



Creating opportunities for the homeless to have hope

NEWSLETTER

November, 2020



A NEW JOURNEY



By Mary Cressler

The beginning of August 2019 I started volunteering for Rogue Retreat in the Development Department under a long-time friend, Matt Vorderstrasse.

For the past few years prior to my volunteering I sat at home in my bedroom about 23 hours a day. From my past experience with mental illness I knew it wasn't good to isolate so that's when I decided to start volunteering. But the question was, where? Knowing that Matt worked for Rogue Retreat, I decided to call Matt because I met Matt and Pastor Chad in 2014 and felt very comfortable with them.

So Happy (my three pound Chihuahua) and I started volunteering 30 hours a week and we loved it there. The work made me feel productive, the employees are so sweet and loved Happy. I re-

organized the grant files, prepared the monthly newsletters for mailing and did other miscellaneous office jobs. I thought I knew all about what Rogue Retreat did. Boy, was I in for a surprise that changed my life. I had no idea that Rogue Retreat did so much for people that were homeless.

The real blessing for me was that after I started volunteering I got to watch from the inside, how much Rogue Retreat was about to grow during the next year. First came the Kelly Shelter, then the Urban Campground and the expansion of Hope Village. Programs keep expanding and employees have tripled.

I knew that with retirement coming in a few years I needed to get a job and start saving money to move to Oklahoma to be closer to my daughter. In the beginning of February, I got hired on as a Development Assistant under Matt. Besides handling the grant files and monthly newsletters I learned how to enter donations and send out "Thank you letters." Then I started collecting recycling and picking up pizza and taking it out to people that are homeless. Watching how thankful people get is a real blessing. Helping people that are homeless is something I've always loved to do.

Then on September 8th the Alameda Fire swept through our area and we had to evacuate. That night my husband and I slept in our car at the Expo and ate pizza donated from Little Caesar's. Then I thought to myself, "How ironic, I'm usually taking Little Caesar's Pizza to people that are homeless and now here I am eating donated **CONTINUE ON PAGE 4 →**

LOWE'S IS GIVING BACK



By Rebekah Tarkon

Lowe's is proud to support Rogue Retreat. Anytime, we can be a part of someone getting their life in order, finding and sustaining work, and creating a stable living situation, we are proud to help. As a major employer in the Rogue Valley, Lowe's works by the belief that we need to give back to the community that gives so much to us. An organization like Rogue Retreat that helps individuals deal with their opportunities, then get back on their feet through work and housing and become proud members of the community, is an ideal opportunity for Lowe's to give back.

So far, we have had the opportunity to offer buckets to the Urban Campground, for shade structures, and will be donating a shed to the Kelly House, to house bikes, while patrons eat their meals. We are so proud to be help support this organization that does so much for our community!



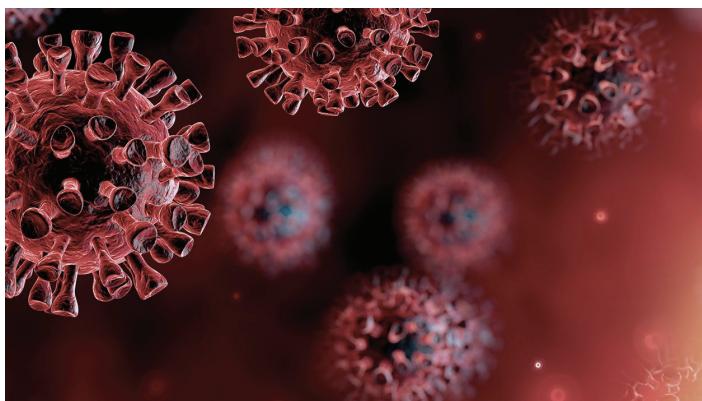


NOVEMBER, 2020

ROGUE RETREAT | RESTORING LIVES

Page 2

HOW COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED NON-PROFITS



How has Covid-19 affected our non-profit, Hope and a Future? Where do I start? In March when the pandemic hit, we were ordered, like everyone else, to shelter in place. Everything came to a complete stand still. The prisons and jails went into lock-out and no one was allowed to enter the facilities! All the ladies at Freedom House, Hope and a Future's transitional house, had to shelter in place also!

Making simple decisions and navigating through the pandemic was and continues to be difficult. For example: We encourage the ladies to become part of the family

of God through Church gatherings and to build a network of support in the community. Because of the pandemic building relationships through recovery meetings, job search and church can't happen because resources are mostly online.

The heartbeat of Hope and a Future has always been bringing the message of HOPE to the least in our society! Going to the jails and prisons to meet with the ladies weekly for one-on-ones and pastoral care was stopped. No volunteers have been allowed to enter the facilities. All church services, mentor visits and programs within the

prison have shut down! I personally miss visiting with the ladies in prison. To me, there is nothing like sitting across from a lady in prison explaining to them the message of hope. That their life can change! Another thing that is really hard on the women in prison is they have not been able to have visits with their children and families.

Hope and a Future continues to reach into the prison, now more than ever, through pen-pal correspondence and by sending bibles, bible studies, cards and letters to them so they know they have not been forgotten! We also, have open phone calls from our ladies who are in prison. We have received many requests from new ladies and their families about the correspondence program through the mail.

Being released from prison then trying to rebuild your life has never been easy. There is a second prison manned not by armed guards, but by social stigma and legal restrictions. The current health crisis has compounded the issues faced by the ladies returning to our community. They are already subject to

legal restrictions, like where they can live and what kind of work they can do. A few of the ladies have said: "Please be praying for us as we navigate being released with a pandemic going on as resources have become more limited!"

Hope and a Future was founded on the promise of (Jeremiah 29:11) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Even in the midst of a pandemic and these uncertain times this promise still stands true! God is in control! He always has a plan to give us hope for a bright future....

Praying for our community!

Rachelle Benthin,

Founder of Hope and a Future



CONTACTS

711 E. MAIN ST. #25
MEDFORD, OR 97504
OFFICE: 541.499.0880
FAX: 541.690.1670
office@rogueretreat.com

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAYS-FRIDAYS 8 AM - 5 PM
(CLOSED 12-1 PM MONDAYS)

PUBLISHER

CHAD MCCOMAS | SENIOR EDITOR
chad@rogueretreat.com 541.499.0880

MARKETING

MATTHEW VORDERSTRASSE |
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
matt@rogueretreat.com 541.499.0880

ADVERTISING

KRYSTAL PERKINS
krystal@rogueretreat.com
541-499-0880 ext. 1045

CONNECT WITH ROGUE RETREAT



RogueRetreat



@RogueRetreat



RogueRetreat



Rogue-Retreat



Help Our Newsletter Grow With Paid Ads

Supportive businesses and individuals in the community are helping pay for this newsletter to reach out to our supporters by paying for display ads. If you'd like to provide an ad for our publication, contact our advertising department at 541.499.0880 for rates and sizes. Business ads in this newsletter are not sanctioned by Rogue Retreat and don't necessarily represent Rogue Retreat. Rogue Retreat's newsletter reaches nearly 1,500 people a month.

Call 541.499.0880 Today!



NOVEMBER, 2020

ROGUE RETREAT | RESTORING LIVES

Page 3

#GIVINGTUESDAY

By Christopher Janisch



#GivingTuesday is right around the corner, the day when nonprofits around the world encourage their supporters to donate through the power of social media. We at Rogue Retreat are doing many things this year for Giving Tuesday.

A couple of the things that we are doing are SMS fundraising and social media testimonies. In this article, we will explain how we are using Giving Tuesday to raise funds for the Kelly Shelter.

**Text “GIVE2020”
to 51555 to learn
more about our
#GivingTuesday
efforts, send us a
text message.**

We use a text communication and fundraising platform called MobileCause, it allows us to send text updates to our donors as well as process donations. For Giving Tuesday this year we are leaning into the digital aspect of the holiday

Leavitt Group
Redwoods Leavitt Insurance Agency

and focusing on sharing stories directly to our donors' phones.

We'll be sending information via text all month long! Text "GIVE2020" to 51555 to stay informed.

Another way we are connecting with donors is through social media. We believe that peoples' stories are the most powerful tool we have to gain community support and attract donors. Through social media, we are able to share photos and videos that show the impact Rogue Retreat is having as an organization.

We are on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn. Connect with us on social media @RogueRetreat

All of the funds given during our Giving Tuesday fundraiser will go towards funding the Kelly Shelter, our 54-bed transitional shelter. We are facing an operating deficit this fall at the Kelly Shelter. If that wasn't enough of a challenge, we are also in the process of expanding the Kelly Shelter. The expansion will add 10 beds to the facility as well as offices for our case managers and more kitchen space to prepare food for our guests.


OFFICE TECH
Home of
“Knock Your Socks Off”
Customer Service...

Proudly Supports
Rogue Retreat
and the Services
They Provide to
Our Community!

KYOCERA
TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>

1912 United Way, Medford, OR 97504
www.officetechinc.com | 541.773.2015

**Your Cans and
Bottles Can Help!**

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!

ISOLATION



It's fine if you are an introvert who thrives on alone time. But even introverts are starting to reel at the continued social distancing- a phrase which, in my opinion, doesn't have to lead to isolation, but many times it does. For extroverts, we were over the whole thing just a few minutes after it started back at the end of March when the orders went out to quarantine at home.

Think about isolation for just a minute. It can be just about the worst thing for a person in early recovery, suddenly finding themselves all alone with nothing but their phone to try to access their life-saving recovery meetings. For many, "alone" is a trigger in itself. Throughout this pandemic we have seen many a relapse as

people just were not getting the same support online as they were in person.

It can be a wonderful thing for others who are finding a deeper faith or a stronger sense of self by this extended time of being alone to think and study and reflect. Just like there is "good" stress (called eustress) and toxic stress, there can be a helpful, energizing aspect of being alone for some people, as well as a dangerous, depressing side. I know a lady who said this period of social distancing and staying at home was the best thing for her recovery.

This year will be a year unlike any in recent history as we are entering the fall/winter season, with all of its holiday anticipation and excitement. For many of us, our family members are vulnerable, so family get-togethers are out of the question. For some, the uncertainty of not knowing what the restrictions will look like is producing anxiety upon mind-numbing anxiety. What are we to do to stay healthy through this season?

Here are a few things that come to mind:

Give yourself permission to accept that this holiday season will not be like any other we have had in recent memory. Give yourself permission to even take advantage of the fact that

there will inevitably be less gathering and travel to take some time just for yourself. Give yourself permission to enjoy chatting by phone or face-time while sipping your favorite holiday drink and showing your grandkids that you are wearing the funky socks they sent you. Give yourself permission.

When anxiety hits, remember to BREATHE! When anxiety hits, remember that everyone else is going through the same kind of withdrawal pains from the usual holiday hustle. When anxiety hits, remember that there will be more holidays in the future, so enjoy this day, this moment, for what it brings to you. Remember.

Make plans to send out holiday cheer a bit early this year. Make plans to communicate in a new way. I have my mom in Michigan who I won't be able to see, so I am making plans to send her pictures of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Make plans to do something unusual, like meeting at a park where you can wear a mask and stay socially distanced but still get your face-to-face family fix. You know what will work for your family, so make plans.

Above all, remember that you are NOT alone! It's oddly comforting to me to know that we are ALL "alone together!"

ANEWJOURNEY



Are you looking for another financial option?

Although many people can benefit from a Reverse Mortgage they are not for everyone.

With integrity and honesty, let me provide you the information that you need to determine if a Reverse Mortgage is right for you.



Reverse Mortgage Professionals
An Aegean Financial Company NMLS# 157935

John Martin
Mortgage Specialist
NMLS #906507



541-601-6044
conversionloan@gmail.com

Aegean Financial Co. dba Reverse Mortgage Professionals - NMLS ID# 157935, Oregon
License # ML-5396. Medford Branch NMLS ID# 1438720, Medford Branch License # ML-5396-2.

Free Consultation/Free Quote

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

pizza because I may be homeless."

Our world was about to change in a way I never expected. The next morning my husband and I found out that we lost our mobile home and everything we had to the Alameda Fire. It was breath taking! Nothing was left but some bent metal and ash.

After finding out that we lost our home Rogue Retreat offered to let us stay at Hope Village. We jumped on that, being so grateful not to be sleeping in our car. That night again thinking, "How ironic, I'm usually entering donations for Hope Village. I never saw myself sleeping here." So now I know what it's like being a resident as well.

When we got to Hope Village the staff (my coworkers) were so sweet, making sure we had everything we needed. I learned how caring the participants are also, when new people come in. So many sharing what food they have so that no one

goes hungry. Many people cook and share with others who don't or can't cook.

My husband and I were blessed again when about two weeks after the fire our insurance came through. We can now go be with my daughter and her growing family in Oklahoma. We don't have to wait till I retire now. The hard part is leaving my job and the people I have grown to love. I cried, I never saw myself leaving Rogue Retreat till I was ready to retire. I truly love everything that Rogue Retreat does and stands for. But I feel down deep that God wants me to carry-on what I have learned and take it with me to Oklahoma.

On October 17th we left Medford, Oregon to begin a new chapter in our life, and we will be picking up the keys to our new apartment in Tulsa on October 24th. On the way, we will visit my husband's sister and mom who is 88 years old in Bakersfield California. God Bless.

SET FREE SERVICES EXISTS BECAUSE OF LOYAL VOLUNTEERS



Set Free Services was founded just a few years ago but has grown to be an excellent source of serious relief to those in need of a bit of help. Show up any Friday and you'll find 1032 West Main Street in Medford looking like a beehive. Baskets of laundry sit in a row by the laundry/shower. Names are being called out for the next in line to take a shower. In fact everything a street person needs for getting and holding down a job is available for the asking. Haircuts have not been offered during this crazy pandemic, but prior to such limitations the clippers were going nonstop. About 8 steps from the trailer a visitor will have the joy of selecting good-as-new clothing, sleeping gear, toiletries, shoes and outerwear. All that is just for starters. Nearby Streets Dog folk are handing out free canine clothing and special services for four-footed friends.

Very often a rep from the Veterans Administration is roving through the crowd in search of veterans who may be in need of a little help completing forms for medical or disability benefits. You can't miss the huge La Clinica medical/dental mobile unit. Personnel are on hand to tend to minor situations right there on the spot. And guess what! We haven't even touched on the biggest service of all...food. Set Free Services operates the largest food pantry in Jackson County. Under the wing of Access, volunteers use the adjacent parking lot to welcome and register folk who have come for groceries by vehicle or on foot. Notes of dietary matters are communicated to the main facility so packers can add or subtract items to match special need. Indoors, out of sight, a host of volunteers are

toting Access food boxes to the pick-up point. In addition, a huge supply of other food, fresh as well as non-perishable is added so as to give every single recipient an ample batch of groceries. Rogue Retreat folk are stationed quite visibly to visit with those inquiring about housing and other necessities. Let's just say that anyone who



is chronically or suddenly in need of food, clothing, shelter, medical or dental care, a shower or laundry assistance will find the Friday Service Day to be a true oasis...an energized oasis.

We must not forget the dandy lunch that is served up every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The budget has steadily grown so as to make sure these meals are both healthy and hearty.

So that is Friday. Let's not forget that showers and laundry services are provided four days each weekly. Everything free for the asking is supplied along with a huge dose of love. You can

Rain and Face Coverings

Letting your face covering get wet may decrease its effectiveness and make it difficult to breathe.

Keep your mask dry by wearing a rain jacket with a hood, carrying an umbrella, or having another means to shield your face covering from the rain. You may also want to carry a spare, just in case.



For more information visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211



TALENT, OR
541-535-4687
www.NationalHeatAndAir.com

feel it. People are welcome...invited. In 2020 Set Free Services has been certain to take adequate precautions such as the wearing of masks and distancing. But volunteers are undaunted. And the entire operation is made possible only because businesses provide supplies, people generously move them along to those in need and amazing service groups in the area join with us to reach people who are in need of help, little or much.

1032 West Main Street, Medford
(541) 773-4004



**SETFREE
SERVICES**

URBAN CAMPGROUND 101



By Phil Johncock, Consultant

This is article 1 of 2 that recap Hope University's Urban Campground 101 teleconference. In article 1, you will discover more about the Oregon affordable housing crisis and two recent legal rulings that affect how Oregon cities deal with the homeless situation.

Ed Johnson, Director of Litigation with the Oregon Law Center, was one of nine guest speakers in Urban Campground 101. In attendance were city managers, city councilors, attorneys, directors and leaders from ten cities across Oregon as well as eight other guest speakers.

Johnson started us off by reminding us, "if anyone can remember back to February 2020, I think we were in an 'affordable housing crisis' ... when Oregon was 100,000 affordable housing units short of what we needed to house everybody who lives in the state. It's like a very high-stakes game of musical chairs where the state has 100,000 too few chairs."

"The loss of affordable housing units (has happened) in different ways but most recently by fire." Experts "predict that the unhoused community population in almost every place in Oregon is probably going to be larger ... than we've ever seen. So I think that the question that we're trying to grapple with here is 'What are we going to do

about this worsening crisis?"

The focus of our conversation then shifted to the rulings in two recent legal cases: *Blake vs Grants Pass* (2020) and *Martin vs Boise* (2018). Both involve cities, unhoused citizens and the 8th Amendment to the US Constitution. "That amendment has two clauses that are relevant to our discussion. One is the 'cruel and unusual punishment' clause which probably everybody's heard of. The second is the 'excessive fines' clause, which until recent years is not as well-known..."

"For the foreseeable future, this (*Martin vs Boise*) is the law in Oregon and other western states. In cities, where there's a greater number of homeless people than there are practically available shelter beds, the city cannot punish a person for engaging in these unavoidable activities (like sleeping) when they're outside."

The *Blake vs Grants Pass* ruling -- that is currently under appeal -- from the district court in Medford "found that this combination of (camping, sleeping and park exclusion) ordinances violated both the cruel and unusual punishment clause and the excessive fines clause of the 8th Amendment. Separately, the court also found that the city's park exclusion ordinance was unconstitutional and violated the procedural due process requirements of the 14th Amendment."

To inflame an already growing housing dilemma, Johnson added that "there's a growing consensus even among various police groups around the country that the police are not the best first responders to many, if not the vast majority of situations involving the unhoused community."

"It seems like even the police are saying, 'This is not really why I became a police officer, to deal with the day-to-day issues that unhoused communities are facing.'"

"Our goal with these lawsuits is to move toward solutions, not necessarily to just allow homeless people to be outside. That's the tool we have to use to try to move people towards solutions to problems. I think we just need to work creatively towards solutions of homelessness. Leaving people outside is not a solution, right? But it's part of the problem. We need to work towards solving that."

In article 2, you will discover what other guest speakers say about one such solution recently taking root right here in Medford: our urban campground.

If you would like the entire 176-minute transcript that includes more information about these two legal rulings as well as answers to the most pressing questions from local leaders throughout Oregon, order the Urban Campground 101 audio course today at RogueRetreat.com/Hope-University.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available are for general informational purposes only.

ARTICLE 2

In article 1, Ed Johnson, Director of Litigation with the Oregon Law Center, discussed the Oregon affordable housing crisis and two recent legal rulings that affect how Oregon cities deal with the homeless crisis. In article 2, you will discover what other guest speakers in Urban Campground 101 say about

one such solution recently taking root right here in Medford: our urban campground.

According to Sergeant Geoff Kirkpatrick with the Livability Team, in September 2019, there were a total of 247 homeless encampments in the city of Medford including the Greenway: 145 active and 102 inactive. "What we found is that connecting people to resources and using senior-tenured, well-communicating policemen really started to work. We started connecting people to resources, and we developed a lot of relationships with our service providers. Rogue Retreat was at the forefront..."

As a result of partnering with service providers, advocating for the homeless, and helping them get out of their current situation, they started seeing some amazing successes. In six months, the number of camps was reduced by 31%!

Then, COVID-19 struck. The numbers began to rise again. Luckily, so did the efforts of local leaders to pursue creative solutions!

According to Kevin Stein, the Medford City Council President, "some communities ignore the (homeless) problem, and police the problem out of the city. That hasn't worked. It has been shown by some court cases to be ineffective or even illegal."

Stein adds that "land use is a big thing in Oregon. In Oregon, a city council can designate an area as an urban campground..." That's what they did, too! On July 2, the City Council voted to approve the ordinance to create the urban campground as a local solution.

According to Chad McComas, Executive Director, "Rogue Retreat has for years recognized the need to have a campground, at the entry-level. We've been mentioning it for a long time saying that it needed to happen. But it's been a hard concept to get across. I just love how our city has grown and said, 'we really need to do this.' I love the livability team. When they came on board, it just opened the doors for us to move in this direction. Our chief of police recognizes the need

for it as does the county sheriff."

"We've just had a number of amazing people in leadership knowing that the homeless problem like Kevin said isn't gonna go away. So we can't bury our head in the sand. As Keven has always said, 'It really takes the city giving permission to other organizations to step forward and solve problems."

"Yes," replied Kevin. "It takes a partnership, the same way that governments think about the private/public partnerships of development. It's the same exact thing with the nonprofit community. It doesn't mean that we're perfect in any way, shape or form. But, I'm happy about the progress we've made together."

Sergeant Kirkpatrick adds, "When the urban campground model was proposed (this summer) and went through our city management and city council, we (the Livability Team) were tasked with our role as the go-between, between the folks that we've developed relationships along the Greenway. Because we've found that in order to make a difference, you have to have those relationships. That's what we do, 40 hours a week or more."

"When the urban campground started, we were tasked with being the referral source for these folks to get them into the campground. We developed a referral system and started making contact with the folks based on the number of available beds, both in our shelters and the urban campground, trying to fit people into these transitional programs."

"We found that worked really well because A: we knew them and B: we were able to say, 'We know this person and their behavior and some of their problems. They may or may not be a good fit for the urban campground.' That's our role as far as the livability team and the urban campground goes."

The referral system and screening process includes a simple form that collects basic information like name, status as a veteran, receiving social security or disability, etc. "We meet with that person, and then we'll fill out the form with them. Either we take them there ourselves. Or, if they're not ready to actually pick up and move there

yet, we give them a certain amount of time. Like, 'You've got three days. This expires in three days.' We try to get them to the camp. When they show up to the camp, they're given a copy of that form that they can present to the folks at the camp so that they get in. It seems to work really well so far."

In article 3, you'll discover how the same relationship-building that can get an urban campground off the ground and works for the Livability Team is required to de-escalate certain situations as well as deal with addiction, substance abuse and mental health issues at the campground.

ARTICLE 3

In article 2, you discovered how Sergeant Kirkpatrick and the Livability Team built relationships with the homeless on the street as well as connected them to resources and service providers. In article 3, you'll learn how relationship-building also works at the campground.

According to Chris Hyde, Campground Manager, "we have service providers who come in Monday through Friday. They offer various services including alcohol and drug counseling, mental health and housing, services for veterans, Goodwill, job hunting, legal aid. We also have a well-trained staff with the ability to relate to people who are intoxicated or have a mental health crisis."

"It comes back to the relationships that you build with people. As Sargent Kirkpatrick was saying (article 2) about how they build those relationships with the clientele out there in the city, we do the exact same thing over there at the campground, 40 hours a week or more, as well. You establish those relationships with them. You understand what their barriers are. You just start working on them. You have service providers to refer them to on site."

Chad McComas chimes in, "don't you find that just getting them in a safe, controlled environment calms a lot of the issues down?"

"Absolutely," replies Hyde, not skipping a beat. "It's still some level of stability, right? Because they are

coming from the Greenway or the street where they don't have any structure, any discipline, any rules or direction. They may be resistant to coming. Once they come, often because of the Livability officers' work and the relationship they have with them, they can say, 'Look, it's a good situation. They have this and this. The homeless already know a lot of the things that they need.' So, they decide to come. They get here. They're a little apprehensive. It's new. It's a change."

"Within days, they're so grateful. They even self-police their community. They clean up the place on their own. We don't actively go around picking up garbage in the campground. In fact, we never do it, and we do tours all the time. It's always clean. Visitors say, 'It's really clean in here.' I say, 'Yeah, well we didn't do that. The guests do that.'"

"We have portable toilets and handwashing stations onsite. They even asked me to make a sign that said, 'Could you please put the toilet seat down!' They really start to develop a sense of pride for it and get some stability out of it. They really start to take care of it themselves."

So, what have been the results of the Urban Campground?

In the first two months, 110 homeless have been served, and 39 have been successfully exited. "It's really a team effort," says Hyde. "This program is the best sign of community partnerships on a daily basis that I've ever seen."

What are some of the success stories?

"I think one of the biggest success stories is that every veteran that has come is now housed or sheltered in another program somewhere else. That's a 100% success rate."

"We've reunited people with family all over the country. In fact, one girl just checked out last night and went back to Chicago with her kids."

"People get jobs. They're ready to transition out of the campground. They go somewhere else, like the Kelly Shelter. The next thing you know, they have a driver's license or a car."

"The first success is transitioning them out of the campground. I'll

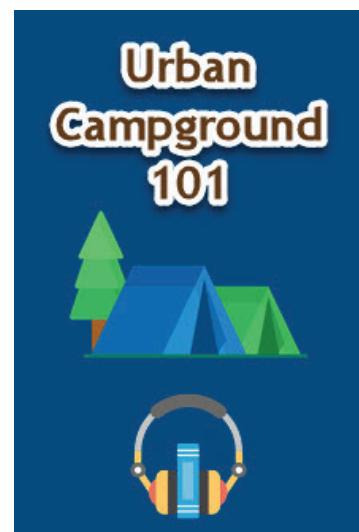
hear about how they got keys to an apartment. The successes feed off themselves exponentially. The next thing you know they move out of the Kelly Shelter to another program or they move into one of our recovery houses or an apartment or their own apartment."

"I know of a girl who was staying here who was transitioned out and now has got her kids back. Now, her family is intact again."

"The successes are as little as getting an ID card for some or as big as getting your kids back and being relocated to where your kids are across the country. These people were living on the Greenway two weeks ago. Now, they are in Chicago with their children again. Those are the kinds of successes that we see after leaving the campground."

"But honestly, it's a success getting them to the campground. They are already willing and ready to take the next step. The people who came to the city council meeting (July 2), stood up and said that 'this is going to be so bad. It's near the school. All of these bad things are going to happen.' Literally, zero of those things have happened."

If you would like the entire 176-minute transcript that includes more success stories and lively conversation between eight guest speakers and local leaders throughout Oregon, as well as the nuts and bolts of setting up, funding and running an urban campground, order the Urban Campground 101 audio course today at RogueRetreat.com/Hope-University.



KELLY SHELTER A YEAR IN REVIEW

By Margarita Moody



The Kelly shelter opened November 28th 2019. Before our initial open date, we notified the community around the Kelly Shelter to join us in a community meeting where we discussed any concerns or questions they had about the shelter and its location. We wanted to reassure the community that we were ready and experienced to run an all year round shelter.

Before our open date there was so much work that needed to be done but most important was to find the unhoused who needed shelter and a new way of life. We complied with Coordinated Entry and did a Risk Assessment on everyone who applied and submitted their information in Service Point. We opened with 54 full beds on November 28th 2019. We have since then expanded to 64 beds. We had several challenges this year but have learned so much along the way. We have found new and safer ways to run the shelter.

One of our first issues that hit was a body lice break out. It wasn't pleasant for anyone. When I say "outbreak" I mean a couple people. However, we learned that all of our new participants needed to be medically cleared by a provider before entering the shelter. Now when accepting an individual in the shelter they have to get a letter from a health care provider stating that they have been checked for any communicable diseases or any infectious bugs. With that we made a wonderful connection with the La Clinica Mobile Health Center. They now come to our shelter once a week to meet with participants for care.

The next issue that the whole world including the shelter had to find new ways to function with was the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to get creative considering we shelter 64 people in

one building. We had to ask ourselves how are we going to keep everyone safe in the shelter? How are we going to social distance? How are we going to ensure that everyone entering the shelter COVID free? With support from public health and following CDC guidelines we created a new and improved shelter. We put up Plexiglas in between each bunk. The staff had to up their cleaning routines to once every hour. In addition to our 4 restrooms we added handwashing stations. The case managers educated the participants on COVID-19 prevention. We adapted and so did the participants. When all of Oregon was to quarantine the shelter did too. We were able to connect with our participants on a different level and find out what works best and what doesn't.



The Kelly Shelter along with Rogue Retreat have a "secret sauce" for all of our programs and that is our case management services we provide. At the shelter we have two case managers and one peer support specialist. These three staff members are Rogue Retreat experts. They are experts in referring out to the other agencies and bridging that gap. We help make the connections and then hold them accountable. For example, if someone comes to us with drug addictions challenges we refer them to a treatment provider in the valley and require them to follow their guidance. We are not drug counselors but we have a community full of wonderful counselors that are eager to help.

We have an effective process we do with each individual while they reside with us at the Kelly Shelter. Once they come in we give them a week to get acclimated to the shelter. After that week we start working with them on identifying what is keeping them unhoused. Is it drugs and alcohol? Is it mental illness? Did they simply lose their job and just lose everything? We involve them in their own life. The case managers create an action plan with them. They are able to make

their own goals with our guidance and we then help them achieve those goals. Moving these individuals out into better stable housing is our main goal. As of mid-October, We have served close to 450 people at the Kelly Shelter. Whether or not, they left successfully we planted a seed in them. We planted a new way of life. What is success in the shelter? Our participants come in broken and in crisis. Our staff shows them that they are capable of structure and routine. We show them love, compassion and accountability. Now, whether or not they move into better housing we have made progress with just about everyone who steps foot into the Kelly Shelter.

Throughout this year my staff and I have realized that we can't help everyone but we can give hand ups and not handouts. We have learned new ways to keep the shelter safe and clean. We have made connections with so many agencies, providers, and people who can help us better serve our participants. We will continue to grow together and continue to motivate those who need it. We have truly been blessed by the community, MPD livability team, and the agencies that work so diligently with us to make people's lives better.

Thank You,
Margarita Moody
Kelly Shelter Manager

**Do You Shop at
Fred Meyer?**

**You can link your Fred Meyer
Rewards Card to Rogue Retreat
and Fred Meyer will give a
donation from your shopping!**

The best part, it's free!

Need help setting it up?

**Call us at (541) 499-0880 and ask for the
Development Department.
They will help you link your Rewards Card.**

ROGUE RETREAT RISES TO THE OCCASION



By Nina Egert

On October 5, several local non-profits banded together to host a Zoom Q&A with some of the candidates running for office in Jackson County. (Archived footage of debate available.)

Not surprisingly, much of the discussion focused upon the recent wildfires, as well as how to respond to the lack of affordable housing, given the additional loss of 2357 residential structures. During their comments, many of the candidates made reference to the successful programs run by one non-profit in particular—Medford-based, Rogue Retreat.



People end up without a roof over their heads for a variety of reasons. Beyond property damage by wildfire, and job-loss due to international pandemics, individuals might find themselves houseless because of substance abuse, PTSD, psychiatric illness, fleeing domestic violence, excessive debts (medical, college, etc.), changes in landlord ownership...The list goes on. Each circumstance calls for a different set of solutions, posing targeting-challenges for agencies who would be of assistance.

Rogue Retreat initially started off in 1998 as an addiction recovery program. By 2006, the organization's mission had expanded to providing housing, case-management, and job training for its clients. Its programs include a group of tiny houses in Medford (Hope Village) with a second Village under construction in Grants Pass, a 54-

Clearly, Rogue Retreat's worthy programs require on-going funding. To learn more about Rogue Retreat, or to make an on-line donation. To donate your RV, or inquire about ways to volunteer,

bed, year-round shelter (Kelly Shelter), several houses with low-rent units, and an urban campground in Medford.

Prior to the Almeda Fire, members of the Rogue Retreat team were in consultation with Ashland city officials about establishing a Hope Village here as well. For now, the Ashland project has been temporarily tabled, as the group's focus shifted to assisting a portion of the Talent and Phoenix residents who lost their homes.

Currently, the Medford urban campground consists of 40 living spots—10 small sheds intended to house medically distressed individuals, and 30 tents sheltered by cloth canopies. Social counseling is made available through the Medford Police Department. According to Rogue Retreat's Development Director, Matthew Vorderstrasse, the agency is working with the Medford City Council to identify a larger piece of land upon which to relocate, in order to double the number of campsites.

Conveniently this expansion comes just as Pallet, an innovative Seattle-based company which produces low-cost, easy-to-assemble, transitional mini-houses, has donated ten of their structures to the cause. Rogue Retreat is hoping to crowd-fund an additional ten Pallet units for the new campground.

The other project Rogue Retreat has initiated in response to the fire is a used-RV distribution program. So far, fifteen community members have donated their RVs to the agency. Rogue Retreat facilitates a secondary transfer of ownership of these RVs to families who were displaced by the fire. For now, the RVs are parked on the Jackson County Expo grounds. But the greater vision is for the organization to purchase one of the burned-out RV parks along Bear Creek. Once the burn scar has been safely cleaned up, the thought is to establish a semi-permanent facility supporting 100 privately-owned units.

Clearly, Rogue Retreat's worthy programs require on-going funding. To learn more about Rogue Retreat, or to make an on-line donation. To donate your RV, or inquire about ways to volunteer, contact: Matthew Vorderstrasse, 541-499-0880 Ext. 1060.

As for Ashland, Vorderstrasse suggested that the city would be wise to create supervised campgrounds for the unhoused—if nothing else, in order to keep watch over cooking fires.

At this writing, the State has still not determined the cause of the Almeda Fire. Ashland Fire Department's, Chris Chambers, cautioned that a civic-run campground might not have prevented this particular tragedy. At the same time, it might have averted the deaths of two unhoused people along the Greenway.

In any case, the entire county does need to provide additional affordable housing. Now is the time for community members to evaluate which candidates you think will follow through effectively, and VOTE accordingly.



We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm!
If you need anything, don't hesitate to come in, email, or call. We're always here to help!

4880 Airway Drive, Central Point, OR 97502 — sales@bigsignfx.com — 541-499-0531



Hey I'm Sunshine. I was born and raised in So Cal but I am a country girl at heart. I met my husband in high school, got married in 1994 and we've been together ever since.

We got bit by the wanderlust bug, and have always lived our lives with a sense of adventure. Instead of buying a house, we decided to buy a sailboat and live on it. We taught ourselves how to sail and being as we lived on our boat in Ventura Harbor, we had the Channel Islands in our backyard. Greatest memories ever! After our boat adventures we bought a Jeep and started our off-road adventures. We built the Jeep up so we could rock crawl and had a great group of friends join us on these journeys.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

In 2007, a major change took place in our lives. We found Jesus! We changed our lifestyle from focusing on ourselves and partying all the time, to having balance and peace. We decided we were all in, no matter what—we laid down our lives to God. In 2012 we felt the call to the mission field to Thailand! In a matter of 5 months, we sold everything we owned and left for Thailand with only backpacks on our backs, fully trusting this path. We spent 4 years loving on people, feeding people and finding our Thai family members. We were home. We felt like we were Thai, even the Thai's felt like we were Thai. We were no longer "farangs" (Thai word for foreigner). We fully intended to live the rest of our lives there with no plans to return to the States.

We learned how to speak, read and write Thai. We started a children's ministry while living in this small fishing village. We took a sibling set 8 and 10 under our wings. Their mother abandoned them

and their father was in prison. They lived with their elderly aunt who was well into her 60's and had health problems. We would care for them, buy them clothes and school supplies, etc. But as the ways of God are mysterious, He had other plans for us. We got called back to the States with only 6 weeks' notice. We arrived back to the States in shock and broken hearted. We left behind our Thai family and kids. But we continued to trust. We came back with nothing but our backpacks. In the last 4 years our blessings grew day by day.

Two years ago, we were blessed with a farm. Our next adventure! Learning by hard knocks the truth of farm life, it is a life and death situation every day. Growing and learning, building confidence and knowledge. Keeping animals safe and mourning when we fail. I love my farm and tell everyone that I live in a painting that's beauty changes every day.

My painting changed dramati-

cally a few weeks ago. We lost most of our farm to the Obenchain fire. Me and my husband are continuing to trust His path during this time. I know that out of the ashes will rise beauty and blessing. We have been deeply touched by those reaching out to help us with replacing all that we lost and help clean up. The rebuilding process will be long and hard, but we are relying upon Him for strength to get us thru this. I would rather be in His hands walking thru this than have my farm intact and living without Him. I started working at Rogue Retreat days after my farm burned down. I know that I was guided to this organization for a purpose. My heart is for helping people and from what I have seen and heard from day one, everyone loves it here and we all make such a positive impact on those we work with. What a blessing to be a part of something so wonderful. I look forward to our future together and helping to bring honor to those we give a hand up to.



OPEN FOR SHOPPING AND DONATIONS

We are officially reopened on
Monday the 18th of May, 2020.

1116 N Riverside Ave, Medford, OR 97501
Monday through Friday 10 am to 6 pm.



Thank you for helping us combat the spread of COVID-19

NOW 25% OFF

All AudioCourses Empower You & Your Community to Create, Fund & Operate Innovative & Proven Housing & Job Readiness Programs for Your Homeless Neighbors

Hope University AudioCourses

Clean Sweep 101

Design a job readiness program for your homeless to clean your streets!

Community Village Creation 101

Design a tiny house village like Hope Village in your community!

Urban Campground 101

Explore the impact of recent rulings vs Grants Pass and Boise on your community & emerging urban campground solutions to homelessness!

Winter Shelters 101

Design a winter shelter like the Kelly Shelter in your community!

Let Hope University help coach your community to develop shelter and housing programs.



To learn more or to purchase a course please visit:
www.rogueretreat.com/hope-university/

THANK YOU PALLETER SHELTER



"Pallet provides safe and secure shelter that moves people off of the streets and into stability immediately—and then on to permanent housing," says Amy King, Pallet Founder and CEO. "Whereas permanent housing and mass shelters can take years to construct, we can shelter a person experiencing homelessness the same day we arrive on site."

The shelters were placed at the Temporary Urban Campground on Friday, October 9, where the medically vulnerable and elderly have been given first preference for occupancy due to their higher risk of potential complications associated with COVID-19. The shelters are part of a larger strategy and



program to shelter Medford's homeless population at Rogue Retreat, which currently shelters more than 300 people each night.

Made of a durable aluminum frame and insulated composite walls, the

prefabricated Pallet shelters can be assembled in as little as 30 minutes each. Each shelter is equipped with a locking door, bed, open-able windows, heating, air conditioning, and storage. The 64 sq. ft. cabin-style shelters will allow campground guests the ability to find stability, access services, and begin their reintegration into society.

"We are truly grateful for this amazing donation. Our community is working to recover from a devastating loss and these shelters will save lives" says Chad McComas, Executive Director at Rogue Retreat. "Our medically fragile and seniors that are at risk will be placed in these desperately needed shelter units, and given wrap around services to help them move forward into more permanent forms of housing and shelter. We are honored to get to partner with Pallet, The Livability Team, the City of Medford, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, St. Vincent De Paul, Medford Gospel Mission and many more to help make shelter available to our communities most vulnerable."



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 example 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.

We moved
SUPER
BIG
SALE
Come See us
At Our New Location
317 E. Jackson St. #1
Father & Son
JEWELRY

ANDERSEN MORSE & LINTHORST
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Seeking Justice
One Person at a Time

We help seriously injured people recover for their losses, get their medical bills paid, and get their lives back on track.

Medford, Main Office (541) 773-7000
1730 E. McAndrews Rd. Suite A, Medford, Oregon 97504

OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC
541-531-6789

AVALANCHE ICE
2197 Sage Road Medford, Oregon 97501
DRY ICE • CRUSHED • BLOCK



711 E. MAIN #25
MEDFORD, OR 97504
www.roguetreat.org

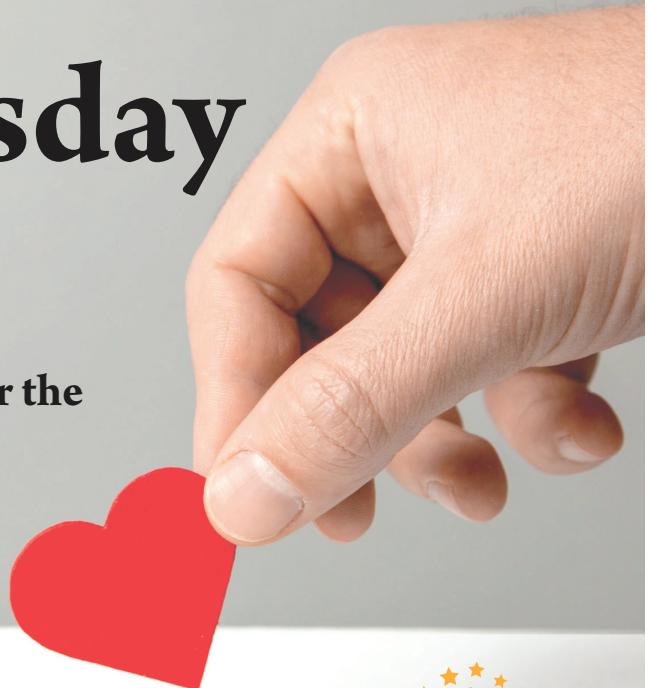
NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #161
MEDFORD, OR

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

#GivingTuesday

December 1, 2020

**Partner with Rogue Retreat this
Giving Tuesday to help provide for the
homeless in the Southern Oregon**



**Text “ROGUE2020” to 41444
to join us this #GivingTuesday**

