



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Thousands Mobilize to Make Sack Lunches for Homeless and Unemployed Guests of Blanchet House**

**Portland (April 15, 2020)**—Demand for Blanchet House’s free meals more than doubled due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With food and volunteer resources dwindling, Blanchet House put out a call to the community to help meet the escalating need. Sack lunches containing one sandwich, one piece of fruit, and two nonperishable wrapped snacks are easy to prepare from the safety of home and serve to hundreds of people at a time.

People across Metro Portland now have a way to help from home and a fun activity to do together. They purchase materials for dozens of sack lunches, usually as part of a school-organized drive, assemble at home, then come together to deliver them to Blanchet House. On April 10, Lincoln High School students and families delivered more than 4,000 bagged meals.

“Our community loved the opportunity to make lunches. So many people have texted me asking when we’ll make more,” says Mary Ann Walker of Lincoln High School.

Most schools are not allowing students to volunteer on-site so this is a great opportunity to perform valuable service while learning about housing and food insecurity. So far, Central Catholic High School, Catlin Gabel, Jesuit High School, LaSalle High School, Lincoln High School, Northwest Academy, Oregon Episcopal School, Portland Jewish Academy, and Sunset High School have or are scheduled to make sack lunches.

“We’ve discovered that this project is helping school staff, students, and families feel connected while campuses are closed,” says Scott Kerman, Blanchet House Executive Director.

The need for to-go meals continues to grow now that Blanchet House has agreed to provide breakfast and lunch to three outdoor homeless shelters operated by the county and 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.

# SACK LUNCHES

— HOW-TO FOR BLANCHET HOUSE SUPPORTERS —



Thank you for assisting Blanchet House in feeding hundreds of hungry people in our community. Any amount of lunches you can make during this crisis helps. Contact us at [info@blanchethouse.org](mailto:info@blanchethouse.org) with any questions. Text us photos at 917-620-7627. Thank you!

## EACH BROWN BAG MUST INCLUDE:

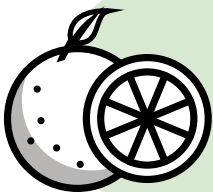
NO drinks or beverages



1

### SANDWICH

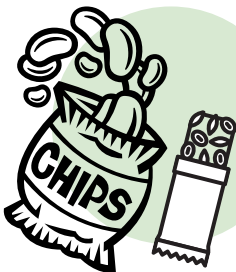
PB&J or other type  
of deli sandwich



1

### FRUIT

orange, apple  
or fruit cup



2

### WRAPPED SNACKS

chips, string cheese,  
cookie, granola bar or  
nonperishable snack

## PREPARATION

IMPORTANT: If anyone in your household is sick or shows symptoms of illness please do not participate in making sack lunches.

- Sanitize all surfaces you will be using before handling food and materials.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Wear gloves

## DROP OFF

- Email us at [info@blanchethouse.org](mailto:info@blanchethouse.org) so we know to expect you.
- **DAYS:** Tues., Weds. or Thurs. only
- **HOURS:** 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Use entrance at 310 NW Glisan St. Park in front of door. Knock and we will come out to your car to get the bags.