



February 2020

# Rogue Retreat News



## We Were Told: “Rogue Retreat Is An Anomaly”

Rogue Retreat is an anomaly. (Definition: “something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.”)

In 2009 Rogue Retreat was awarded two grants from a new program from Oregon Housing and Community Services called Housing Plus. The two grants purchased our Riverside and Grape Street properties, provided remodeling for Riverside and Case Management and Rental Subsidies for both properties for four years. It was an amazing gift for Rogue Retreat and became the foundation for what Rogue Retreat is today.

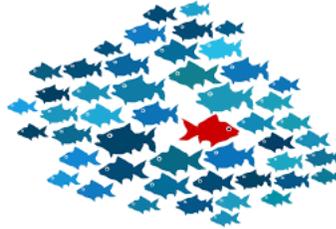
But when the first four years ended and we went back to the State for additional funding we were told that program was an anomaly and would not be reinstated. They said the State doesn't do programs with Case Management, yet here was Rogue Retreat with great success based on Case Management! The State's anomaly helped create our “secret sauce” which has shaped us ever since.

Recently Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley contacted Rogue Retreat to ask pointed questions about our work. He was writing a new bill for Senate addressing and funding the homeless challenge in the US.

He asked how we were successful as a transitional housing program when they were failing across the country.

Evidently Rogue Retreat was an anomaly. Our answer was Case Management.

While most homeless programs are anxious to just get people housed, Rogue Retreat is anxious to help people get their lives back. This means addressing the homeless barriers a person faces and finding solutions so that person can become self-sufficient again being able



to take care of himself and have a quality of life he or she had lost.

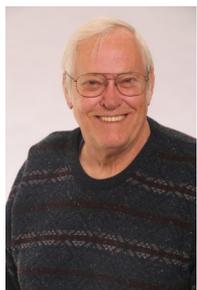
If this is an anomaly, we embrace it. There is nothing better than seeing a person leave their life of homelessness behind with all the baggage and find a new life. Our tag line is “Restoring Lives.” This is what we do and evidently we do it well. A recent study of Rogue Retreat's results was done by CORE by AllCare. The study looked at AllCare Clients who were in one of Rogue Retreat's programs. The study revealed a significant health care cost reduction for AllCare for these clients. But, it also revealed a significant change for these clients to be better equipped to be self-sufficient. Another anomaly.

How do we do it?

We have an amazing community of people behind us supporting us, cheering us on, growing us, educating us, empowering us. Truly it takes a caring community to make this anomaly work!

## Staff Spotlight: Charlie Hale

Charlie Hale is the men's Case Manager at Hope Village. Charlie explains that before coming to Rogue



**Charlie Hale**

Retreat he was an alcoholic and addict for many years and got sober back in the 80's. In the 90's Charlie went back to school and became a drug and alcohol counselor and worked in the addiction treatment field for about ten years.

Charlie fell into depression that took him about five years to come out of. One

day driving down West Main Street past Set Free Charlie heard “Go there”. After a month or two Charlie finally listened to that voice and started volunteering in the food pantry. Serving other's is what turned his life around and broke his depression. For two years Charlie held a homeless support group at Set Free. It was during that time that Hope Village was being built.

After watching Charlie at Set Free, Chad McComas asked Charlie to be a Case Manager at Hope Village. Realizing that serving people had become his calling, he agreed. Every morning Charlie asks God to give him the wisdom he needs to guide those he

works with. Seeing people regain hope and believe in themselves is what Charlie lives for. As a Case Manager at Hope Village part of his job is helping participants set goals and outline an action plan for reaching them so they can become self-sufficient. Charlie believes he is able to create a bond and trust with the men because he has been through many of the same things. Charlie feels that the biggest hurdle people at Hope Village have to overcome is a lack of belief in themselves.

When asked what stereo types he would like to see change regarding homelessness. He says “Not all homeless are alcoholics and drug addicts”.

## Message from the Executive Director

# Gaining/Losing Weight Is Good

I often like to visit Hope Village and The Kelly Shelter. It is truly an honor to be able to talk with Rogue Retreat participants who are working hard to leave homelessness behind and to experience their gratitude and excitement.

I'm always humbled I get to do the work I do and watch people put their lives back together.

Last month I talked about what "success" looks like at Rogue Retreat. It is something our staff thinks about and works hard for every day. The bottom line for us is people. Each is extremely valuable and we learn to love each one.

"Success" showed itself to me in a new area recently.

One older gentleman in The Kelly Shelter shared with me that he was "skin and bones" when he entered the shelter.

"Now I've gained 15 pounds!" He had a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. He is doing better, feeling better. Success.

Another woman shared she'd lost 150 pounds by going to the gym every day and exercising. To say she was proud is an understatement. Being stable in The Kelly Shelter allowed her the ability to do this. I can only imagine how different her life will now be since she is getting healthier and happier.

I thank you all for making my dream of Rogue Retreat a reality. I truly am blessed to be part of this life-changing work. I hope you feel the same way as a supporter!



Chad McComas  
Executive Director

## Rogue Retreat Signs Contract With Providence

A new partnership is being created to address an old problem.

Homeless individuals often have fragile health due to being in the elements of cold winters and hot summers. They visit emergency rooms frequently seeking medical help. This raises the cost of affordable healthy care to area CCO's and health providing organizations like Providence. A dilemma comes when it is time to discharge a homeless person from hospital care. It is unethical to send them back to the streets, but more often than not there are no other options. Hospitals and medical providers can't continue to "house" them, but if they are sent back to the streets there is a high level of probability they will return with more medical needs.

Where can a hospital send a vulnerable homeless person?

Rogue Retreat has been thinking about this challenge for some time and recently started talking with Providence about creating an option for some by providing five beds through Rogue Retreat programs.

"Serving the homeless is what we do," says Program Director Liz Adams. "Working with Providence to help provide safe housing is the right thing to do."

Final details are not completed yet, but this partnership has the potential to address a big need for Providence, homeless individuals and Rogue Retreat.

"It is the right thing to do," says Executive Director Chad McComas. "Just think of the long-term results if we can stop the streets to hospital and back cycle for a few."



## Calling All Rogue Retreat Alumni

We are starting an alumni supporter club to give back for life-changing opportunities you received while being in Rogue Retreat. We have a challenge. Will you give \$5 a month to be part of this new club? Will you pay it forward for another person to create their own success story? Send us your first \$5 this month along with a suggested name for this new club. We can only imagine what this club will help create!

## Grants Pass Warming Center To Open

In a new partnership with UCAN (United Community Action Network) in Josephine County Rogue Retreat will be part of the operation of a Warming Center in Grants Pass.

For years concerned citizens have been trying to create a winter shelter for the homeless.

Their efforts have produced an active group of volunteers anxious to be part of a solution. With funding from UCAN their dreams are about to come true.

On January 18th there was a training for over 50 volunteers by Phil Johncock. This training prepared them to staff the new Warming Center UCAN has leased and is preparing to open. The Center will be activated to open by extreme weather conditions to make sure homeless individuals have a warm and safe place to be overnight.

Plan are to be ready to open the Warming Center in February as weather dictates. Rogue Retreat is proud to be part of this new vital service to Grants Pass.



**Are You Part Of Our 180 Club Yet?**  
**Will You Start This month?**  
**Think what \$25 can do!**