



Staff brought cold water to people during the heat waves.

Heat Relief and Aid Provided During Record Temperatures

It's been a brutal summer for our guests living without adequate shelter. They have endured multiple record-breaking heatwaves on top of the strain of the pandemic and personal challenges.

In June, at least 54 people in the Portland metro area died due to heat-related causes. The extreme heat took a terrible toll, but hundreds of people were able to survive and find relief because of your generosity.

Blanchet House donors, volunteers, and staff quickly mobilized upon hearing news of the coming heatwave.

Caring people from across the nation sent reusable water bottles for us to sanitize, fill with cold water, and distribute. We let the community know that anyone who comes to Blanchet House's doors can receive water refills for themselves and their pets.

Volunteers gave out water, ice, reusable bottles, misters, and hygiene care kits. They did this day after day, Monday to Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Please thank all of the people behind the scenes helping us," said a man who stopped by for water on a day that the temperature reached 115 degrees.

Blanchet House's relief services were able to reach beyond the immediate neighborhood too. Meals, water, and clothes were shared with the city's emergency cooling centers.

We want to thank everyone for coming together during these trying times. You made it possible to quickly mobilize life-saving relief.



A volunteer offers water.



Outdoor COVID Vaccination Clinics Reach Marginalized

Two outdoor COVID-19 vaccination clinics were held in the Blanchet House parking lot this year. The low barrier clinics were orchestrated by the Harrington Health Clinic (HHC) and the University of Portland (UP) School of Nursing.

Nurses administered more than 70 doses of the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine to people experiencing homelessness or staying in shelters.

The HHC located on the first floor of Blanchet House is a nurse-led primary care clinic. Emily Harrington, a RN, NP, and Blanchet House board member, co-founded the clinic in 2020 with Dr. Kelly Fox and UP.

Nurses staffing the clinic provide primary care, health and wellness, palliative care, and telemedicine services to the residents of Blanchet House. They also refer patients to Veterans of America (VOA) for mental health services.

Emily believes Blanchet House's mission to "transform lives with dignity and compassion" should include health and well-being. She plans to host more COVID and flu vaccine clinics at Blanchet House in the future.

It's critical to public health that vaccines get to people who might have difficulty visiting a traditional clinic.



Skip Monaco picking up food at Blanchet House.

Skip's Drive to Help Feed the Community

At least once a week Skip Monaco drives to Blanchet House in downtown Portland to pick up and drop off food and clothes. We've helped her pile more than a dozen watermelons in her back seats! Skip fills her car with soon-to-expire donated food that Blanchet House cannot use or store.

She's one of a network of people helping to get good food to the people who need it instead of going to waste.

For more than 10 years, Skip has been supporting the residents of Blanchet House and other organizations. She creatively prepares some of the ingredients she's gleaned into delicious home cooked meals then drops them off on Friday nights for the residents to enjoy. She's even a surrogate mom and grandmother to some.

"When I learned how much food goes to waste in the city I wanted to help. I started bringing food to Blanchet House," Skip says. "Now I pick up food from Blanchet House to bring to a migrant worker camp and a woman's shelter. I use the ingredients I pick up here to make meals. I do this with my church, it's not only me."

A humble woman, Skip tells us that she is just one of many members of St. John Fisher Catholic Church in SW Portland who are involved in food and clothing redistribution efforts.

The guys at the house love Skip and look forward to seeing her smiling face each week.

Read more about our efforts to rescue and collect food at BlanchetHouse.org/food-rescue.

Clothes With Dignity

A young man stopped by to ask about getting a clean pair of pants. He was happy to be starting a job on a food cart but didn't want to show up in dirty shorts. He told us that he's currently without housing but plans to have money for a room after a month of working. We were happy to be able to offer him a newer pair of pants with no visible rips or stains. He was very thankful.

Blanchet House gives people access to new and gently used clothing in a safe and respectful setting. Our mission is to help restore dignity to the people we serve which means offering good clothing. Being offered dirty or stained clothing can feel humiliating. We all know the embarrassment of wearing a stained shirt or dirty shoes.

Clean socks, men's t-shirts, and jeans are some of the most requested items. If you'd like to help you can purchase some items in bulk and have them delivered to Blanchet House at 310 NW Glisan, Portland, OR, 97209.

We also accept gently used adult-sized clothing appropriate for outdoor wear. We also need volunteers on site to sort and label donated clothing daily. Sign up online!

See the full list of needed clothing items and a link to our Amazon wish list at BlanchetHouse.org/Donate-Clothing.



*Lend a
Helping Hand
Brunch*

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 6, 2022

Interested in sponsoring?

Contact us at info@blanchethouse.org or 503-241-4340





State Reps Visit House and Farm

Oregon State Representatives Ron Noble and Lisa Reynolds recently visited Blanchet House and Blanchet Farm.

"Rep. Noble prioritizes programs for people in recovery, so we're proud to highlight our one-of-a-kind program in Yamhill County," says Exec. Director Scott Kerman. "We look forward to working with Lisa Reynolds on projects to help the people we serve!"

We appreciate leaders in our community taking time to tour our facilities and learn more about what we offer.



Annual Report Published

As you know, 2020 was very difficult for the people we serve and many of our supporters. It was also an extraordinary year of generosity by donors and volunteers. Our 2020 annual report documents what we achieved together.

Find it online at BlanchetHouse.org/2020-annual-report or contact us and we can email it to you.



Gene Feltz in 2019 visiting the dining room he co-founded.

Eugene "Gene" Feltz, 1927-2021

We are mourning the death and honoring the life of Blanchet House co-founder Eugene "Gene" Feltz. As a young man, Gene along with his friends from the University of Portland started the Blanchet House of Hospitality as a place people in need can find food, shelter, and hope.

It's because of Gene's compassion, deep faith, and sense of duty that thousands of people have found relief and a path to a better life at Blanchet House and Blanchet Farm.

"It's a remarkable legacy, and one we are very humbled by as we watched our patriarch teach us how to give back to others who really needed a helping hand," writes Steve Feltz, son of Gene. "These were not just mere words to him. It was a way of life. It's doing corporal works of mercy with a backdrop of Christian values at the core."

Gene remained dedicated to the mission for his entire life.

"Gene Feltz's life's work and service touched the lives of countless people, not just in Portland but across the country. We are profoundly grateful to him for his legacy at Blanchet House and the continued generosity, passion, and commitment of the Feltz family. Our community mourns Gene's passing, and we celebrate his life in our service to those in significant need," says Executive Director Scott Kerman.

Every day someone in desperate need of aid comes to Blanchet House and leaves with renewed hope.

"Once we started Blanchet, we had to keep it going because the need was there," Gene said in a 2020 interview. "It was our duty."

His family requests that remembrances be sent to the Blanchet House or Holy Family Catholic Parish and School.

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A Path Out of Homelessness Found

A year ago, Zack was homeless and feeling hopeless. He was alone with only his backpack, sleeping along Johnson Creek in SE Portland, or in a friend's backyard.

RESIDENT PROGRAM

The stress and danger of living without shelter made it difficult to stay sober and employed. He spiraled down until he landed in the hospital with drug-induced psychosis. A caseworker told him about Blanchet House's sober housing program.

Fast forward, Zack is doing great since securing a spot at Blanchet House. It's given him the respite he so desperately needed to work on himself in a safe and supportive environment. He's now working full time at a moving company and reconnecting with his family.

"I enjoy moving heavy stuff for some reason. I feel like working hard is a way I kind of cope," Zack says. "I work 14 hours a day and it's really physical. I get home from work and I'm tired so I have no time to mess around or, you know, fall into bad habits.

So many people struggling on our streets need help to lift themselves out of homelessness. It's nearly impossible to effectively work a job when you're homeless. Stable housing with support must come first.

It takes a concert of professionals and services to address layered issues like trauma, PTSD, addiction, and mental illness



Zack on a balcony at Blanchet House.

that keep young men like Zack from living their best lives.

"I've had problems with trauma and addiction. I struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder after seeing a friend being hit by a train," Zack recalls. "I feel like I've completely changed. In the past, I tried to change because other people told me to. I've never really wanted to change for myself. And now that I'm here, I realize that I'm doing these things for myself and not other people. I do it to make myself feel better."

Your support of Blanchet House is saving lives and improving our community.