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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Julie Showers, Communications Director

[jshowers@blanchethouse.org](mailto:jshowers@blanchethouse.org)

917-620-7627



## **Blanchet House's 70 Years of Aid in Old Town Featured in Exhibit at Oregon Historical Society**

Portland, OR (Feb. 25, 2022)—Blanchet House will display 70 years of its history providing aid to people experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty with an exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society.

The exhibit features newly discovered photographs, news clippings, and artifacts that connect the history of Old Town to the mission's service in the neighborhood and beyond. Visitors are invited to consider the current humanitarian crisis on Portland's streets alongside historical efforts to provide relief. A confluence of complex factors has changed the face of homelessness since Blanchet House's beginning in 1952 but the need persists.

"Blanchet House was one of the first post-World War II social service organizations in Old Town that tried to help the down and out," writes Oregon historian Dr. Jackie Peterson-Loomis. "The momentous forces of immigration, the creation of ghettos for the racially marginalized, industrialization, endemic racism and sexism, vice and drug trafficking. All of these contributed to rising rates of poverty, addiction, insecure housing, violence, and incarceration," Peterson-Loomis says.

*Blanchet House: 70 Years* will run from March 4 - June 5 in the Casey Lobby at the Oregon Historical Society. The exhibit is free to residents of Multnomah County.

To learn more, visit [www.BlanchetHouse.org/70years](http://www.BlanchetHouse.org/70years). Photos and videos are available for media.