



ROGUE RETREAT NEWS

Giving Hope Is Rogue Retreat's Purpose And Privilege

There is an ancient proverb which states: ***"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."*** Proverbs 13:12

At Rogue Retreat we have discovered how powerful HOPE is with our participants. Most of our participants had lost hope along the way. Their circumstances of life had dug a huge hole seemingly impossible to get out of. For some just to apply for a Rogue Retreat program is a big chore. Why apply? There are too many other people needing help. I will never come to the top of any list of help available.

But once a participant is invited to enter one of our programs hope flickers to life. *"You can see it in their faces and hear it in their voice,"* says Jessica Cowles who gets the pleasure of letting people know they have been accepted into

Rogue Retreat. *"A roof over one's head changes everything,"* says Liz Adams, Program Director for Rogue Retreat. *"the very first thing is sleep. Most of our people have been sleep deprived before they entered Rogue Retreat."* With sleep comes the ability to think and begin the process of

climbing out of homelessness. All participants meet with a Life Coach and work through Rogue Retreat's Case Management Program.

Hope becomes the "tree of life" inside each participant. Buds appear and "fruit" begins to take shape and ripen. At our Monday Night Life Skills meetings we hear heart touching stories of how participants are getting their lives back.

We hear of addictions falling off, jobs found, driver's licenses obtained, criminal charges dropped, children returned home, GED's finished and education enrollments. *"We've often said we at Rogue Retreat are hope dealers,"* says Matt Vorderstrasse, Development Director. *"With hope our participants can accomplish anything."*

Rogue Retreat staff will tell you they have the best job in the world. Giving Hope. To see lives restored and people moving on to become self-sufficient is truly humbling and amazing. *"But, we don't do this hope work alone,"* says

Chad McComas, Executive Director. *"We can't thank our community partners and our dedicated donors enough. Because of them we get to do what we do and we love what we do."*



Inside this issue:

Foundry Village Gets Green Light	2
Hope Village Ready to Expand	2
Kelly Shelter Early Success	3
Clean Sweep is Cleaning Up	3
Hope University Has "How To" Courses	4
Check Out Our Podcasts	4
Alumni Club Being Created	4

Special points of interest:

- ♦ 180 Club now has over 100 members!
- ♦ Rogue Retreat partners with UCAN to operate Grants Pass Warming Center
- ♦ Over 200 a night in Rogue Retreat programs
- ♦ Medford City is partnering with Rogue Retreat and OnTrack to open Summit House
- ♦ Clean Sweep partnering with area businesses

Defining Hope...Expecting Hope

How do we define hope? A dictionary definition of the noun hope is: *"a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen."*

Hope is something one experiences inside. That feeling and/or expectation can then become a verb: *"want something to happen*

or intend if possible to do something."

The world is filled with amazing stories of hope and how it changed everything for a person to claw their way out of a dysfunctional life or impossible circumstances.

Hope is the glass half full

rather than half empty. Hope believes the sun will rise tomorrow and things can be different.

Solomon, the wisest man in the world once said: ***"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."*** Proverbs 23:18

Foundry Village Gets Green Light To Move Forward

In early 2019 four business men from Grants Pass purchased property on Foundry Street in Grants Pass to use to create a tiny house village for the homeless. They talked with AllCare about holding the property in their foundation and asked Rogue Retreat to come alongside AllCare in creating the village and then operating it.

Last summer a Steering Committee was formed and began to work on fundraising and community education and recruitment to turn the dream into reality. Grants were written and received. An overnight challenge brought in volunteers and donations. A budget of just over \$500,000 was created to cover the cost of building a 17 unit village with community space for a kitchen, restrooms, showers and laundry as well as room for a Life Coach to implement the five-level Case Management program of Rogue Retreat.

A proposal was presented to the Grants Pass Planning Commission for permission to carry through with the plan to construct Foundry Village. The proposal was passed.

The Grants Pass City Council still needed to approve the State's Homeless Campground statute to determine exactly what the codes and guidelines were which Foundry Village needed to follow in construction. There was a chance the Council would require all tiny houses to have plumbing and electrical rather than just the community building. If there were the case the construction of the village would climb dramatically.

City Council voted 7-1 on Wednesday, February 19 to approve the campground code without plumbing and electricity for the "detached bedrooms." Since it wasn't unanimous it will have a second vote on Wednesday, March 4. It is expected to pass.

With these approvals Foundry Village has a green light to move forward in the final phases of fundraising to enable ground breaking later this Spring.

With over \$350,000 in hand or in pledges the Steering Committee is looking at an additional \$200,000 to finish the project. Donations can be made through the AllCare Foundation (midroguetfoundation.com) or Rogue Retreat (rogueretreat.org).



Foundry Village will be located on Foundry Street in Grants Pass.



Funds to cover the cost of four more houses will expand Hope Village to 34 houses

The Medford Rotary Club has committed to raising the funds for two of the houses and provide solar panels for all four.

We are seeking private donations to cover the remaining two houses and RV costs. For more information call development department at 541-499-0880.

Hope Village Ready To Add Four Houses

Rogue Retreat recently asked the Medford City Council for permission to add four more tiny houses to Hope Village bringing the total to 34 houses.

"This addition will better maximize our staff and village use," says Executive Director, Chad McComas. *"besides it gets at least four more people off the streets!"*

A fundraising goal of \$50,000 has been set to cover the four new houses and the cost to have hookups for our camp host's RV.

QUIT SMOKING

Always wanted to QUIT smoking, but didn't know HOW?

FFR and AllCare are working together to offer Tobacco Cessation classes. These classes will educate and empower you to "march forth" toward the life of freedom you have always wanted!

Call 541-245-4673 to sign up or come down to FFR at 110 N Ivy in Medford. Classes are Wednesdays at 12:30-1:30 from **March 4th** - April 8 at FFR

Natasha's Story

I was born and raised in Texas by parents who did the best they knew how to do. My childhood was rough and by the age of eighteen I had one child and tried meth for the first time. The next eighteen years of my life was complete misery. I used and sold drugs with no end in sight.



To be quite honest I thought I would die that way. I tried many times to stop but I failed every time.

See, the Good news here was God wasn't done with me yet. I had been dating a guy for three and half years when he moved to Oregon and asked me to follow. Two weeks later I was on a bus eager for change. Once I arrived, I found out I was nine weeks pregnant, and addicted to drugs. I knew I needed help. I asked Steve to take me to the ARC and I wasn't going to leave without getting help. I walked into the ARC about three o'clock that evening and they told me, "sorry all our assessments are done for the day" and that I would need to come back tomorrow. Well, I told them they would have to call the cops, because I wasn't leaving. I was from Texas and nine weeks pregnant-and I needed help. Let's just say they found me a spot in in-patient and this is where my journey begins.

Steve and I started working things out. He was staying at the gospel mission and found a job. We started looking for a place to live and were told that Rogue Retreat helps people just like us and lo and behold they did. Everyone in that office was no different from us; they had struggled in their lifetime too.

Rogue Retreat gave us a home on June 7 three days before my son Michael was born. I walked across the stage June 15, 2019 to get my GED diploma. Rogue Retreat just wasn't God given it was God sent. My life was starting to be everything I dreamed of. They gave me a Life Coach named Terry and said she would help me along my way with guidance and support and that she has done. She told me about a place called Foundations for Recovery where I could get a recovery coach. That's where I met Susan. I must admit she has been an angel! Not only is FFR there for me in my lowest days or even my greatest days; I can walk in anytime and no matter what they are doing, someone is there to help me with open arms. Susan has helped me with my school work now that I'm in college at RCC, which I never dreamed would happen! The days I struggle I have a backbone I can run to and that is Susan, my Recovery Coach at FFR. Rogue Retreat and Foundations of Recovery have given me a chance at life I never knew existed and for that I am one grateful changed individual. Thank you, Rogue Retreat and Foundations for Recovery!

Sincerely a Changed Person, Natasha

The Kelly Shelter Is An Early Success

In last November The Kelly Shelter opened as a full-time emergency shelter to get 54 people off the streets of Medford.

With a dedicated staff serving around the clock the shelter has been an early success by moving an average of two people forward to more permanent forms of housing.

“Our Life Coaches meet with shelter participants to address the barriers which have created their homelessness,” says shelter lead Life Coach Jennifer Covarrubias. *“We help them work through the five-level Case Management program Rogue Retreat has developed. It works!”*

The shelter has also been a success by getting the community to bring in the evening meals. *“We have individuals, groups and churches bringing meals in,”* says Shannon Holland, Kitchen Manager. *“The food has been great and the connection between our shelter participants*

and those bringing in the meals has been awesome to see.”

We have a great working relationship with the City of Medford and the Livability Team from the police department. *“Their support has been so appreciated,”* says Shelter Manager, Margarita Moody. *“Their goal, like our goal, is to move people forward and not back to the streets.”*

“People have six months to work through the program and find solutions and more permanent housing,” says Liz Adams, Program Director for Rogue Retreat. *“It is exciting to see these participants get their lives back.”*

Funding for the shelter comes from various grants, private donations and from



The Kelly Shelter provides 54 beds for people to get off the streets of Medford and get Life Coach help to address homelessness.

business sponsorships from the community. *“We are looking for 10 \$30,000 grants a year from local businesses,”* says Executive Director, Chad McComas. *“This investment makes all the difference for the shelter and gives the business leaders the joy of knowing their donations are changing 54 people.”*

Clean Sweep Is Cleaning Up Streets And Lives

Cleaning up the garbage and trash left on the streets of Medford isn't a glamorous job or is it?

Clean Sweep makes it fun and a blessing to the community and the people doing the work. Under Chris Hyde's leadership a crew of up to 10 people hit the streets each

workday morning to cover multiple streets. They sweep and clean sidewalks, alleys, landscaping, parking lots and street gutters. They pick up an average of 80 pounds a day.

The workers are people from the homeless community working hard to give back. Many come from The Kelly Shelter, Hope Village or just from the streets. Their reward? Dignity. Job training. A gift card for a couple hours of work and hope. Hope this work can lead to more work through a regular job.

Chris sees Clean Sweep as a job training program. He works hard with each worker to identify what is needed to move forward. It may be simple like identification, a social security card or a resume.

Chris proudly shares how nearly 10 people have moved forward by finding jobs in the community. He also loves how local businesses are stepping up to sign cleaning

contracts with Clean Sweep to come by their place of business each week to give them a thorough cleaning. The contracts give Clean Sweep stable funding to keep the work going and to give more homeless people a chance to work. Clean Sweep also collects returnable bottles and cans from businesses as donations and some retain spots have a donation jar for Clean Sweep.

“It all adds up,” says Chris. “We just love working with area businesses to grow Clean Sweep.” Recently Clean Sweep partnered with Rogue Riverkeeper to clean up a portion of the Bear Creek Greenway. The Clean Sweep team picked up over 100 pounds of trash. If you want to find out about a business sponsorship or have jobs Clean Sweep volunteers might fit well with contact Chris Hyde at 541-690-1670.



Clean Sweep leader, Chris Hyde and his green vested Clean Sweep Team



FFR Is Rogue Retreat's Education Center

Foundations For Recovery has long been a great place to get one's Peer Support Specialist training to prepare for their State Certificate. It then helps them obtain a paid job in various organizations looking for people with their PSS.

With FFR joining Rogue Retreat last June it opened the way for FFR to become a center for educational opportunities.

“We plan to have the FFR staff create new, shorter education opportunities to address much needed support,” says Chad McComas, ED for Rogue Retreat.

In March there will be a stop smoking class. Another PSS class is coming in soon as well. The FFR team is in charge of the Monday Night Life Skills Class for all Rogue Retreat participants. The FFR center has become a place for more support help with recovery like a Dual Diagnosis Anonymous Group on Wednesdays at 12 noon; A Narcotics Anonymous Group on Thursdays from 8-9 am; and a Celebrate Recover program on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm. Of course there are still Recovery Coaches available for those seeking help. Contact FFR for more information. 541-245-4673.



The latest PSS class at FFR



ROGUE RETREAT

711 E Main #25
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-499-0880
rogueretreat.org

Mission:
*Creating Opportunities
For The Homeless To
Have Hope.*

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

Rogue Retreat Alumni Club Being Created

We are starting an alumni supporter club for past Rogue Retreat participants to give back for the life-changing opportunities received while being in Rogue Retreat. We have a challenge. Will past participants give at least \$5 a month to be part of this new club? Will they pay it forward for another person to create their own success story? Send us your first \$5 this month stating you want to be part of this new club. We anticipate creating officers of this new club, scheduling alumni events during the year and finding ways for participants to share their ongoing stories. We can only imagine what this club will help create! For more information call our development department at Rogue Retreat. 541-499-0880.



Finding Hope Podcasts

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

employees who share their personal stories of "Finding Their Hope." Some are of community partners sharing their stories of how hope changed their lives and their connection with Rogue Retreat. You can hear the "Finding Hope" podcast online at: Anchor Fm and other places podcasts are found.



Hope University Offers "How To" Courses

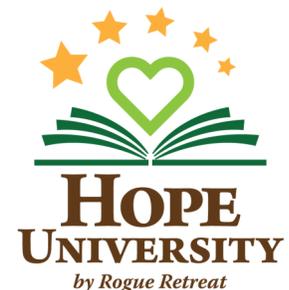
Over the past couple of years we have had a parade of individuals, groups, foundations, college officials, government leaders and more come to visit Hope Village and see what can be done to address the homeless challenge they are facing where they live and work.

We love giving tours, but found we needed to do more to provide support. We've started making visits ourselves to groups, City Councils and County Official meetings. But we only have so much time.

It dawned on us we needed to create "How To" courses on creating a Tiny House Village or a Homeless Shelter like The Kelly Shelter.

We have started by creating and offering courses at our own Hope University online. A downloaded course consists of 1-5 recorded sessions with Rogue Retreat Staff and local officials sharing the challenges and ways to meet the challenges in creating opportunities for the homeless to have hope. They also come with many downloads of helpful forms and manuals filled with policies, procedures and more. You can find more about Hope University on Rogue Retreat's website: rogueretreat.org

Rogue Retreat staff are also willing to do consulting work with organizations by meet with them and helping design programs to benefit their needs. For more information call our development at Rogue Retreat 541-499-0880.



The 180 Degree Club Is Growing



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

In 2019 we started a donor support 180 Club asking for 180 individuals and families to donate at least \$25 a month to keep Rogue Retreat strong. To date we have just over 100 who have stepped up to the challenge.

We need 80 more generous people who will dedicate at least \$25 a month or \$300 a year. Use the enclosed envelope to make your donation and indicate we can count on you to be a member of our 180 Club.