilets, showers, medical care, and case management. Once we located a suitable property, the City began negotiating with the landowner for approval. With verbal approval from the landowners, our Deputy City Manager, Kelly Madding, put out a call for a community partner to manage the campground and offer supportive services.

We weren't sure what type of response we were going to get, but Rogue Retreat answered the call! In addition, another great community partner, the Medford Gospel Mission, offered to assist with meal service and partner with Rogue Retreat on this project. We are grateful for this generosity from our community!

In exchange for use of the property, located at the former Crater Meat Packing Plant on Biddle Road, the City and County have agreed to conduct weed and trash abatement services on the property.

The Urban Campground concept was presented to the Medford City Council on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and it passed! I am convinced that this idea would not have been accepted without the excellent track record of success from

Rogue Retreat.

Excavation of the lot has already begun and we are off to a great start.



Scott Clauson, Medford Chief Of Police

MPD's Livability Team, along with Jackson County are in the process of working out a transition plan as well as a communications strategy for campers. We want to inform campers of the new location for food and resources, as well as share with them the process of getting into the camp. I am proud to work in a City that is actively looking for solutions to mitigate homelessness and working to help our most vulnerable populations. I am also proud to partner with reputable organizations like Rogue Retreat and the Medford Gospel Mission. Your organizations are making a difference!

# Partnerships Make Southern Oregon Stronger

By Eddie Wallace, Communications Director for OnTrack

During the past year, OnTrack has developed an even closer relationship with Rogue Retreat. With the opening of the Kelly Shelter in West Medford we are literally across-the-street neighbors and the chance for our peer support staff to interact in our own small way with the clients of the shelter and bring addiction treatment options to them has been gratifying.

We are also proud to be part of the Chronically Homeless Outreach Partnership (CHOP) with Rogue Retreat, the City of Medford, and many other local organizations. CHOP represents community-wide action to improve the health equity of our homeless population. The CHOP strives to end homelessness for at least 20-25 individuals through a four-step process including outreach to build responsive relationships; assessment to provide prompt services; placement to secure stable housing; and follow-up to ensure the long-term success of desired outcomes.

One outcome of this partnership has been the utilization of a West Main Street

property long owned by OnTrack as the newly christened “Summit House.” The house is now serving as a transitional living house for clients coming out of the Kelly Shelter who are on their way to independent living.

OnTrack recently renovated the interior of the house, which houses five adults at a time. Rogue Retreat provides referrals from the Kelly Shelter as to which clients are ready for this next step of transitional housing, as well as providing ongoing case management services for the Summit House residents.

The standard length of time for a client to reside at Summit House is three-to-six months. Together with their case manager, clients develop their job skills, continue with mental health and substance abuse counseling treatments, get connected to

agencies that can help with financial and material needs that arise, and plan for the eventual move into truly independent living. City of Medford leaders have been

working diligently over the past several years to adopt policies, establish priorities, and develop partnerships like CHOP that address the unmet needs and improve the health equity of residents experiencing homelessness.

Angela Durant of the City Planning Department secured valuable funding for Summit House from the Providence Community Grants Council. The Medford Police Department's Livability Team also provides support to Summit House with their regular on-site visits and monitoring services. OnTrack's peer support team is also available as needed to support the onsite case management provided by Rogue Retreat.

The extraordinary work being done by Rogue Retreat in our community is invaluable in helping OnTrack fulfill its mission of helping individuals and families get treatment for addiction and rebuild their lives.

Approximately 30% of our clients identify as homeless when they first enter treatment. Rogue Retreat is a vital partner in helping to find housing so treatment can succeed. The chances for a successful recovery are vastly increased when safe, secure housing is established. Chad McComas and his team are responding to the needs of the homeless in our community. OnTrack is proud to be a community partner in these efforts.



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call home and are  
empowered to  
strengthen the quality of  
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## Finding Hope Podcasts

Stan Littrell 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.

Over 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.

