



Creating opportunities for the homeless to have hope

# NEWSLETTER

February, 2021



## DONOR APPRECIATION MONTH YOUR GIVING ALLOWS US TO GIVE



**By Tom Fischer**  
Rogue Retreat Board Chairman

Just as the body needs food, so the soul needs meaning, and the spirit

needs ultimate meaning. Often that meaning is communicated through giving. At Rogue Retreat, February is Donor Appreciation Month. We set aside this month to give thanks to all of you in our community that have given to help Rogue Retreat serve the people we call “our people.” The Homeless is a growing population. You have helped us grow this year and we are “giving a hand up” to many more people.

Rogue Retreat donors are a wide range of individuals and groups. From volunteers serving food to our guests at the Campground, to our tireless staff working late hours to get the job done before going home. From board members filling in over the holidays when we are short-staffed, to our partners that step

forward to help make an incredible opportunity reality. Most incredible in 2020 has been the giving of funds from a monthly \$5 donation to those that have given tens of thousands towards a matching campaign for pallet shelters. In 2020, with all of its surprises, our our donor provided funds saw incredible growth. We are all incredibly surprised and blessed. We appreciate you all.

Your giving has allowed us to give. Please read slowly through the rest of this newsletter. This is the story of how your giving has been put into action. Know that there are many more untold stories of our guests and residents getting the hand up that you have helped provide. Know that there have been many that came to us from the Greenway or a business

owner’s back porch, and today they get up in the morning, fix their bed in one of our housing units, then head off to a job they have secured. They now have food to sustain their direction. They have a soul with the hope that they can stay out of the circumstances they had fallen into in the past. Their spirit has meaning. This is something all of our Donors are a part of, this is our community.

I have heard it said, when we are able to give—at the right time and in the right way—it will feel precisely as if we have lost nothing. In fact, it will feel like freedom and joy. Thank you for doing that last year.

Tom Fischer  
Rogue Retreat Board Chairman

# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



**By Chad McComas**  
Rogue Retreat Executive Director

When a small circle of people met in 1998 to dream of creating an organization to serve people who fall through the cracks of society they had no idea what their dream would become. And, they had no idea their dream would grow to be positioned for what the community needs right now.

Housing is the number one challenge for Southern Oregon and most of the country.

Due to the housing downturn from the Great Recession of 2008, the rising costs of housing over personal income, the COVID Crisis, and now the fallout of the fires last fall (more than 2,500 homes burned) more and more people are finding themselves homeless.

Rogue Retreat is positioned to be at the right place at the right time. Due to the housing opportunities, we have been able to create in the last few years (Hope Village, The Kelly Shelter, and the Urban Campground) more and more communities and organizations are coming to Rogue Retreat seeking ideas and inspiration on how to address homeless issues. We are truly honored to be able to encourage and visually educate what can be done.

Truly we often feel overwhelmed at the need and those who want to address those needs. How can we help? What can we do?



*Rogue Retreat Riverside complex*

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We are determined to help any and all who come asking for help. We believe we have been granted favor to do what we do and must help when and where asked.

How can we do this with our limited staff and resources?

We have created Hope University with audio courses on how to build a tiny house village, full-time shelter, and campground. We give weekly tours for people interested in creating something in their own communities. We counsel over the phone and through emails.

We are humbled to hear people are taking this dream and creating their own. Things are happening and the homeless will be taken off the streets and given hope.

We are so grateful to the growing army of donors who support our work and enable us to operate. Your donations are not only growing our work in Southern Oregon but helping grow it in Oregon for such a time as this.

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**Call 541.499.0880 Today!**

# AN INTERVIEW WITH GRANTS PASS CITY COUNCILOR VANESSA OGIER

**By Nahani Lukes**  
Grants Pass Volunteer

Speaking with newly elected City Councilwoman Vanessa Ogier I learned the Federal Government used to sponsor public housing in every state. But in recent years they do not finance these types of buildings. This means affordable housing projects have to be designed, funded, and built by the community.

Grants Pass has a particularly severe housing crisis which limits people's ability to exit homelessness. The community resources are spread far and most people do not get the adequate help they need to re-establish themselves as valued members of society.

The attitude of the community affects people's ability to exit homelessness. Vanessa states: "It is important for residents and local government to shift their perspective from 'Not In My Backyard' to one of compassion and recognition that these issues are already in our community and must be addressed instead of swept under the rug or to the next county over."

When we look at the increasing homeless population we must recognize the image of a homeless person we all have in our minds is not the norm.

Homelessness is a broad term that includes those that are staying with friends or family, living in a vehicle, staying long term at a campground/ RV park.

Most of the homeless residents in this community are hardworking, well kept, and respectable. They are part of the community here and deserve a chance to continue living where they have connections, employment, and are familiar with the culture.

What's good for the local economy is not always good for the community. Developers who invest in Grants Pass are building townhomes, not high-density housing. If we want our local stores and businesses to offer services, there needs to be housing available for employees

and their families. Vanessa states that she hopes to change the norm of "community leaders advocating for increasing the market value of the community and assuming it would solve the housing crisis. When in fact, quite the opposite has occurred. The increased market has led to increased homelessness."



Grants Pass City Councilor Vanessa Ogier

*Most of the homeless residents in this community are hardworking, well kept, and respectable. They are part of the community here and deserve a chance to continue living where they have connections, employment, and are familiar with the culture.*

Families that used to have stable housing have lost it as property values increase and more people move here from out of state.

Vanessa feels the City Council has an important role in improving residents living conditions. "Local government often pursues quick fixes to the housing crisis, and year after year the issue is getting worse. This needs to change."

Vanessa passionately states: "The local housing crisis is an intersectional issue that needs to be addressed from multiple angles from the local government and from local residents."

Foundry Village is a community project. By the people for the people. "This project won't solve our entire housing crisis but it does address the varying needs of the chronically homeless already present in our community."

Foundry Village has hopefully paved the way for future transitional housing units to obtain permits more readily. Vanessa feels "This should have been a simple process-one meeting, where the ordinance and permits are discussed and signed shortly after."

If you're wondering why it's taking so long for Foundry Village to start building it's because of bureaucratic complications.

Vanessa hopes to help future projects addressing housing have an easier time obtaining permits. She is pushing to have pre-approved blueprints so the City can give developers, who want to invest in the community, a streamlined process to get affordable housing built quickly. These currently bureaucratic complications are rooted in personal issues and fears of community disapproval.

Please be an advocate and talk to others about the benefits of providing services to those seeking to exit homelessness. Local residents are responsible for shaping the future of this community.

Together we must foster an environment that allows long-term locals to prosper. Let's be a community that sets by example and offers support and services to those seeking to become active members of their community but lack the resources.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Rogue Retreat's slogan line is "Restoring Lives."

We provide housing. We provide case management. We feed, clothe and give dignity to the homeless, but the ultimate purpose is to restore lives.

We recently received this thank you note from a grateful mother. In just a few words it clearly points out, in the case of her son, our mission was accomplished.

"I wanted to take a few minutes to tell you how much I appreciate you and Rogue Retreat. You may remember my son and how he has struggled his whole life and the last 20 years with addiction. He was able to get into the Campground... and having a doctor at La Clinica he started improving to stay clean. He then went into the Kelly Shelter in September. He now is out of the Shelter and working full time. He's doing so good! He has said if it weren't for Rogue

Retreat he wouldn't have been able to stay clean and get out of that pit. I am forever grateful for the people who are willing to do the work of the Lord and really help those who need that help. I wanted you to know how much I appreciate you."

**We are so grateful we get to do what we do... thanks to all who help donate to our work.**

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:**

# CHARLIE HALE



**By Charlie Hale**  
Rogue Retreat Case Manager/  
Grant Specialist

**When did you begin working for Rogue Retreat?**

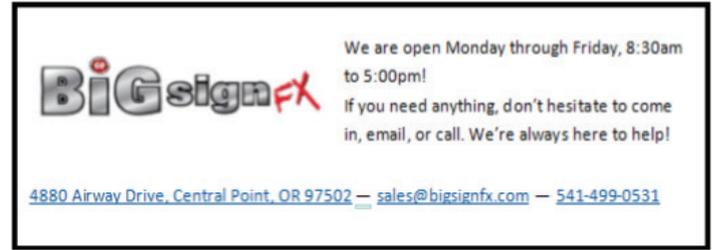
"In October of 2017"

**What brought you to Rogue Retreat?**

"I've been a part of Set Free for many years. Hope Village opened and I became a case manager because of my work with the homeless at Set Free. As soon as I got there I knew I was right at home. I mean really, I've been doing this for the last 25 years in one fashion or another."

**What is your most memorable experience working at Hope Village?**

"I think the most memorable



thing is all of those people who moved on to their own apartments."

**What are you doing with Rogue Retreat now?**

"Right now I am writing grants to fund our programs. I've been writing grants for Set Free for a number of years. I was sad to leave Hope Village but growth and change are uncomfortable and I'm just thankful that I can grow and change; plus I still get a taste of case management because I oversee Harold's Haven. I still get to case

manage the guys over there."

**If you could go back in time and talk to your younger self, what is one thing you would tell yourself?**

"Whatever you do - do it with all of your heart."

**What advice would you give to the new employees who are joining Rogue Retreat?**

"Be prepared for change. Learn everything you can, and do it well!"

## THE THRIFT SHOP BY ROGUE RETREAT



*Display at Rogue Retreat's Thrift Shop*

**By Jana Stanley**  
Thrift Shop Manager

The Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat is a true gem in our community. Founded in 2014 by Rogue Retreat, the Thrift Shop raises funds to further our mission to create opportunities for the homeless to have hope. Not only does the shop raise funds to further the mission, but also provides for those in need through the resale of low-cost donated items. The shop is able to help clothe guests at the Kelly Shelter and the Urban

Campground as needed. Donations to Set Free Ministry also help clothe our neighbors. Following the devastation of local fires last fall, the shop provided clothing and basic needs for free to fire victims and evacuees. When called upon to provide for the community, the shop always steps up to the challenge!

New and exciting changes are happening! A new manager, Jana Stanley, was hired in December. Monie Lapizco was hired as a full-time cashier at the same time. Together, Jana and

Monie are making big changes! The shop is being reorganized and customers love the changes! The windows are merchandised with displays. The layout is being moved around and more furniture is available. The shop is now open on Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm. Donations are pouring in and we are gaining new customers all the time.

The Thrift Shop is partnering with various community programs in order to grow. The Easter Seals, a 55-and-over work trainee program is proving to be a wonderful community partner. This program selects qualified individuals to work 20 hours per week. They are trained to fill important roles at the shop. The consistency is improving the look of the shop as well as speeding up the sorting process. Volunteers are being recruited and filling essential roles of sorters and merchandisers. Guests of the Kelly Shelter are being trained as sorters and are fantastic! They are building job skills and becoming more confident every day! Three students from North Medford High School volunteer several times a week and are a fun addition to our team! Working together is proving to be beneficial for everyone!



# OVER TWO YEARS OF KEEPING THE STREETS OF MEDFORD CLEAN



Clean Sweep participants cleaning a site in Medford

**By Todd Diehl**  
Clean Sweep Manager

This program has been running for over two years and I would like to give thanks to Sylvia and Chris for the exposure they have given Clean Sweep to the community. I'd also like to thank The City of Medford and all those who donate cans and bottles. Since I have taken over Clean Sweep we have been trying to expand our horizons, become more self-sufficient, and do more in the

way of work experience other than just litter patrol. I have changed the services we provide to pressure washing, yard maintenance, and litter patrol.

What I have noticed is that most of our volunteers want to do more than just sit in the park and drink. I believe they want a sense of normalcy in their lives. Most of my guys and gals just want a little respect. We give that to them. I envision this program to be a tier system. Start out as volunteers

and then maybe hiring a few for the services we provide. The more paying contracts the more opportunity to have someone spend individual time with those that want job search help. I can remember what it feels like to have created such a giant hole for yourself that it looks as if there is no way out. What I love about Rogue Retreat is we give hope and the tools to achieve those hopes. As the manager of Clean Sweep, I have found Clean Sweep to be a catalyst for that hope. Clean Sweep is one aspect of the bigger picture, self-sufficiency, self-respect, a home, and the feeling that you matter.

Here are some of the new and exciting things that have been happening for Clean Sweep to achieve these goals;

We are in the final stages of getting a contract with Southern Oregon & Pacific Railroad. We will do light brush removal and litter from Ashland to Central Point.

We are also in the planning stages of partnering with MPD (Livability Team) on various hot spot areas around town for litter patrol and also greenway cleanups.

We have become a vendor for Henselman Realty doing pressure washing, gutter, and roof cleaning as well as our regular weekly cleanups of their properties.

We may get into a contract with the Britt Festival of Music for litter patrol this season. That is still up in the air but God willing we will get it.

As Rogue Retreat branches out to say Grants Pass I hope to have Clean Sweep travel with them. What a great way to alleviate some of the concerns about having a shelter in town. At the same time provide some way for the houseless up there to get some of the basics they need.

Thank you to everyone who donates their time, money, or both.

Todd Diehl

Clean Sweep Manager



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**Clean Sweep would love to come by your place of business and pickup your cans and bottles to help support our job training program.**

**For more information call (541) 449-0880**



**Trader Joe's donated 17 bags of cans and bottles!**

# WHY FATHER & SON'S SUPPORT ROGUE RETREAT



Bob Galas and daughter Deb Aust. at Father & Son Jewelry in Medford

**By Bob Galas**

Father & Son Jewelry

I have chosen to support Rogue Retreat because they care about people. I have seen centers for helping people come and go. Oftentimes they are only focused on one type of person and oftentimes this fails. Rogue Retreat envelopes all people regardless of culture, race, creed, or gender.

Father and son jewelry has been

in the valley for over 25 years and we have seen the progress of the people that Rogue Retreat has helped. I prided ourselves in being the best jewelry store in the Valley. We have given wedding bands away to people who are starting over...

.. as a matter of fact; we have a large Valentine's Day sale going on now on our engagement sets and a part of the sale will be donated to Rogue Retreat!



I see the work of Rogue Retreat's organization lasting many years and many generations. I encourage everyone to donate and volunteer

however you can. God Bless

317 E Jackson St #1, Medford, OR 97501 (541) 774-8900

## PLACEMAKING IN PROGRESS



**By Colleen Padilla**

Executive Director, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI)

You may not be familiar with the term placemaking. It was relatively new language to the economic development agency I am privileged to lead – up until about 18 months ago when we were wrapping up an update to the region's 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Often referred to as quality of life or quality of place, placemaking is one

of five key initiatives critical to our southern Oregon economic vitality.

**Placemaking is about nurturing an environment that preserves Southern Oregon's quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.**

SOREDI serves 15 different jurisdictions within our region and in the process of engagement with nearly 40 focus groups, hundreds of community and business leaders, and a community survey, many common themes of pride emerged with regard to how attractive and peaceful Southern Oregon is. Equally true, the myriad of concerns about protecting its citizens from skyrocketing home prices, devastating fires, suffocating smoke, and the plight of homelessness in the lives of many and upon our open public spaces, also rose to become top of mind discussion in nearly every conversation.

As a native of the region, I have watched firsthand how the landscape of our valley has changed dramatically over the years, particularly in our downtown corridors and along the greenway. More recently I have witnessed the good work and successful track

record of Rogue Retreat. I knew it was an agency I could get behind in a heartbeat – both professionally and personally.

And when I was asked to serve on the advisory committee, it was a resounding yes! It was the moment I had been praying for - to match up my heart response to the plight of our homeless citizens with my professional career and help find a way forward for our communities, our region, and especially every unhoused individual who is seeking a helping hand and compassionate response.

It is one thing to have words on paper in the form of a strategy, it is quite another to find meaningful ways to move a strategy forward one tactic at a time. Each initiative within our One Rogue Valley Strategy has a coalition of engaged citizens working to ensure that progress is made.

In July 2020, SOREDI was awarded a significant grant from the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in response to the pandemic. In addition to providing financial assistance to SOREDI, this grant allowed us to purposefully

allocate over 75% of the funding to initiatives within our Strategy.

Stability in housing leads to the increased likelihood of stabilized employment and success for the area's businesses who are the backbone of our economy. A \$30,000 grant was made to Rogue Retreat to staff the homeless campground in Medford and help develop Foundry Village in Grants Pass.

More recently, SOREDI served as administrator of numerous grants for many jurisdictions in our region. Blessed with additional administrative revenues, it made perfect strategic sense to give back a portion in Josephine County to further the progress of Foundry Village with an additional grant for \$12,675. Additional funds in Jackson County will be available soon to businesses impacted by the Almeda and Obenchain wildfires.

Placemaking is not static. It is ongoing, intentional, and purpose driven. Thank you for your heart in bettering our communities and the lives of many individuals everyday with your generous commitment of time and financial resources to Rogue Retreat.

# THE BUILDING OF FOUNDRY VILLAGE IS IN PROGRESS!



Construction site of Foundry Village, Grants Pass Oregon

By Nahani Lukes

We should be seeing the community building steadily growing vertically over the next few weeks. Volunteers have helped with the early stages of building this community. It is impressive how much a group of volunteers can accomplish if they work together towards a common goal with a good plan and a knowledgeable project leader.

The rebar has now been laid for the community center building and the next step is to pour concrete. Although the design has been approved, the permits have not yet been fully granted. If all goes well, this next step of pouring concrete will take place in a week or two.

The tiny houses themselves will be the next step after the shared community building is established. The tiny houses will be primarily built by volunteer workgroups who have an interest in being a part of the project in a hands-on way. Raised flower beds are also planned along the front of the property, to help the space feel like a welcoming home to residents and a friendly place to visitors.

The hiring of staff will need to be

complete before the village can officially open. So if you don't want to get involved with the build but would like to join the team making this project happen, now is the time to be hired for the future.

This project is a wonderful learning experience for the community and provides a gateway that will allow for other similar projects in the future. Grants Pass is just one city in Southern Oregon that has a crisis of unsheltered individuals.

It takes a community to build a village. Thank you, donors, volunteers, and facilitators; your support is highly valued and will continue to be needed to get this project complete.

If you're interested in volunteering, or other ways to support Foundry Village please call Rogue Retreat's main office at (541) 499-0880.



Volunteers at the construction site for Foundry Village, Grants Pass Oregon

## Rogue Retreat Wishlist

These are some of the items we need to help service the homeless in our community.

1. Sanitizing Wipes
2. Toilet Paper
3. Binder Clips
4. 13 & 6 Gallon Trash Bags
5. Post-it Notes
6. Disposable Face Masks
7. Pacific Blue Multifold Paper Towels
8. Disposable Vomit Bags
9. Disposable Food Serving Gloves
10. Latex Gloves
11. Hand Sanitizer
12. Triple Antibiotic Ointment
13. Band-aids
14. White Washcloths For Face
15. Laundry Detergent
16. Adult Incontinence Underwear (Mens)
17. Mega Roll Toilet Paper
18. Socks
19. Razors For Men And Women
20. Paper Towels

If you feel you can help provide any of these items, please call our office at (541) 499-0880

# FEEDING THE BODY AND THE SOUL



Kelly Shelter resident with Marci McComas and Billy Lindsay

At our Kelly Shelter we know that providing our residents with stability is so important in helping them create a new life and a new future.

Billy Lindsay, Kitchen Lead of the Kelly Shelter says, 'We are not just feeding them because they are hungry, we are feeding their souls so that they can be capable to go out and find jobs, housing, and the basic things they need in life. They are starting all over again and we want them to not just be in survival mode anymore. When they go to bed with a warm meal in their stomachs, they can sleep well, wake up and be ready to go out and get a job and the things they need to be successful in life.' Lindsay came from a hard background but is an amazing example of how you can truly turn your life around.

He says, "Over 14 years ago I was where they are. By the power of NA and meeting Pastor Chad, I ended up here. I love working at the shelter. I get to give back by telling my story. Pastor Chad always told me, 'never give up'. Now I get to tell our residents the same message. My passion is working in the kitchen and with our residents." Simple things like being able to come together and eat at a dinner table every day may seem insignificant to most but we have learned it's so important in giving our residents an environment to have a fresh start.

"This is a community Lindsay says,

"This is where their peers are, it's like a family. They come together during meals and create important bonds with other residents and staff. We pride ourselves in making this their home and they become a part of our family." Knowing how important these meals are, we need your help. We are able to provide meals at our shelter through community meal donors. We need people or organizations that are willing to make and drop off meals. It's a great way you can be involved in helping our organization. 'Meal donors are so important because they see that the community cares and they are not forgotten.

Many feel that the community doesn't like them, and when they see donors dropping off the meals I see it put a smile on their faces. They are so grateful and take pride in getting to say thank you to our donors and they are sincere and truly mean it.' If you would like to become a meal donor you can sign up online by going to our Meal Train account at <https://mealtrain.com/v1r9oy> or you can call the Kelly Shelter at 541-499-0880 ex 4000 and ask to speak with Billy Lindsay, Kitchen Lead. We are also going to be looking for meal donors soon for the upcoming Grants Pass Shelter.

If you are interested in becoming a meal donor in Grants Pass, please call Marci McComas, Grants Pass Shelter Manager at 541-499-0880 ex 1065.

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**FINDING HOPE PODCAST:**

# OUR HOST STAN LITTRELL



**How and when did you learn about Rogue Retreat?**

"I came to Rogue Retreat on July 11th, 2019 as a result of working with a job coach. He had been actively looking for work for me and knew that I had a background in radio."

**How did the "Finding Hope Podcast" come into existence?**

"Rogue Retreat wanted to get the word out about who we are and what we do."

**What is the mission of the Podcast?**

"We want the community to know that we are a global village and that we are all looking out for one another."

**What is your favorite episode to date?**

"I don't have a favorite episode. Each one is so different from the next."

**What are some of your goals for the podcast? Long-term and short-term?**

"I just want to see how it grows. You see, we don't only feature Rogue Retreat. We feature all different people and organizations in our community with the same or even just like-hearted missions."

**How can people support the podcast?**

"Oh, there are a variety of ways. We have a donation site on Anchor FM, You could donate a gift card for us to give away from the new Podcast contest that we will soon be unveiling."

**Who and How can people become a featured guest on our podcast?**

"Just reach out to us! We are always looking for partner organizations to feature on our podcast."

**How can people listen to the Finding Hope Podcast?**

"You can listen to each podcast episode wherever you find podcasts. We have hosting on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor, Breaker, Overcast, Pocket Casts, RadioPublic, and Stitcher."



*Stan Littrell, Host of Rogue Retreat's, 'Finding Hope Podcast'*

We release new episodes every Wednesday. You can find all our episodes at <https://anchor.fm/findinghopepodcast>



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# THE MATCHING GRANT SUCCESS



In early December, we heard from an anonymous donor who wanted to help at 10 Pallet Shelters to the Temporary Urban Campground. The donor proposed donating \$34,000 to us, (which covers the cost of 5 Pallet Shelters) if we could raise enough funds to pay for an additional 5 shelters plus delivery fees. We jumped at the opportunity.

We quickly began to create a plan to raise the funds. This plan included a lot of one on one phone calls between our team and donors who had previously donated to us, as well as website and social media campaigns. As the month of December progressed (an already busy time for nonprofits) we kept working towards our goal of reaching the matching grant by the

end of the year.

The last week of the month, we weren't sure that we were going to reach our goal. But Right before the new year, our community came together. We received an outpouring of donors and support to get the Pallet Shelters. We didn't only reach our goal, but we surpassed it. Including the matching grant, we raised \$84,000 to add a total of 11 Pallet Shelters to the Campground.

On January 13th and 14th, we had the Pallet Shelters delivered and setup. The team from Pallet does an amazing job and was able to set all 11 up in about a day and a half. They traveled down here from Seattle Washington to deliver and assemble these housing units.

We're so grateful for the partnership we've been able to build with Pallet since they donated 10 of their shelters to us last summer after the local wildfires.

We now have a total of 25 Pallet Shelters at the Temporary Urban Campground. We could not be more grateful for the support we have received from the community throughout this matching grant. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the anonymous donor who created the matching grant and the over 50 individuals who donated to this cause. It's because of community supporters like these that allow us to do what we do to help the homeless here in Southern Oregon.

## LEGACY GIVING IS EASY TO DO



**By Mike McClain,**  
Rogue Retreat Board of Directors

Giving, often called "Planned Giving". In its basic form, Legacy Giving is a donation made by an individual through a will or other formal designation. It is not scary, and it is not fraught with technical tax issues. Legacy gifts are typically prepared with a financial planner and are meant to reflect the values and desires of the donor. As the name suggests, most donors want to leave a legacy or memory of their life through their posthumous giving. With this in mind, Rogue Retreat encourages you to consider including Rogue Retreat in your wills or trust.

One of the biggest challenges nonprofits face is sustainability, and Rogue Retreat is no exception. While we have been wonderfully successful in obtaining program grants and individual and family donations for specific projects such as Hope Village and the Kelly Shelter, we have a constant concern about making payroll and keeping the lights on, just those day-to-day expenses of keeping our doors open and our programs thriving. Most non-profits that have continued to operate often for many years have done so by creating and funding an endowment which adds an additional revenue source to secure long-term fiscal stability.

The best vehicle for creating an endowment is through Legacy

I wish to remind you that you do not need to be a person of wealth to consider Legacy Giving. We realize that many donors do not have the capacity to give major gifts on an annual basis, but they can make a major gift by using other types of assets as well, like art, property, stocks, and life insurance policies. My wife and I have recently made some changes to our wills and trust and have included Rogue Retreat with a cash gift dedicated to an endowment. We invite you to join us.

If you are interested in including Legacy Giving in your estate plans and would like information on how to proceed, please contact Krystal Perkins (541-499-0880, ext. 1025) [krystal@rogueretreat.com](mailto:krystal@rogueretreat.com).

## Rogue Retreat Tours

Since Hope Village was built in 2017 Rogue Retreat has hosted many tours for various city, county and state leaders. We have had university presidents and business leaders and so many interested citizens along the way.

Most all say at the end of tours:

**"This isn't what I expected."**

Hope Village, The Kelly Shelter and now the new Urban Campground are setting examples of what can be done to serve the homeless in other areas. Hope University was created to provide valuable education to help others make a difference.

Please reach out to Rowena to set up a tour at 541-499-0880 or by email at [rowena@rogueretreat.com](mailto:rowena@rogueretreat.com)

# WHY ROGUE RETREAT? FROM A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD



By Steve Jones

I was raised and have lived here in our beautiful valley since 1976. I've seen a lot of growth and

changes. We'll touch on that later. After graduating from SOU, I moved to Seattle to find my fame and fortune. Instead, I met my wonderful partner, Chris, and began a family. Big cities aren't the best for that, so we moved back to Southern Oregon. Southern Oregon has grown and changed over the years. The homeless "issue" changed as well. I used to be of the mind, "get a job". Something altered that thinking.

I, along with two other partners (Husband & Wife) started a local office equipment dealership now named Office Tech. Life was good! But something was missing for me personally ... Something I could do to give back to our community. Enter Chad McComas and Rogue Retreat. During a routine "sales call" with Chad, I asked him "what do you folks do here?" His reply was, "I'm glad you asked, do you have

a few hours for me to show you?" Chad and I then went on a tour of the programs and facilities. At the end of the visit to Rogue Retreat's Hope Village, I was hooked.

*Rogue Retreat doesn't just give a homeless person a place to sleep, they work diligently to work with people to improve their lives, find employment, housing, become sober and become functional members of our community again.*

My preconceived notion of "homelessness" was smashed. No longer did I believe those that were in this situation were just lazy, and drug addicts. Now I believed these people were victims of traumatic

life events. Coincidentally, my family was dealing with a homeless oldest daughter, addicted to heroin. I was susceptible, to say the least. I asked Chad how I could help, knowing and believing, in the Rogue Retreat mission and program(s). His response was for me to become a board member! I accepted and have been on the board for two years now.

I have to tell you, for me, it's the most enriching, rewarding, and best thing I've ever done in my 55 years on this earth! Rogue Retreat doesn't just give a homeless person a place to sleep, they work diligently to work with people to improve their lives, find employment, housing, become sober and become functional members of our community again. As a local business owner, father, husband, and taxpayer, that's a win, win, win! Thank you Rogue Retreat for changing lives, including mine!

## Thank You RVTD!

We would not be able to survive without our community partners and partner agencies. Over the past several years RVTD has blessed Rogue Retreat by donating retired vehicles that have helped us create a small fleet of vans and buses to help operate our programs and serve the chronically homeless in Southern Oregon.

Please join us in thanking them for their support!

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## Help Feed the Kelly Shelter and Urban Campground

We know that providing our participants with stability is one of the biggest ways we can help them build a better future.

One of the many ways we do this, is by providing hot meals for them every night. It also helps build an important sense of community within our programs.

We need your help.

Would you consider signing up to bring a hot meal to either program?



Meal Train is a meal service program we use to schedule and manage our meal donors. If you go to the site, it lists what nights are still available and the specific details for dropping off a meal to each of our programs in need.

### Sign Up to Help

The Urban Campground meals need to serve 60 people  
Sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/8gqz94>

The Kelly Shelter meals need to serve 64 people  
Sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/v1r9oyThe Kelly>