



Creating opportunities for the homeless to have hope

NEWSLETTER

October, 2021



WALKING A MILE WITH THE HOMELESS

By Chad McComas,
Rogue Retreat Executive Director

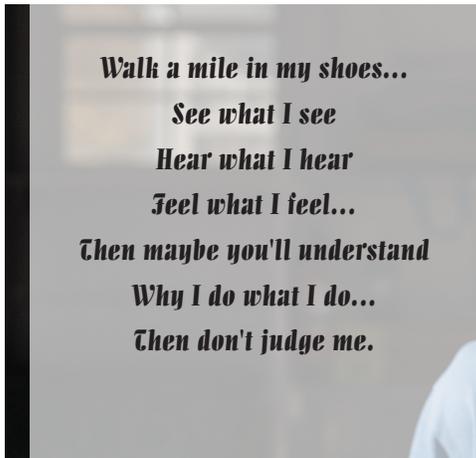
We've heard the expression, 'To know someone we need to walk a mile in their shoes.' We must understand his experiences, challenges, thought processes, etc. In effect, it is a reminder to practice empathy.

I had much to learn when I felt called to work for the homeless. I had to let go of many preconceived ideas.

I had to stop thinking the homeless were lazy; they were homeless because of their bad choices; they were all drug addicts and alcoholics; they didn't want help or would misuse it.

DO BAD CHOICES LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS?

We all make bad choices along the way in our lives. Often it's the lessons from bad choices which make us better people. But sometimes a bad choice starts an avalanche of results which takes one where they never intended to go. It is like falling into a well of homelessness one can't get out of without a hand up. Some fall by not paying attention to where they are going. Others are pushed by circumstances, like a health crisis which leads to job loss, home eviction and so on. Some have a traumatic life crisis which affects mental health, and the avalanche is triggered.



What I've Learned:

When we give the homeless a hand up out of the well, we see good results. At least 50% of them do something amazing with their lives. The lessons they learned have prepared them to make better choices and care about others. Many go into social and community work to give back the hand up they received.

THE HOMELESS JUST NEED TO GET A JOB

Work and income solves many of the challenges the homeless have. But, being on the streets makes getting a job truly impossible. They have no address, no clean clothes, no way to shower and be clean; they need a haircut and/or shave and often have no identification. They carry everything they

have with them or have it in an improvised cart of some kind. Are you going to hire them?

What I've Learned:

When the homeless are provided a safe place to be, access to showers and laundry, get their birth certificates back and an ID, many are able to get jobs and begin to rebuild their lives one paycheck at a time.

THE HOMELESS ARE JUST LAZY

I thought this when I'd see homeless people sleeping during the day. I didn't understand the trauma they go through at night. Living on the streets is very dangerous for homeless people. There's a desperation most of us can't understand. There is theft, assault for women, and night

horrors. One must be vigilant, so the result is resting during the day when it is much safer.

What I've Learned:

When the homeless find a safe place to be (supervised homeless campground, shelter, tiny house village, etc.) they begin to adjust their sleeping habits. Physical and mental health improves. Being happier, they begin to take on what they need to do to restore their lives.

ALL THE HOMELESS ARE ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS AND CRAZY

Many of the homeless struggle with drug addiction, alcoholism

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT:

MICHELLE DELEON



Rogue Retreat Participant,
Michelle DeLeon

dog,” said Michelle.

About three years ago, Michelle learned about Rogue Retreat while living at the Women’s Mission. After getting her first appointment with Rogue Retreat, she fully immersed herself in their programs and everything they had to offer.

“I dealt with a lot of mental health problems,” she said. “I was addicted to marijuana for many years and tried to take my life a couple of times. It wasn’t easy.”

But Michelle was a lifelong learner and eager to start her new journey. During her time with Rogue Retreat, she volunteered at the thrift store, was in peer support, and attended church and counseling. With the help of others, she had many notable accomplishments, including building her credit.

“I give all my thanks to God because anytime I struggled with thinking about using, I’d hand it over to Him and the thoughts would go away.”

Michelle also attended almost a year of life skills meetings. But

The well of homelessness can run very deep, but with a compassionate hand-up, it is possible to climb out of the well and into the light again.

With the help of Rogue Retreat, Michelle DeLeon was able to escape the spiral of homelessness and create a better life for herself.

“I suffered from homelessness several times over the past 25 years. The longest time was for a year when I lived in a car with my



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one of the things which really struck her was when Executive Director Chad McComas would say, “do the next right thing.”

Michelle still uses that mantra to help with her day-to-day tasks. *“If you do one right thing, the next one comes easier, and so on.”*

After much hard work, the future’s looking brighter for Michelle. She is continuing her therapy and excited to put into

practice everything she learned from Rogue Retreat.

“God trusts me with the next steps. I won’t go back to using. Because of Rogue Retreat, I’ll be clean and sober the rest of my life. I’m excited to be in my apartment and choose a better way to live. Rogue Retreat taught me there’s always a better way.”

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TALES OF A ROGUE RETREAT TOUR



Nancy Herring, Rogue Retreat Payroll and HR Specialist

“I’m hopeful that we can get people the help they need, whether it be with mental health, addiction, or just with a safe place to be.”

—Nancy

Nancy Herring was seeking a job during the pandemic when she received a phone call about Rogue Retreat. She was told how the local nonprofit helps the homeless population. While she didn’t have much time to do additional research about Rogue Retreat, it made everything a wonderful surprise when she started working there.

As part of her new position as the payroll and HR specialist, Nancy toured Rogue Retreat’s properties to learn more about what they do, their services, and

how everything operates in the community.

The tour group arrived at the Urban Campground and Nancy saw Executive Director Chad McComas talking to the

participants there. A lady came out of her pallet house, grabbed hold of Chad, hugged him, and said she wouldn’t be anywhere without Rogue Retreat.

The emotional display gripped Nancy. *“I started to cry. This woman was so grateful for her tiny home. It just touched my heart,” she said.*

The group then toured the Kelly Shelter. Nancy was interested to learn how the participants start in the program, and then continue to work their way up. *“It showed me how involved Rogue Retreat is with the people and offers a variety of services.”*

Nancy believes the work done by Chad McComas and the entire Rogue Retreat staff is a great thing, especially the people who work at the campground.

“I know a lot of the employees

working at the campground have experienced addiction or homelessness. And that makes a huge difference. Because you can’t say ‘I’ve walked a mile in their shoes,’ unless you actually have.”

Nancy described the tour as an eye-opening and humbling journey that everyone should experience. Seeing the facilities and people firsthand offered a new perspective on how deeply committed Rogue Retreat is to helping the homeless population.

“I’ve always wondered why we can send a man to the moon, but not help the homeless situation,” she said.

“That’s why I’m so glad there are places like Rogue Retreat, and their wonderful staff, who help the homeless population. And they don’t give handouts; it’s very much a hand-up,” said Nancy.



A group on a tour of the Urban Campground, Medford

WALKING A MILE WITH THE HOMELESS

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

and mental health challenges. What comes first: “The chicken or the egg?” For some it was their bad choice of choosing drugs or alcohol which led to homelessness. For some it was their mental health challenges and lack of treatment which led to homelessness. For others it was the overwhelming trauma of homelessness which led to using drugs and alcoholism

to cope. And, no doubt, the overwhelming trauma of homelessness does damage one’s mental health.

What I’ve Learned:

When the homeless are welcomed into a safe, organized program with case management services, good things happen. Addiction decreases and mental health

improves. Introducing the homeless to specialized services by trained professionals in addiction and mental health treatment comes with amazing results.

Walking a mile with the homeless has changed my thinking and helped me build empathy.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

BETH EICHER



Beth Eicher, Rogue Retreat Receptionist

Beth has always desired to help people, and holds a special place in her heart for the homeless population. While she's helped the homeless in many ways over the years, she began working as the receptionist at Rogue Retreat in May 2021.

"The people who walk through our doors are mostly the homeless population, whom I help with their applications, update their information, or get them someone to talk to, if needed," said Beth. In addition to helping those

who come into Rogue Retreat, she answers the phones, direct calls, and instructs people on how to apply for housing, shelter, and services.

While Beth has only been working at Rogue Retreat for a few months, her journey with the homeless population started several years prior.

Many years ago, Beth encountered a homeless gentleman while walking her dog. *"It seemed he had some mental issues. He'd be screaming, and I was actually afraid of him,"* said Beth.

But one day, the man was sitting down and her dog was drawn to him. *"Through the connection with my dog, we became friends and I found out more about the homeless and their needs. I was able to start my own ministry where I handed out underwear and socks to the homeless."*

Beth also learned there was a local church providing the homeless with a home-cooked meal. She soon volunteered there, as well.

"I want to see people get a second chance and give them some hope. I want to see them succeed," she said. *"Unfortunately, people don't*

understand the homeless. And what we don't understand, we're afraid of."

Beth's journey then brought her to the Rogue Valley. While here, she had her own business for a time. *"I had some bar soap I wanted to donate to the homeless. One day I drove by Set Free Ministries, saw their showers, and stopped in to donate soap. And that's how I heard about Rogue Retreat."*

"I saw the Urban Campground open and I started following what Rogue Retreat was doing. When the receptionist position opened up, I applied because I liked that I would be in contact with people, helping them, offering support, and just listening to what they need. I was very happy when I was offered the position."

When Beth isn't working at Rogue Retreat, she enjoys hiking with her dog and reading a good book. *"I love to be out in nature as much as possible."*

For Beth, her time at Rogue Retreat has been an incredible experience. She loves helping people, serving the homeless population, and having a positive impact in the community.

FALL BLESSINGS AT THE THRIFT SHOP

This month, members of the New Life Church blessed the Thrift Shop with a day of service. The church members helped clean the outside of the building, planted beautiful fall flowers in the planter boxes, sorted clothing donations, and cleaned the windows inside and out. Members also helped clean the back patio and move heavy items.

This act of kindness helped the Thrift Shop more than they know. Donations are at an all-time high, so getting everything sorted, priced and onto the sales floor can be a challenge when there aren't enough volunteers. As we head into the holidays, more shoppers will be looking for everyday essentials and holiday gifts. Keeping the shelves full is a must!

If you are looking for a local volunteer opportunity, please consider the Thrift Shop. Hours are flexible and we have a fun group of volunteers.



Volunteers at the Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat's Fall Preview Event

UPCOMING SALES & EVENTS

Monday, October 11th

Around the World Global Event. Find something amazing from all corners of the world! Antiques from Europe and Asia, and collectibles from South America, Africa and more.

Monday, November 1st

Glitz & Glamour Event. Check out the amazing selection of jewelry, shoes, purses and clothing. Everything you

need for this year's holiday parties and gatherings. Look amazing for less!

Monday, November 15th

Thanksgiving Prep kitchenware sale. Get ready for those holiday parties by shopping at the Thrift Shop. Dishes, crystal, bakeware, table cloths and everything you need to dress your holiday table!

UPDATED HOURS

Monday—Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MEET THE BOARD:

CINDY DYER



Cindy Dyer, Rogue Retreat Board Member, Property & Asset Management Director for Columbia Care

The best gift was giving life to my two children and raising them to be decent, loving human beings.

What's the best gift you've ever received?

Grandchildren. My family is very important to me, and what better gift than having grandchildren to love, spoil, and keep you young at heart.

Do you believe there is intelligent life on other planets? If so, would you be open to lunch, a walk in the park, or a ride on the alien's spaceship?

Absolutely! Definitely a ride in their spaceship. I have always loved things that go fast. Cars, motorcycles, roller coasters; you name it—let's go!

If you were to describe Southern Oregon and its culture to someone who had never been to Southern Oregon, what would you tell them?

Southern Oregon is a beautiful place to live. You get four defined seasons. Any outdoor adventure is only a short drive away — lakes, streams, mountains, snow, waterfalls and so much more. The people are friendly and when the need arises, they come together with a common purpose to get things done, and make things happen.

Would you describe yourself as an extrovert or introvert and do you think you're more left brained (analytical) or right brained (creative)?

I am definitely more of an introvert, and more analytical than I am creative. My analytical side can cause me to spend too much time coming to a decision –

I need and want information that sometimes is not available.

If you were assured of worldwide success, acclaim, and wealth in one of the following areas, which would you pursue and of course, why?

- A. Country/Western singer
- B. Movie Star
- C. Nobel Prize winning scientist
- D. Inventor of something we will soon realize we can't live without.

D, Inventor! This would be the winner! I'm not sure what the invention would be, but I'm sure it would be something useful—something that would make life or living conditions a little better for everyone.

Best and worst advice your parents gave you.

The best is when my mom would say, "Go ask your father." And the worst was when dad said, "Go ask your mother."

What nonprofits do you support and why do you support them?

I provide support—both financially or through volunteer efforts — to a few local non-profits that cover many of my areas of interest. This includes shelter and animal rescue efforts, and of course helping people in our own community — kids, families, low income, homeless, people with disabilities, seniors and even fire victims.

When giving to a non-profit, what experience of giving was the most satisfying to you.

It's hard to say because most of my career has been spent working

for non-profits, so I get the experience of giving on a regular basis, which is also why I believe in paying it forward to other non-profits—there is enough need to go around, and together we can all make a difference.

Why do you sit on the Board of Rogue Retreat?

Because it's an amazing organization, with a great staff and the faith to believe that they can really make a difference. Collectively, they are humble and strong and I admire them for all that they do. I am proud to be a Board Member, and in knowing that in some small way, I am helping to make a difference.

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What do you do for a career and what's one thing you love most about it?

I'm a Property & Asset Management Director for Columbia Care. Columbia Care helps people become self-sufficient to the greatest degree possible, to experience wellbeing, and meet their full potential in their everyday lives. I love helping people—helping them overcome obstacles, gain confidence, and to grow, evolve and succeed at living their best life.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

As a child, I wanted to be a veterinarian. I had dogs, cats, hamsters, turtles, fish and even nursed a few birds back to health. We lived in Southern California and in the city, so having more than that was not really practical. It's when I moved to rural Oregon as a teenager that I realized taking care of animals, especially farm animals, could be messy, dirty and not so much fun.

What's the best gift you've ever given?

THE FUTURE OF FOUNDRY VILLAGE



Foundry Village, a 17 unit tiny house village in Grants Pass

Foundry Village will be the first tiny house transitional community for the homeless population in Grants Pass and Josephine County. When finished, it will provide short term housing and case management for individuals and families. The goal is to help people move up and out of homelessness, and into long term housing.

Foundry Village will have detached bedrooms that are in duplex form, as well as a community building with case management offices, a laundry room, bathrooms, showers, kitchen and other amenities.

Bringing the vision of Foundry Village to life has been a labor of love, requiring hours of dedication and hard work from Rogue Retreat staff, volunteers and the community.

“There’s a dedicated group of people helping with the construction, framing, pouring foundations, and much more. There’s also been some local suppliers who donated irrigation systems,” said Jed Keller, who is on the AllCare Community Foundation board of directors. The foundation is the project head for Foundry Village.

“A lot of the labor was donated and completed by amazing volunteers,” he added.

One such volunteer is Doug Walker, a retired contractor, scrap metal artist and Grants Pass resident for more than 25 years. He is one of the original four people who sat on the Foundry Village steering committee — the dedicated group who made a commitment to starting the

transitional housing project and seeing it through to completion.

Doug is currently the acting project manager and volunteer coordinator. He is excited about the progress being made on the project, and believes it will receive a certificate of occupancy soon — a significant milestone to reach.

“We’ve been at this for almost three years, but we’re getting close to launching,” said Doug.

According to Doug, he and a group of like-minded individuals wanted to do something to help the homeless in Grants Pass. They started looking for properly zoned lands and researching the proper construction rules.

“We brought in someone from AllCare Health who knew the different organizations, and they introduced us to Rogue Retreat. It was easier to move forward because now we had a physical model of something in Medford that we could copy in Grants Pass,” he added.

When they approached the community of Grants Pass a couple of years ago with the idea for Foundry Village, Doug said they received a good amount of support.

Designed as a gated community and staffed so that only residents, their approved guests, and staff are admitted, Foundry Village will follow the Community Village Model and will be managed by Rogue Retreat when the program becomes operational.

Once completed, Foundry Village will be run by Operations Director Liz Adams and her team. They will ensure the facility is

clean and in good condition, as well as make any repairs when they come up.

With the official launch date nearing, Liz and her team are ready to jump in. She has watched the progress at Foundry Village and is amazed at the dedication of the volunteers. Their time, work and resources have brought the vision of Foundry Village to fruition.

“It will be interesting to move our services into Grants Pass. I know their community needs some of the services that we have

here in Medford. We are excited, but nervous too, as we step out of our comfort zone. But the Grants Pass community has been very welcoming,” Liz said.

Through the help of dedicated and compassionate volunteers, community organizations and the Rogue Retreat staff, Foundry Village will soon be a new addition to the Grants Pass community.

“I think Foundry Village is a big change. We’re taking the first steps and doing something for the homeless population in Grants Pass,” said Jed.



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TRUTH BE TOLD:

GRIEF AND HOMELESSNESS



Christine Hunter-Robertson, Director of Outreach and Education WinterSpring

Grief is something everyone must face, but unfortunately, we do not. We turn the other way; try to run, hide, or avoid it at all costs. And that's the problem.

"Many people may have 'carried grief' from when they endured big losses, heartbreak, or death," explained Christine Hunter-Robertson, MA CHt and Director of Outreach & Education at WinterSpring.

Grief is a normal response to loss. *"When we love someone and form an attachment, that makes us vulnerable. When an attachment is broken or wrenched away, we feel the impact of that; it is a deep internal experience of pain, sorrow and anger,"* said Hunter-Robertson.

For those who are homeless, Hunter-Robertson said most of them are probably dealing with trauma and carried grief. This makes it harder for them to have proper social interactions because they are enduring heightened levels of anxiety and fear.

With so much internal emotional turmoil happening because of grief or trauma, we must mourn in order to heal. This may take the form of counseling, or offering services to the homeless so they have a space to freely mourn.

"Grief is a traumatic and unique experience. Mourning allows us to share and tell our story. We can also do it through ceremony, like a funeral. Mourning is the only thing that will actively heal grief, but it is the one thing we do not do much

in our society anymore," Hunter-Robertson explained.

With the homeless population, many of them do not have access to help or support for their grief. So they are always going to be coming from a place of pain or trauma that is very hard to break free from.

"Some of the best things we can do for the homeless is assist them with support to help them through their grief and loss. When you lose your home or income, you lose your whole sense of self, because your identity is so wrapped up in it. The identity piece is a significant part of our self esteem," she said.

Additionally, when you are isolated and don't have strong social connections anymore, and then feel a sense of shame or guilt because of your circumstances, grief becomes even more of a struggle.

"We often label people 'crazy' because they don't fit societal norms. We may see a homeless person have bursts of anger, tears or PTSD, which can seem scary if you do not know or understand where it's coming from."

However, grief can often make you feel like you're crazy because of the emotions you are enduring.

"For many people in a new trauma situation, their old traumas may re-emerge, which can be very disturbing," said Hunter-Robertson. *"Anyone going through a grieving experience needs to open up, mourn, and experience their grief."*

Additionally, we know grief is not a linear process. People often reference the "stages of grief," but this information is usually taken out of context.

"People talk about the stages of grief, but we're not linear beings. Grief is more like a spiral. You start off with an impact and we often get caught in the spiral if we don't heal and move through our feelings. But when we actively mourn, we move through and up



the spiral. This takes longer than most people expect. And any new experience of loss resurrects prior carried grief or traumas," she explained.

Because of the complexity of grief and the different ways it affects people, many of us wonder how we can help. Whether it is someone in our family experiencing loss, or an unsheltered person living on the streets, everyone struggles with grief, loss and trauma, and needs support.

"We come back to the simple model of compassion, kindness and understanding. You don't know what's going on in someone's world, or the pain they're carrying. When we reach out — even if it's rejected

— that's the only way to reach anyone, through compassion," she said.

Rogue Retreat is able to do this through their programs and by offering a hand-up to the homeless population. By holding space for someone, listening to their grief, and offering help, it can aid someone as they move through the grieving process and begin to heal.

Grief is messy, confusing and chaotic, and you can't make it right for someone else. Everyone has to process their own grief and feelings. When we value someone else's path, we can't rush them through or change it, but give compassion and support as they take the steps to heal.

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WHY DO PEOPLE GIVE TO NONPROFITS?



By Gena Satori
Rogue Retreat Development and Communications

People donate to nonprofits for many reasons. Some people give because they believe it helps them grow spiritually. Others give because of moral obligations. Some give to organizations out of gratitude for services they received. Others invest in a cause they care about because they want nonprofits to understand their interests, which often support their business interests.

Recently, I met with one of our new donors and another person who endorses Rogue Retreat’s mission so that we might better understand their reasons for giving. The past few months we’ve contacted our donors via email, direct mail, and over the phone so we may learn what motivates people to give and how we might strengthen our relationships with our donors, supporters, and the communities we serve.

Below is a composite of the conversations I had with these two individuals. By no means is this composite meant to endorse any point of view, or profile a professional or individual, or in any way project their personal perceptions, thoughts and feelings onto any person, profession, culture, gender, etc. However, I was struck that both individuals had similar life experiences and outlooks on many topics. Both

individuals, for varying reasons, care deeply for the people in their communities, and they support and/or endorse Rogue Retreat’s work. They are also about the same age and share similar interests and hobbies. One lives in Southern Oregon, the other resides in another state and is aware of what Rogue Retreat does.

Asking each person why they choose to donate, endorse, or support Rogue Retreat, they shared the following.

First, both individuals—who are trauma-informed therapists—believe the people that come to us are so traumatized that they cannot function until their nervous systems are calmed and they are stabilized with safe housing. They believe Rogue Retreat’s various forms of shelter, from campgrounds to apartments, do a good job of providing safe zones for our participants. Also, both of them think that for people to heal and move forward, they must be able to access a vast network of service providers to support their well-being and build their capacity to take in new information and make changes to patterns of behavior that are not working for them. They believe Rogue Retreat does well providing access to supportive services for its client base.

Interestingly, both individuals are deeply concerned about what

they believe is a growing epidemic of homelessness, not only on the West Coast, but what they perceive as increasing numbers of homeless people across the nation. Though neither individual could point to any studies to substantiate it, each thinks contributing factors include high cost of housing, environmental crisis and the narrowing of the middle-class. They wonder if these may be contributing factors to the emerging homeless population.

Both individuals, for the first time in their lives, believe homelessness could happen to anyone. One individual stated he thinks today, a significant loss — whether it is a job or a loved one, or a health crisis — could start a domino effect where one could become homeless more easily than could have happened even 10 years ago. When I asked him why he believes there is such vulnerability today, he said the pandemic isolated us, and research shows isolation is a contributing factor to mental decline and often a destabilizing factor for those who struggle with mental health issues. He believes our social services networks are somewhat threadbare and stretched to capacity, so vulnerable community members may fall through the cracks more easily than before.

The other individual is worried

about those who live on fixed incomes and who have housing, but due to an unexpected environmental or economic crisis, may become homeless due to the inability to meet the crisis while paying for basic living expenses.

Both individuals are homeowners in their mid-70’s who continue to work because they love their careers and enjoy the extra financial cushion it provides.

I asked each of them if either had any advice from a professional point of view to share with Rogue Retreat. Both admire the work we do, and one individual suggested we continue to look for new and emerging trauma-informed practices to support our participants’ healing, as well as to continue to inform the public of our practices and successes.

When I asked what they felt about their future and the health and well-being of the communities where they live, each expressed concern for their grandchildren due to the high cost of a college education, the lack of affordable housing, and a state of environmental crisis due to climate change. They believe these factors will alter the choices and opportunities available to their grandchildren and those of their grandchildren’s generation.

One individual shared this with me: he believes we are in a time of enormous change, and in his estimation, he believes that the stronger the supportive networks are in a community, the stronger the community will become. He supports Rogue Retreat because he believes we are filling a significant role in the critical safety net we are building in Southern Oregon. As tragic as it is for an individual to lose the capacity to care for him or herself, he feels it is a moral obligation for a community to come together to meet the basic needs of its citizens, and that the cost of not doing so is ethically, financially and spiritually unsound and unwise.

HELPING THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES



By Chad McComas,
Rogue Retreat Executive Director

For many people, one of the most impactful stories in the last 50 years was that of 18-month old Jessica McClure Morales, who fell into a well in her aunt's backyard in Midland, Texas, on October 14, 1987. Over the next 56 hours, rescuers worked to successfully free her from the 8-inch well casing. She was approximately 22 feet below grade. The entire nation and world watched as rescuers successfully saved her.

The Bible talks about a God who cares for Orphans, Widows, The Poor and Strangers. These are people who have lost the ability to take care of themselves. Their relationships and financial stability are gone. They are in a well. They have no support system and literally need someone to give them a hand-up, so to speak.

They are the homeless.

It doesn't matter how Jessica fell into the well. It doesn't matter how someone falls into the "well" of homelessness. They need to be rescued. They literally can't help themselves. Others have to step in and step up.

Rogue Retreat was founded to help those who can't help themselves. It isn't our purpose to judge why someone has fallen into homelessness, but it is our goal to provide a hand-up through our programs of supportive services to give them another chance at life.

With a new chance, many dramatic things happen. The homeless individual moves from being dependent on the resources and efforts of others to being self-sufficient and capable of taking care of his/her own needs. It is a story of moving from being in crisis to thriving. Many

take the hand-up and in turn become someone who is a hand-up worker.

But, it doesn't work for everyone. Some are too damaged or too broken to accept the help. Some find themselves back in the "well" of homelessness and need to be rescued again. Some die.

But for the 40-60% who are pulled out of the "well" and do succeed, it is truly amazing to watch and be part of.

It's hard to change one's thinking around why someone becomes homeless. It had to be the person's fault in the first place, or as one old adage puts it: *"They made their bed, now they need to lie in it."* It is much easier to blame the person for falling in the "well" rather than unpack a story of a runaway domino effect. Here is an example: a health challenge causes someone to lose their job, which makes them lose their home and once on the street, especially with no family support (think orphan, widow, poor or stranger), there is no escape from the "well."

In Jessica's story, it was heart-warming to watch as people rallied to rescue the girl and not try to decide who was to blame. When she was rescued everyone rejoiced. A life was saved.

The sooner society can move from judging someone for being homeless and realize a hand-up approach is what is best for everyone in the community, the sooner everyone wins. For each successful rescue we can all rejoice. A life is saved.



"My recovery must come first so that everything I love in life doesn't have to come last."

OnTrack
ROGUE VALLEY

OnTrackRogueValley.org

OnTrack Rogue Valley offers treatment for alcohol and drug abuse, DUII education, a Domestic Abuse Alternatives Program (DAAP), teen counseling including minor-in-possession (MIP), medication-assisted treatment (MAT) counseling and anger management counseling.

In Medford: 300 W. Main St. (corner of Holly), 541-772-1777

<p>NEW location in Cave Junction: 219 S. Redwood Hwy. Call 541-595-5350 for an appt.</p>	<p>In Grants Pass: 720 NW 6th St. Call 541-955-9227 for an appt.</p>
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OUR NEW PROJECTS



Foundry Village, a 17 unit tiny house village in Grants Pass

During October, we have some new partnerships starting and shelter sites opening. None of these projects could happen without the support of the community, our donors, and our partner organizations.

FOUNDRY VILLAGE, GRANTS PASS

Foundry Village is the first tiny house transitional community in Josephine County, Oregon. It follows Medford's Hope Village model of a gated tiny house community with supportive services offered onsite for program participants. Foundry Village has 17 tiny houses and a community building with showers, restrooms, and cooking facilities.

Foundry Village is a partnership between Rogue Retreat and the AllCare Community Foundation, which has carried the project through funding and development. Rogue Retreat will manage the site, providing supportive services and site management.

Participants work with Rogue Retreat Community Support Specialists and Grants Pass community partners to address each individual's barriers so that they may further their progress from homelessness to long-term housing and self-sufficiency.

Foundry Village is a safe, supportive, and dignified environment where program participants are encouraged to reach their highest potential. Foundry Village will have a soft

opening in mid to late October and is expected to be fully operational by November. Read more about Foundry Village on page 6.

GATEWAY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT, TALENT

The Gateway Transitional Project will have 53 two-bedroom camper trailers. The trailers are specifically designated for families in the Phoenix-Talent School District who lost their homes in the Almeda Fire.

This project also includes collaborations with many local and regional partners, including but not limited to the Urban

Forestry Committee, and the Talent Planning Commission.

Rogue Retreat will provide site management and supportive services for families recovering from the Almeda Fire last September. The 53 sites are expected to be operational by early November.



Pallet Shelters at the new expansion site of the Urban Campground Medford

URBAN CAMPGROUND, ASHLAND

This Urban Campground will be Rogue Retreat's first shelter site in Ashland. It will have 49 sites, encompassing 10 pallet shelters, car camping sites, and the existing structure will shelter the remaining campground guests.

We will use the coordinated

URBAN CAMPGROUND, MEDFORD

The Urban Campground in Medford is expanding once again. It will grow from 75 sites to 125. The sites will be split between two areas on the same property; the current campground will continue to be an entry-level shelter option to get people off the Greenway and streets. The new area won't have any camping tents, but will consist of Pallet Shelters, Pod Shelters, and Rigid Tent Shelters. It will have access to supportive services, electricity, showers, and running water.

The Urban Campground is a partnership with the City of Medford. Rogue Retreat operates the Urban Campground, and referrals to the campground are made exclusively by the Medford Police Department Livability Team. Various community partners visit the Urban Campground on a regular basis, providing wrap-around services such as alcohol and drug counseling, mental health services, housing services, job readiness, legal aid, etc.



Site plan of the Talent Gateway Transitional Housing Project

Renewal Agency of Talent, Phoenix-Talent School District, Talent Maker City, Rogue Retreat, the Talent Public Arts Committee, the Talent Urban

entry and HMIS systems to identify and prioritize residents to be welcomed into the camp, as well as referrals from law enforcement and partner organizations such as

\$150,000 GRANT FROM PEOPLE’S BANK OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION



Missy Hermant and Mandy Hurley from People’s Bank award a \$150,000 check to Chad McComas, Rogue Retreat’s Executive Director.

To Renovate Five Rooms At The Redwood Inn

The People’s Bank of Commerce Foundation has awarded a \$150,000 grant to Rogue Retreat for the renovation of five rooms at the Redwood Inn. The five newly renovated studio apartments will be used with the

first and primary goal of helping people displaced by the Almeda and other wildfires in Southern Oregon. When those displaced from the fires are permanently re-homed, the motel and its suites will then be integrated within Rogue Retreat’s continuum of properties to house the general

and unrestricted population of homeless individuals, couples, and families in Southern Oregon.

The current mission of the People’s Bank of Commerce Foundation is to assist those who have been impacted by the Almeda Fire that swept through Southern Oregon last year. The foundation has granted these funds to Rogue Retreat to renovate the Redwood Inn. The Redwood Inn was purchased through Project Turnkey, a state grant through the Oregon Community Foundation that purchased distressed hotels for use as fire and COVID-19 relief across the state. The funds from the grant were used to purchase the Redwood Inn which was awarded to Rogue Retreat and the City of Medford on a joint application.

The Redwood Inn is a 47 room motel that is currently undergoing

renovations to be converted into 47 studio apartments. When completed, 43 apartments will be dedicated to housing individuals, couples, and families displaced due to the Almeda Fire with four studio apartments provided for those who need skilled nursing care. Renovations are currently underway with 33 suites currently in use and another 14 suites under construction.

“We can’t thank People’s Bank of Commerce Foundation enough for their amazing generosity. Their desire to help the Rogue Valley rebuild from these fires shows what a business can do to help the greater community. We are honored to partner with People’s Bank of Commerce Foundation to remodel five rooms which will serve our community for many years to come.” Chad McComas, Rogue Retreat Executive Director.



We would like to thank St. Vincent de Paul for their on-going support of the campground!

They have paid for the electrical contracts to provide power to the Pallet Shelters, canopys, tents, water tanks, and so much more. We could not support the Urban campground without St. Vincent de Paul.



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George, Rogue Retreat Data Control Specialist



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