

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pictured: Blanchet House co-founder Jim O'Hanlon.

Blanchet House's Virtual Brunch Will Raise Critical Funding for Services to Houseless and Hungry

On March 6, 2022, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Blanchet House will host its annual Lend A Helping Hand Brunch to raise critical funds for its services to people experiencing homelessness, hunger, unemployment, and addiction. The virtual event is free and open to everyone to attend via their home computer or smartphone.

Blanchet House's only living founder Jim O'Hanlon will be speaking at the brunch in honor of its 70th year of service in Old Town Portland. An exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society March 4-June 5 will also help mark this milestone. Jesuit Father Gary Smith will give an inspired blessing reminding everyone that their generosity is "a bridge of life" to those served by Blanchet House.

Event award honorees include:

- **Bob's Red Mill** will receive the Al Riley Award for generously donating oats and grits to daily breakfast services. Blanchet staff were able to meet up with Bob to give him the award in person.



- **Jeff Heatherington** and the Heatherington Foundation for Innovation and Education in Health Care is working to increase food security and access to health care for the most vulnerable in our community. The Heatherington Foundation made an extraordinary \$1.5 million gift to Blanchet House that will ensure its life-saving services will reach those in need and secure the future of the mission. The Fr. Francis Kennard Award is given to people who inspire others to “get out in the streets and help” just like the Blanchet House founders' first chaplain
- The **Mental Health and Addiction Association of Oregon** (MHA AO) will receive the Founders Award for their partnership. Peer support specialists employed by MHA AO work face to face with people inside and outside the Blanchet House handing out food and clothes, and helping them access shelter and medical care.

Lucas Pattison, artist and woodworker who once gained sobriety in the woodshop at Blanchet Farm designed a one-of-a-kind walnut board for a \$250 brunch donor. The giveaway will happen live during the event on March 6.

PLUS:

Alaska Airlines donated two round-trip tickets worth \$1,250 each for Blanchet House to raffle. Raffle entries can be purchased for \$25 at <http://bit.ly/34t6sKH>. All proceeds benefit Blanchet House's aid to people experiencing homelessness, addiction, hunger, and hopelessness. The winner will be announced live on March 6.

The brunch event is supported by the B.P., Lester and Regina John Foundation, Fortis Construction, Inc., Werner and Colleen Nistler together with Touchmark, AWS Elemental, EPB&B Insurance, OnPoint Community Credit Union, Safeway Foundation, SERA Architects, (W)here Real Estate, and other generous sponsors.

Anyone interested in participating in the event can learn more and sign up by visiting <https://BlanchetHouse.org/Brunch2022>.