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## **Blanchet House to Provide Meals for City's Three Emergency Outdoor Shelters During COVID-19 Outbreak**

**Portland (April 13, 2020)**—Blanchet House continues to increase its capacity to serve during the COVID19 crisis by partnering with the City of Portland's Joint Office of Homeless Services and Portland Rescue Mission to provide meals to three new outdoor shelters. The first lunch is scheduled to be delivered on April 16, 2020, at the shelter on SE Water Ave.

Blanchet House staff and volunteers will prepare hot breakfasts for all three shelters, Monday to Saturday, and sack lunches on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Portland Rescue Mission will provide dinner seven days a week and Free Hot Soup and/or Free Lunch Collective will provide lunches Monday to Wednesday, and Friday. City staff will pick up and deliver the meals to the shelter residents.

Food supplies will be donated from local grocery stores, businesses, and restaurants as well as purchased from the Oregon Food Bank by Blanchet House. Breakfast will contain oatmeal or eggs, pastry, and a fruit which will be determined by food item availability each day.

"We are proud to be joining the city and other human services agencies to support these shelters and the hundreds of individuals who will benefit from them," says Scott Kerman, Blanchet House Executive Director. "Our mission is to alleviate suffering by serving nutritious meals with compassion and dignity. Reaching out to Mayor Wheeler's office to see how we could help was an obvious step."

The City of Portland is adding to the community's urgent work to protect neighbors experiencing homelessness from COVID-19, by opening three temporary Outdoor Emergency Shelters that will offer safer and healthier places to sleep for vulnerable adults without shelter. The three city-owned sites — two in the Central Eastside and one in Old Town/Chinatown — will each host 45 tents for the duration of the city's COVID-19 emergency declaration and be managed by JOIN.

**ABOUT BLANCHET HOUSE:** Blanchet House is a nonprofit organization serving the communities of Multnomah and Yamhill counties since 1952. They offer meals and clothing to people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity along with operating life-saving housing programs.

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