



Creating opportunities for the homeless to have hope

NEWSLETTER

June, 2021



ROGUE RETREAT IS EXPANDING AND RAISING HOPE



Chad McComas, Rogue Retreat Executive Director

There was a great movie out a number of years ago called “Flywheel.” It was about making positive changes, thus increasing momentum which moved one from being stuck to achieving greater accomplishments and success. The story was inspiring.

It feels like Rogue Retreat has been benefiting from a moving flywheel the last couple of years. According to a dictionary, a flywheel is: “used to increase the machine’s momentum and thereby provide greater stability.”

As Rogue Retreat has served the homeless well, it has generated more opportunities to serve, more supporters, and more income, thus growing the organization’s reach. It has truly been a wonderful experience to have all the support and opportunities to grow, but the bottom line has always been serving “one more person” or getting “one more bed” to be able to get people off the streets.



Hope Village, a community of 34 tiny houses

We started with five men in one house in 1999 and today we shelter up to 300 individuals, couples and families on any given night. We are honored and humbled to have gotten to this point, but we can’t stop now.

To watch people find hope, make changes, and begin to see their dreams come true is addictive. We realize we can’t help everyone who needs hope. Some are not ready. Others don’t want help, but so many are desperate for a chance to turn their lives around. They ask to get in the Urban Campground, The Kelly Shelter, Hope Village, our recovery houses, our apartments, or the newly acquired Redwood Inn. More ask than we have room.

So what is next for Rogue Retreat?

We are always working on improving our supportive services known as our “Secret Sauce.” As we fine-tune our five-level program, people are encouraged, inspired, and motivated to move forward in their lives. We are providing

more training for our current employees and and we are seeking qualified employees to add to the staff. We are determined to become one of the best programs in the country that serves the homeless. As we learn, we want to help other organizations serving the homeless find solutions by using our Hope University training and consulting services. It is about helping one more person.

Helping each person means creating more beds.

Currently, the City of Medford is requesting we expand the Urban Campground from 75 tent/Pallet Structure sites up to 150 sites. This can help at least 75 more people! We are working with The Addictions Recovery Center to create Heart Village with 12 tiny houses. That is at least 12 more people. Each one matters.

We are willing to work to make this all

IS PHILANTHROPY JUST A FANCY WORD THAT MEANS, “I CARE”?



Have you ever wondered what exactly the word, philanthropy means? Or you may have wondered who exactly is a philanthropist or if you might be one yourself.

Read on and maybe a few fun facts we’ve uncovered about philanthropy may answer your questions or even inspire some new ones.

Philanthropy, according to Oxford Languages, Google’s Dictionary is, “the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.”

According to the National Philanthropic Trust website, the word philanthropy is derived from the Greek word philanthropia which simply meant love of mankind. The meaning of the word continues to evolve over time and people give to other people and organizations that support everything from human services, arts, and sciences, to causes that promote environmental sustainability.

Here are a few more facts about philanthropy, gleaned from the National Philanthropic Trust website that might interest you:

Ancient Greeks considered philanthropy fundamental to democracy.

In ancient civilizations of sub-Saharan Africa, reciprocity and kindness to others were paramount.

Native Americans practiced giving to promote balance and harmony.

Sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam called upon believers to care for those in need.

In the 12th century, rabbi and philosopher Moses Maimonides articulated the beliefs that underlay many of these ancient practices when



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he established the “Golden Ladder of Charity” in the Mishneh Torah. Giving unwillingly was at the bottom of the ladder while giving anonymously to an unknown recipient and giving to enable the recipient’s self-reliance were situated at the top. Maimonides’ hierarchy shaped notions of giving for centuries.

The World Giving Index states that for the last 10 years the United States of America ranks as the most philanthropic country in the world.

According to the Nonprofit Times, “Utah and Oregon rank as the most charitable states in the union.

Now that you know a little more about what philanthropy is and what it means around the world - how would you define what philanthropy means to you?

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

HEIDI SMITH



*Heidi Smith,
Host of Rogue Retreat's Redwood Inn*

We were delighted to catch up with Heidi Smith, the first host at our new Redwood Inn facility in Medford. As you may remember, the Redwood Inn is part of the Governor's Project Turnkey program that purchased underutilized motels to use as temporary shelter for the unhoused. For now, these unhoused are mainly members of our community whose homes burned in the Almeda Fire last year.

Work is progressing inside the Redwood Inn's forty-seven rooms to transform them into studio apartments. In the meantime, new residents are making do and are grateful to have a place. Heidi was hired to make sure the residents are comfortable and have what they need. She said, "The residents here are being incredibly patient as they watch the construction from across the parking lot. It really speaks to their character

and tenacity. I'm honored to serve them as they steadfastly wait for the remodeling to be completed."

Before coming to the Redwood Inn, Heidi worked the graveyard shift for several months at the Kelly Shelter. We asked how her work at the two facilities compared. She noted that at the Kelly Shelter she saw dedicated people putting everything they can into getting their lives back together. Their goal is to obtain a stable place to live. At the Redwood Inn, the residents already had that, but their homes



Rogue Retreat's Redwood Inn

burned. They are trying to organize their lives to find a new place to live.

Also at the Kelly Shelter, she was used to working with a lot of people day-to-day. Redwood Inn is a smaller community. She doesn't see the residents as much but is there to watch over them and cheer them on. A key asset to Heidi's selection as host was her ability to speak Spanish. Some people displaced by the fires

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are not bilingual, so Heidi's skill is invaluable. She enjoys meeting the residents and swapping stories. Many times, she just listens as people process their grief.

The situation is working well for Heidi. She is able to work from home while carrying out her duties and also be there for her teenage daughter.

At this time, mothers with children and couples nearing retirement age are under Heidi's care. Most of them have jobs, either part or full-time. All of them are working

hard to replace the living situations they lost. She says residents are very grateful to have a safe place to stay while they rebuild their lives.

When asked what advice she would give to new employees who are joining Rogue Retreat, Heidi suggested they read Rogue Retreat's founding principles and take to heart the commitment to being a good neighbor, being kind, and offering each participant something to hope for.

We congratulate Heidi in her new position and hope for opportunities to cheer her on!

ROGUE RETREAT IS EXPANDING AND RAISING HOPE

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happen, but we will need more staff and more funding. Right now it costs around \$25 a day per person to operate and oversee the campgrounds and the villages. The Kelly Shelter, with a higher level of Supportive Services care and staffing, costs \$50 a day per person. To compare, it costs about \$115 a day per person for the County Jail.

We have been so grateful to those who have joined our 180 Club. They are giving a minimum of \$25 a month to help keep one more person off the streets for one night. Others have been sending in donations of \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, and more. There

are not words appreciative enough for their sacrifice and trust in what Rogue Retreat is doing.

It takes all of us to give a "hand up" to a homeless person, to give him or her the chance to escape the life-sucking experience of homelessness. When we do, it not only blesses that person, it blesses the community financially and morally. We all benefit.

Is there more on the horizon? Yes.

Ashland is asking to partner with us to create a campground with 50 sites.

Grants Pass is asking to partner with us to create a campground there.

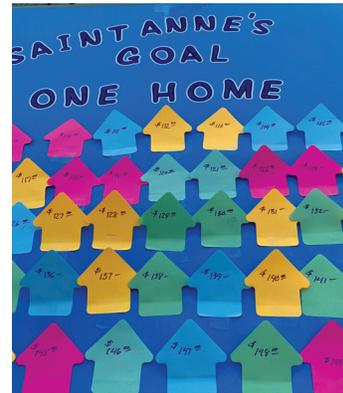
We have been working with the City of Roseburg to help them create an overall plan to address the homeless challenges there.

Leaders from the City of Redmond are raising funds to contract with Rogue Retreat to help them find possible solutions to their homeless challenges.

The Rotary Club in Medford wants to help Rogue Retreat create a new village in the Rogue Valley with up to 60 tiny houses.

This is all a bit overwhelming. But our staff, our board, our leaders, and our partnerships with other community organizations are working to find ways to continue to grow responsibly. It is all to help one more person.

SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH RALLIES TO BUILD TWO TINY HOMES



Tiny House Model with sticky note donation amounts designed by Julianne

It was exciting to receive news that Saint Anne Catholic Church in Grants Pass kicked off the first weekend of fundraising to buy one Tiny Home at Foundry Village. The new homeless shelter is taking shape as dozens of volunteers push the project toward its completion date in July/August 2021. Foundry Village will

be managed by Rogue Retreat which operates Hope Village, a successful homeless reentry program in Medford, Oregon.

Volunteers covered a model tiny home with sticky notes with suggested donations from \$1.00 to \$150.00 so everyone was able to participate. We applaud the creativity and kind hearts that

are helping to make the dream of Foundry Village come true!

After two weeks of fundraising at Saint Anne's, volunteers Dave and Terri Currie reported that donations are still coming in and they are close to funding 2 tiny houses at Foundry Village. That's double the initial goal!

The support for Foundry Village has been overwhelming, we are so grateful for everyone in Grants Pass who is helping make Foundry Village possible. The new facility will have 17 tiny houses to serve the homeless people in Grants Pass. It is slated to open as soon as September of this year.

VOLUNTEERS KEEP ON TRUCKIN' AT FOUNDRY VILLAGE, GRANTS PASS



Volunteers from NCCC helping at Foundry Village

Team leader Doug Walker keeps volunteers up-to-date with email updates on the progress at Foundry Village. Here are a few of the latest updates:

Update from 5/29/21

This past week we poured concrete for the first 8 tiny homes (4 duplexes) and we started to frame the first duplex. WAHOOO.

The concrete pours went really well, we had lots of volunteers.

The main group, four trainees from EQUUS (a workforce training program) showed up for the two days of concrete work. EQUUS prepares its trainees for direct positions in the workforce or for apprenticeship programs. Two of the young men are going into electrical apprenticeships and one is going into a plumber's apprenticeship.

Most of the siding was primed by Bonnie, Park, Claudia, John,

and Kyle. There is still more priming to do. And Fantastic news, there's a new NCCC volunteer crew helping us one day a week.

And a shameless fundraising plug—two people have each promised to match all donations up to \$5,000. So if you or someone you know are thinking of donating. It will work out to a double match. To donate go to <https://www.foundryvillagegrantspass.com/donate>

Next week's work will be continued framing, and siding on the tiny homes, more priming of trim and siding, plus, we must start work on the retaining wall at the west end of the property, or we will never get a concrete truck backed in there.

Update from 5/22/21

Things moved awful fast this past week. In the community building; PP&L has hooked the

building up to the grid, the outside is painted, the rain gutters are up, nearly all the drywall is hung, the snafu on the neighboring property has been resolved (maybe), another trench was dug and filled, and finally we have started working on the first 4 tiny homes. But, there's this significant nagging feeling that I've missed something. Ah well. It is what it is.

Yes, we have actually started work on the tiny houses, another milestone, Wahooo. The footings of the first 4 have been dug and the forms and rebar have been set. Our plan is to pour concrete next Tuesday and Wednesday. If we can get some volunteers to paint the siding (that means you). We may start framing a couple of them next week as well.

Next week's work will focus on pouring the 4 concrete pads for the tiny homes and preparing to and then start framing some of them.

A STORY OF HOPE



Monica Lapizco, Thrift Shop Assistant

Everyone hopes for something in their lives. For some, they hope their current situation stays the same. For others, it could be the toughest time of their lives, and they hope to change for the better. Hope can be powerful, sometimes it's the only thing that gets you out of bed each day. Hope is what got Moni Lapizco through her darkest hours and into her current life.

Several years ago, Moni had a heart attack and was hospitalized. Addiction had her on the streets for 27 years and it finally landed her in the hospital. Her friends were sneaking drugs into her room, and she had no plans to change her life. One woman from the ARC (Addictions Recovery Center) visited her every day to talk about programs, detox, and making changes. Moni said yes to everything just to get

the persistent lady to leave her room. What Moni didn't know was that she signed a paper to be transported to detox upon discharge. That signature changed her life.

At detox, Moni knew it was time and surrendered to the program. Her family made it clear they were done unless something changed. Hope got her through those toughest days - to change, to not cause others pain, to do better for herself and her daughter. Hope allowed her to say its time.

While working the NA program, Moni heard about a job opening at Rogue Retreat. She was leary that she would be stereotyped and judged. The complete opposite happened. She was treated with respect and dignity. She was welcomed and accepted. This strengthened her hope and reaffirmed she was on the right path. When the opportunity to work at the Kelly Shelter came about, Moni knew she could help, even just one person at a time. Her time working at the shelter was humbling. She saw what her past was and that her current path was the right choice. Working at the shelter helped build character as she mentored others. She realized hope gave her the desire to change, where before she didn't have the strength or ability.

Moni is now the assistant at the Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat and a valued member of the Rogue Retreat team. She helps supervise and train volunteers, keeps the shop donations moving, and plans for upcoming sales. When community members in need visit the shop, she makes sure they are taken care of. Her kindness and compassion are felt when watching her help someone with no shoes or someone covered in dirt. Her actions inspire hope in others.



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RAISING HOPE IS HERE



Rogue Retreat is launching its very first community-wide fundraising campaign, “Raising Hope June—July 2021.”

Among us here at Rogue Retreat, we were kind of wobbly and uncertain of ourselves if we should reach out to the community and directly ask for support. In some ways, we’re really good at asking for money (just ask our grantors) and in some ways, we stumble and fumble around and over talk and then talk some more about ourselves and get all excited about all the good work we are doing and just.... Talk and talk at you, our donors and supporters, without taking a moment to consider what your wants and needs are. Sometimes we forget to ask you how to better engage with you so you know you are part of our story—a HUGE part of our story. We forget to tell you that all of the people whose lives we are working so hard to restore cannot be done without you. We forget to tell you that you are the core of our story and we couldn’t do what we do without you.

In some ways, the people we serve are truly the soul of what we do and you, you are the heart of what we do. We are the link between those who need help and those who want to help. With

our community partners and you, collectively we help restore the lives of homeless and unsheltered people.

This is what we’re doing together:

On any given night in Southern Oregon, Rogue Retreat shelters up to 300 individuals, couples, and families.

Funds given to Rogue Retreat not only provide shelter but ensures you have a real impact on the clients we serve. With our community partners, Rogue Retreat participants have access to meals, addiction and mental health counseling, peer support, life coaching, job readiness training, healthcare, legal services, and many more programs that help our participants achieve self-sufficiency.

Currently Rogue Retreat operates or manages three women’s recovery houses, two men’s recovery houses, the Medford Urban Campground, Hope Village (a tiny home community), 44 apartments (subsidized and unsubsidized), and The Kelly Shelter (a 64-bed transitional shelter).

This year we will be opening the Redwood Inn (yet to be named by Rogue Retreat) which will offer 47 efficiency apartments dedicated to

those who were displaced by the Alameda Fire and two apartments dedicated to those who need medical attention. Also we are building a tiny home community in Grants Pass (Foundry Village)

and hope to extend our capacity at the Medford Urban Campground, as well as manage an urban campground in Ashland.

We want you to know what your money is doing right here in Southern Oregon.

We want you to know that we are so grateful for your support and that you are the heart of what we do together.

And.... We are extending our reach this summer to connect with more people who would like to be part of the success story we are creating together.

Please forward this newsletter to others who may want to learn more or to donate.

We welcome your donations online at www.RogueRetreat.com/RaisingHope

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Rogue Retreat Raising Hope

June - July 2021

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Your generous donations not only provide shelter but ensures you have a real impact on the clients we serve. With our community partners, Rogue Retreat participants have access to meals, addiction and mental health counseling, peer support, life coaching, job readiness training, healthcare, legal services, and many more programs that help our participants achieve self sufficiency.

We need you more than ever and welcome your donations online at
www.RogueRetreat.org/RaisingHope

GRATITUDE FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR



Aerial image taken with a drone shows homes leveled by the Almeda Fire line at Bear Lake Estates in Phoenix, Ore., on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, Pics Copyright Noah Berger / AP

I was on my way home from Michigan to Oregon when I got a call from my daughter.

“Mom, we can’t get back to the house, and your dog is stuck at home. Do you know anyone who can go get her?”

At the time of that call, seventy-mile-an-hour winds were fueling a raging fire that was consuming

homes and businesses in Talent and Phoenix at an alarming rate. I called my sister, but she was furiously packing up their things and animals to evacuate. Through a narrow window, I was able to contact my former neighbors to ask for help. It wasn’t until hours later I learned they were able to take my dog with them as they fled. And that my place, with

60 years of my belongings, was reduced to ash by the Almeda Fire.

That was in September 2020. Miracles of compassion poured in from around the nation. Go-Fund-Me pleas filled up quickly. Volunteers manned Red Cross stations while Samaritan’s Purse workers helped sort through ashes. A friend gave me a closet full of clothes. Large canopies in parking lots barely covered all the donations and camping equipment that were sent from other Oregon cities. Rogue Retreat helped secure RVs and trailers to house eighteen families.

Today, I still witness the carnage as I drive along South Pacific Highway. Most of the businesses in two thriving towns were consumed along with 2,357 homes. Yet, even as spring beckons us to a brighter future, I see evidence of life and renewal. Signs posted along the highway and in blackened yards read, #TalentStrong and #PhoenixWillRise. Properties are being cleared and shells of fresh plywood catch the eye away from the wounded landscape.

One of the most heartening things is to hear how friends,

families, and strangers have opened their homes, expanding their hospitality to those of us who lost everything. Some families moved out of state to begin again. I was fortunate my brother had a spare room I could rent, a place where I feel welcome.

Unfortunately, there isn’t room for everyone. Rogue Retreat, already flooded with a burgeoning queue of homeless people needing shelter from sub-freezing winter nights, expanded its outreach. Clusters of tents along parkways and in fields were home to many who had their low-income housing burned. Some of these people are still sheltered in Rogue Retreat’s Urban Campground. And, thanks to the opening of the Redwood Inn, some families will have studio apartments in which to live until permanent, affordable housing can be found.

After months, I was surprised to receive a check from FEMA to help replace my losses. It wasn’t huge, but the first thing I wanted to do was send a portion to Rogue Retreat to help my fellow fire survivors. I’m fortunate to have family to take me in and am grateful Rogue Retreat is offering hope for a brighter future to others who have no place to go.



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Hope

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Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.

Niki Banas/Walk the Earth

MEET THE BOARD:

MIKE McCLAIN



*Mike McClain,
Rogue Retreat Board of Directors*

What is the best or worst advice your parent ever gave you?

My dad drilled into me the importance of the “hard work” ethic and boy did he model it. My mother who lived to be almost 103 had lots of advice like always make sure you have friends younger than you because, if you don’t, you will end up without any friends. She also said that everyone needs a faith foundation because that is what will get you through the hard times and everyone will have those times. Both my parents modeled helping neighbors and giving back to their community.

What do you do, or did you do for a living? If you had to do it all over again, would you have chosen the same career path?

I had a 32-year career as an educator. For 15 years I taught high school language arts and social studies, coached basketball and track, directed plays, and managed a speech team. After 15 years of teaching, I moved into school administration. For nine years I was the principal at Crater High School in Central Point and finished my career as Superintendent of Schools for the Central Point School District #6. After retirement from District #6 in 1999, I spent five years as an adjunct professor for Portland State University, managing a school administrative licensure program for Southern Oregon. I had a wonderful

career and can not think of another career that I could have enjoyed as much.

What is the best thing you ever gave to someone or received from someone?

I grew up with not a lot of things. My parents were hard-working, frugal, and very conservative with their fiscal resources. As a result, birthday and Christmas gifts were usually scant, and yes, socks, underwear, and pajamas would always be under the Christmas tree. On one memorable Christmas, the gifts were even more meager than usual so, as a ten-year-old, I was especially subdued. After my brother and parents had opened their few gifts, my dad said he heard someone on the front porch, and asked would I go see who it was. Well on the front porch was this magnificent big-tired bright red bicycle with a speedometer, a bell, and saddlebags. That to this day remains the greatest gift I ever received and anytime I think about it I smile and remember the sacrifice my parents made to give it to me.

What is it that makes a house a home?

A house is but a place that you eat and sleep. A house becomes a home when it is shared by a person you love and with whom you share the same goals and values. My wife and I have 8 grandchildren. When any of them visit our home becomes alive with their energy and there is no question that it is a home and not a house.

What inspired you to become a Rogue Retreat Board member?

For over 50 years I have read a daily newspaper. As such, early on I started following the news articles on Rogue Retreat, including the controversy surrounding Rogue Retreat when Hope Village was being considered. Then, when Hope Village started to become a reality and entered the second phase of building “tiny homes”, I had an idea about contacting a group of friends to see if we could sponsor a “tiny house”. I sent out an email and within two days we had the money to

“My recovery must come first so that everything I love in life doesn’t have to come last.”

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purchase a “tiny house.” This then led to a smaller group of us doing some “hands-on” work on the houses, including installing insulation and drywall and painting. I then worked with Matt on a tour of Hope Village from my group of donors who by now

I was calling the “Friends of Hope Village.” After that I was hooked and contacted Chad, asking him how I could help. He said, how about coming on as a Rogue Retreat Board member. What a faith-filled and educational ride it has been.



KELLER WILLIAMS' RED DAY OF SERVICE



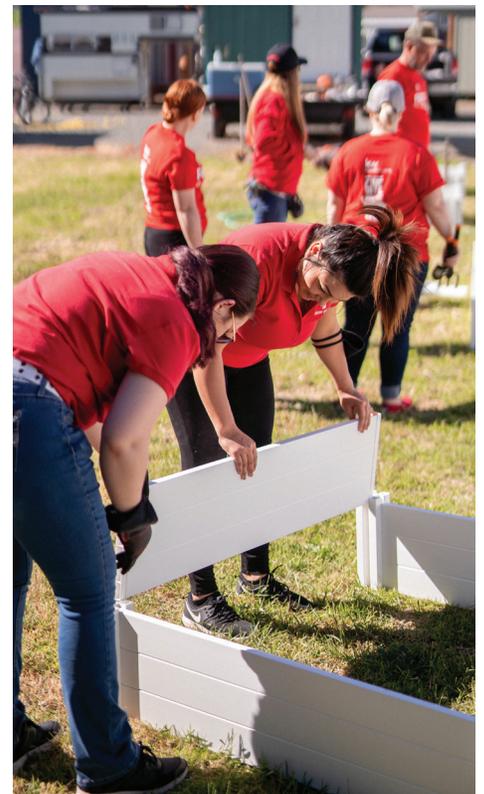
On Wednesday, May 13th, the team from Keller Williams of Southern Oregon came together at Hope Village for their annual day of service that they call RED Day. This year our local Keller Williams team chose to perform a service project at Hope Village. The project involved installing raised planter beds for the Hope Village residents to start a garden as well as building a horseshoe pit to help provide entertainment to residents.

The RED Day is Keller Williams' annual day of service. They have participated in this project every year since 2009 and have a worldwide impact!

According to Keller Williams' website "At

the heart of Keller Williams' culture is our shared commitment to community service. The immeasurable generosity of our team enables us to care for our own as well as our neighbors no matter the magnitude of what is needed.

We've poured into our communities in a number of ways, initiating service projects like building new homes from the ground up, gathering and distributing food to those who need it, organizing relief efforts when a natural disaster hits, and even spreading joy and raising funds as only KW can when life takes an unexpected turn. These are just a few of the community activities we've carried out





in support of those who have poured into us.”

One Hope Village resident we spoke with told us of how he took initiative with the garden and has planted a lot of the plants himself from seeds. The garden will have a wide variety of plants, some of the highlights being the peppers, corn, and spices.

We stopped by Hope Village to see the completed project, not only do they look great. But residents and staff are already using the horseshoe pits to pass the time and build friendships. Hope Village Camp Host, Scotty Ball, told us that they play horseshoes all the time and are even talking about getting some tournaments going among the residents.

We can't thank Keller Williams enough for their support of Rogue Retreat. It's community support from donors and businesses like Keller Williams that allow us to do the work that we do. If you or your business are interested in running fundraisers, service projects, or simply volunteering, please contact our development department.





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