

PRESS RELEASE

Blanchet House Gives Portlanders a New Way to Help the Homeless

March 13, 2019

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blanchet House's *You're Invited* Campaign
Portland, Oregon

People at a loss for how to help those suffering on our streets and elsewhere can now hand out free meal invitations to anyone who might benefit. The Blanchet House of Hospitality, a historic nonprofit in downtown Portland, is launching their *You're Invited* campaign in an effort to spread word of their meal services and give citizens an actionable way to help alleviate suffering.

Blanchet House offers breakfast, lunch and dinner to anyone in need in their large dining room on NW Glisan. No questions asked. All are welcome. The free meal invitations provide the meal times, location and public transportation information to potential meal guests.

Invitations are easily carryable as they're the size of a business card. They can be picked up at the Blanchet House or printed from their website. There is no limit to how many invitations can be distributed as their kitchen never runs out of food. They served over 353,000 plates of food in 2018.

To test the campaign, Blanchet House offered Portland Police Bureau's Neighborhood Response Unit a box of invitations to hand out to the people they interact with during policing. Officer Matthew Jacobson says "I have had a great response to the meal cards. In fact I'm hoping to get more to pass out."

Anyone interested in receiving a box of meal invitations for their business or organizations can contact Blanchet House. Here is a link to the campaign video and invitations.

<https://blanchethouse.org/youreinvited/>

Since 1952, Blanchet House has been operated and funded by caring and compassionate individuals. The organization receives no government monies. Blanchet House runs a sustainable kitchen by gleaning excess fresh food from local businesses like Trader Joe's and takes the food waste to feed animals at their 62-acre farm in Carlton.

In addition to their meal program, they operate two transitional housing programs for men. The Blanchet House in downtown Portland houses up to 52 men. The Blanchet Farm houses 22 and offers a tranquil setting for men working to recover from drug or alcohol addictions. At the farm the residents care for animals, learn fine woodworking and garden in a peer support environment.

Contact Julie Showers at jshowers@blanchethouse.org, 503-241-4340, for more information.