

BLANCHET ON THE MOVE



www.blanchethouse.org

Spring 2015

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A note from Executive Director, Greg Baker...

This past year the Blanchet House of Hospitality has been poetry in motion. As fluid as any agency could be for all it has accomplished through the years, the Blanchet House of Hospitality is making some strategic changes and adjustments that will enable us to better serve the poor and homeless population moving forward. From stabilizing our internal infrastructure to strengthening our community relationships, Blanchet is certainly making moves!

For starters, the Board of Directors committed itself to bringing on board additional staffing. In the past year, we have doubled our staff size and recently added two full time Case Managers, an Executive Assistant, and a Head Chef. With the advent of a full time Chef, meals are now better prepared and much more nutritious. Case Managers, who are trained in working with people suffering from a variety of addictions, help the residents look introspectively within. Case Managers also hold the residents accountable and work with them to achieve Life Plans and meet long term goals. And finally the addition of an Executive Assistant has allowed us grow and reorganize our office structure in a more efficient matter.

With these new positions paired with the existing Resident, Building and Farm Managers, the Blanchet House is working to establish improved communication, coordination, accountability, consistency, and reliability of work results. The staff are ecstatic and pleased to know that they are valued by the Board and understand how the Board is seeking the best resources for the people we serve.

The Blanchet House's first annual fundraiser, Lend a Helping Hand Brunch was by all accounts a great success. The house was packed with supporters and we met our financial goals! In addition to that, we were able to reassert our message of feeding, clothing, and providing shelter for the poor.

Looking to the future we will be working on increasing local partnerships and resources for our target population. We will be more proactive in searching for capacity building grants and donations in order to help with the training needs of staff and the Board. We are beyond excited to be working on our first strategic plan! This plan will only help us envision the future of Blanchet more clearly and allow us to set attainable benchmarks to attain those goals.

As you can see, we are on the move making careful adjustments to our programs and activities to better serve those that seek Blanchet's resources on a regular basis. Thank you for all of your continued help and support. We can't do it without you.

Big Success - First Annual Lend a Helping Hand Brunch

The Blanchet House's first annual fundraiser, Lend a Helping Hand Brunch took place on Sunday, February 22, 2015 and was a huge success! With over 200 people in attendance, we met our goals with help from the Maybelle McDonald Clark Foundation and BP Lester and Regina John Foundation! A big thank you to Guest Chef Philippe Boulot and Sous Chef Deanna Bascom from the MAC for volunteering to help us on our big day! Mark your calendars next year for



Sunday February 21, 2016!

At the end of the brunch, Blanchet was thrilled to award their 2015 Service Award Recipients!

Fr. Kennard Award – **Alisa Sinnott** - For encouraging and inspiring today's youth to give back to the community and place the needs of those less fortunate above all else.

Al Riley Award – **Margaret Duggan** - For her unwavering dedication to the importance of the Blanchet mission of helping those less fortunate.

Founders Award – **Mary Casey** - For her tireless energy & selfless commitment to the Blanchet House. Like our founders, her passion and vision for the future of Blanchet are unprecedented.



Food for Thought:

"He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need." - Ephesians 4:28

LENDING A HELPING HAND SINCE 1952.

The Men's Corner Blanchet's Featured Resident

Jason Spencer - Breakfast Cook

When Vicky first talked to me about being in the newsletter I was a bit taken back. You see, I am at a very interesting and somewhat uncomfortable point in my life right now. I feel like a teenager again, trying to figure out how to move forward and grow in a positive and meaningful manner. I could sit here and shock you with the details of my past, but honestly, I don't want to live in that anymore. Saying I had a rough upbringing and start to my life would be an understatement; abuse, violence, drugs, jail, you name it and I've experienced it. I was one of those people that lived and existed in the darkest place of society and had engrained in me at an early age that I was disposable and easily discarded. People talk about their rock bottom and how it helped them realize when it was time to make a change in their life. For me, looking back and realizing that I didn't have a rock bottom is terrifying. It's a miracle that I am where I am today.

I came into the Blanchet program a little differently than most. I will have 3 years clean on the 27th of this month and I didn't use a formalized program to get there. Despite where I came from and what I grew up with as the norm, I still inherently loved people and I hated seeing sadness and disappointment from those around me. I made the choice to change my behavior because I was tired of not trusting and being repulsed by everyone in my life, so I stopped shooting up. But that was the only thing that stopped. I didn't change my lifestyle in the slightest and I didn't do any of the emotional work that went along with sustaining that change. The problem is, when you view yourself through a lens that only sees an "ex needle junkie and ex con", you don't think you're worth a better lifestyle. I was angry with God and spiritually empty and alone. I sought out Blanchet not because I needed the recovery aspect, but because I needed spiritual restoration.

Blanchet is helping me in my transformation and because of this house, I am able to actively work on addressing invalidating self voices and finally being emotionally present in my life. Asking myself, what are my emotional intentions in this moment and is this truly for me or am I doing this for other reasons? Since coming into the program last fall, I am now participating in individualized counseling, have found a church community that I love, volunteer on their property committee, work with Habitat for Humanity and Martha Mary Ministries on a regular basis and am the Breakfast Cook here at Blanchet. I am also starting Culinary School in September! Most importantly though, I am being mentored by Father Gary and am rebuilding my relationship with God.

As I was saying earlier, I live in the uncomfortable right now. But I am coming to peace with that because one has to be very careful in thinking that they are "fixed". Restoration is an active and ongoing process and I am proud to be working toward it.

More of Jason's amazing story in the June Newsletter! — Check back soon...

Blanchet *CASE MANAGEMENT*

Through the guidance of new case manager, Vicky Spear, we are taking great strides with our case management program for the men.

Since last winter, the Blanchet House has accomplished a great deal in helping the men create

- ◇ Life Plans and incorporation of Daily Coping Skills
- ◇ Connections with outside resources
- ◇ Participating in Rent Well Training at the Farm
- ◇ Possible Partnerships with Chemeketa College through Blanchet Farm

The Lions Mobile Health Screening Program came by Blanchet House on March 27th to not only test the men from the house and farm, but also offered services to other local community partners, such as Central City Concern.



The Blanchet House has gone through a rigorous interview process the past few months and has recently hired Ms. Kristi Katzke to join our Case Management team in mid-April!

Traveling Barber's Service to Others

"My hero is Mother Teresa. She taught us to 'serve others'". Tom Anderson is a licensed hair designer and he shows up every Thursday afternoon to provide haircuts to the men who are living in the Blanchet House. In addition to this; Tom also provides his services to the McDonald Center, City Team Ministries, and Night Strike under the Burnside Bridge. His work schedule on Thursdays is from 10 am to 10 pm.

If you ask Tom how long he has been blessing others with his service don't be surprised if you get the following response, "Since my beard was brown". He emphasizes that it is very important for him to be reliable because people have been let down and disappointed. It's very evident Tom does not want to be one of those people. Anderson stated that someone told him "I wish I had money to give you." His response was "I don't do this for money."

Tom believes the true character of a person is how they treat others who can't give anything back to them and they both know it. He calls his time spent with customers as "fearless focus". "The people sitting in the chair are like a king. I don't allow myself to get distracted by dogs barking; sirens going off; or any loud noises. I give what I can and I see a transformation.....a fresh person. It's a radiance beaming from them and it shines on me."

"Church is my anchor on Sundays and coming here is recharging my battery" explained Anderson. "Do for others what you would do for Christ. Sometimes I wonder.....is this one Christ in disguise?"



Tom Anderson the Traveling Barber

April Volunteer *SHOUT OUT*

A giant thank you to **Megan Sinnott** and the **NW Educational Assessment (NWEA)** for their outstanding support of our first Lend a Helping Hand Brunch!

Blanchet *HOUSE*

Blanchet House is thrilled to release our 2014 meal service numbers.

- ◇ 2013 - 2014, Blanchet has experienced a **4% increase** in total meals served.
- ◇ 341,557 growing to 354,598 meals in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

With this growing demand, as well as a focused emphasis placed on new case management for the guests of the house, Blanchet has divided kitchen staff into three work shifts, allowing the men to concentrate on active counseling and recovery.

Additionally, with the homeless population growing, our meal service here at Blanchet becomes all the more relevant, immediate and necessary. Please continue to help support us in our efforts in any way possible.

A giant thank you to the Marty and Anne Meyers for their generous donation of over 500lbs of ground beef every month to help support the demand at Blanchet House and Farm!

Come help us serve more than a hot meal, help us serve hope. For volunteer opportunities, contact our house manager at 503.226.3911 or damold@blanchethouse.org.

Monday - Saturday

Breakfast: 6:00am - 8:00am **Dinner:** 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Lunch: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Blanchet *FARM*

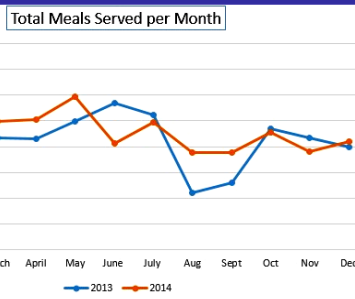
Thanks to an anonymous donation, the Farm is getting a new 15 passenger van and commercial stove! The old van has served us well with nearly 270k miles on it and we are now upgrading to a 2007 Chevy, with about 87k miles! We should be set for a good long time with this new upgrade!

The men here are about to start the "Ready to Rent" class provided by Housing Authority of Yamhill County. It will be taught by Jay Jaeger who was at the Blanchet Farm in 2006. Jay turned around his life and now works for the Housing Authority, and is passionate about trying to give back to the community and the men at Blanchet Farm. This six session program is designed to help people overcome screening barriers and become more successful renters. It is also a grant funded resource that offers landlords the opportunity to apply for funds to cover unpaid rent and damage claims at move out if the person is a graduate of the Ready to Rent program.

We have recently acquired 5 new pigs here at the farm and they are about 4 months old. They are getting bigger by the day and are a great addition to the farm. The animals here are very helpful for the men, acts of kindness and selflessness by their very nature put us in contact with the best of ourselves. This in turn makes the animals incredibly valuable for recovering addicts who spent so many years putting their own needs above those of everyone else.



Handcrafted Adirondack Chairs - 2 Available Designs



Blanchet House Wish List

For the Men: hygiene items, laundry soap, dish soap, new sheets, new pillows, Bowflex style exercise equipment, bicycles, tennis shoes, summer/winter gear.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Gym memberships, monthly bus passes/tickets, tickets to shows, games, museums, funding for certifications, license/ID renewals

Woodshop Supplies:

Mig-Welder, primer, wood stains, outdoor paint, various sizes of paint brushes, nails, screws, bolts, lumber, sandpaper, etc. to allow men to train in the woodshop.

Farm Supplies: Small tractor with a tiller, lawnmower, wheelbarrow, chainsaws, power trimmers, or other tools for landscaping and maintaining the working 63 acre farm.

Organizational Needs: File cabinet, industrial letter folder/stuffer, security camera for Farm

Food Supply Needs:

Coffee (ground or whole bean), Sugar, spices (any and all).

Stay up to date as our needs are always changing.

Please visit us at:

blanchethouse.org/wishlist

Woodshop Creation - April 2015 -

⇒ **Brand new Adirondack Chair design!** Waved back and curved side table. Handcrafted by men in recovery.

⇒ Available in Douglas Fir and Cedar, painting optional. To place an order please contact Ross Sears at rsars@blanchethouse.org

Blanchet *WELCOMES*

Ms. Vicky Spear (Case Manager) - Vicky's passion is to help support people in trusting God to reveal His divine plan and purpose for their lives and equipping them to overcome obstacles on their journey to reach victory and fulfillment. In addition to this she values developing meaningful relationships with individuals, building community relationships and creating collaborative partnerships. Identifying resources and designing & improving systems has been her forte for many years now. All of this results in individuals, families, communities, cities, and nations being restored. Vicky has a Bachelors in Human Studies from Marylhurst University and a Master's Degree from Lewis and Clark in Counselling Psychology.



Through her work at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, she collaborated with a team of professionals and developed two of the top Intensive Inpatient and Outpatient Alternative Incarceration Programs in the state. The women releasing from CCCF had a 92.5 % success rate of stabilizing in their communities and families. For fun Vicky loves to spend time volunteering with the Freedom in the Son Ministry and going on family vacations!

Ms. Kristi Katzke (Case Manager) - Kristi is a native Oregonian and has been living in the Portland area most of her life. She raised four great children and is now the proud grandmother of three adorable boys. Spending time outdoors is how she recharges; she loves to bike, camp and spend time at the beach with friends and family. As her children started their own lives, Kristi began volunteering at a soup kitchen in East County. Through her volunteer work, she grew to learn about the guests she served, taking time to get to know them, and seeing them in a different way than before. Kristi truly believes this is her calling. Seeing the effect addiction and mental health issues had on the people she served had a profound effect on her. She soon returned to school and became a Chemical Dependency Counselor. Since then, Kristi has worked with people from all walks of life, but her heart has always pulled her toward serving the homeless population. She is excited to be joining the Blanchet team and feels blessed to have this opportunity to be part of the work we are doing here at Blanchet!



Ms. Kelly Wetherald (Executive Assistant) - Kelly is an east coast native and made her way out to Portland to attend graduate school at the University of Portland this past fall. She is currently working towards her Masters of Fine Arts in Directing and has a great passion for the nonprofit sector. After graduating from James Madison University, Kelly worked extensively in development, fundraising, and grant writing in both Washington, DC and New York City and has loved putting her Nonprofit Business minor to work! In her free time Kelly enjoys hiking the Gorge, baking, dancing, seeing theatre and spending time with her friends & family!



Contact Us

To learn more, feel free to call or visit us online at:
www.blanchethouse.org

Greg Baker

Executive Director
503.241.4340
gbaker@blanchethouse.org

Kelly Wetherald

Executive Assistant
503.999.9455
kwetherald@blanchethouse.org

Dennis Arnold

Food Program &
Building Manager,
Volunteer Supervisor
503.226.3911
darnold@blanchethouse.org

Christopher Toland

Resident Program &
Transitional Housing Manager
971.271.4973
ctoland@blanchethouse.org

Ross Sears

Farm Manager
503.852.6626
rsears@blanchethouse.org

Vicky Spear

Case Manager
971.337.8745
vspear@blanchethouse.org

Kristi Katzke

Case Manager
971.337.8747
kkatzke@blanchethouse.org



Thank you

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B P Lester & Regina John Foundation
Tim and Mary Boyle Charitable Trust

Thank you to the Season of Sharing for donating \$10,000 to the Blanchet House in their holiday campaign!

