



More Women, Disabled, and Elderly Guests Visit

By Scott Kerman, Executive Director

The types of people we serve have changed significantly from Blanchet's early days. We used to be thought of as a place where mostly able-bodied out-of-work men or men with alcohol addiction would eat.

Not anymore. We're serving so many elderly people, people with severe physical and mental disabilities, and people struggling with opioid addiction.

We're seeing many more women, too.

Women all alone are coming to our doors in great distress. Trauma led many women to experience homelessness and they are re-traumatized each day they spend on the street.

We must help.

More than 26% of homeless people have a disability according to a 2019 Multnomah County Point-in-Time Survey of Homelessness. Add to that, senior citizens living in poverty have increased according to the US Census.

We see this data confirmed daily. In

Blanchet's free cafe it's common to see people using wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and other mobility devices.

Some of the people we serve with disabilities have housing but are unable to cook or grocery shop.

At Blanchet House, we strive to make everyone feel respected and that means making sure everyone can have a seat at our table.

Your generous support is needed to continue our services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

CAFE NEWS

Peer Support Specialist Team in Action

The Old Town In-Reach Program (OTIP), a team of Peer Support Specialists (PSPs) funded by Multnomah county is proving to be successful.

The program was conceived by Blanchet leadership during the pandemic after witnessing unsafe situations, and the difficulty people were having accessing care and housing on their own.

PSPs are trained professionals who have overcome homelessness, addiction or mental illness in their own lives. PSPs provide specialized support to help people access resources on the path to health and housing.

"We help people get IDs, birth certificates, or into detox," Brian Cooper, PSP, says. "Trust is so important. When I was homeless be-

cause of my addiction I wouldn't trust you unless you've been here before. Tell me that you were homeless once, that you used to have an addiction and you found your way out. I'm listening to you. I'm hearing you. I believe."

The barriers to escaping homelessness are not visible to the naked eye. Unanswered phone calls, requests for faxed paperwork, referral requirements, IDs, and fees lead people to become chronically homeless or give up.

PSPs draw from their own experience to build trust with people who are disconnected from society.

The program is making a difference.

"Their quick action stabilizes disruptive situations so that programs like ours can continue providing meals," Scott Kerman says.

The OTIP team moves between Blanchet House, Rose Haven, William Temple House, and Maybelle Center, which are all nonprofits that provide critical homeless services. The specialists provide a continuity of care across agencies that hasn't existed before.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: Brian Cooper hugs fellow peer support specialist Jennifer Coon. They worked together to find a woman shelter and reconnect a man to his family via phone.

PEER TEAM



Andy Abeyta holds water during a July heatwave.

Summer Heat Relief

You only need to step outside our front doors to run into someone who is in great need.

Andy Abeyta, Blanchet House's new Residential Program Manager, was taking a photo outside when a man walking by asked him for water. The temperature was 97 degrees and the man hadn't had anything to drink since the day before. He was in bad shape.

Thankfully, our thoughtful supporters donated bottles of water to help bring relief during the dangerous heat.

So many of the people we serve are challenged with addiction, mental illness, or disabilities in addition to lack of shelter. You're helping to bring lifesaving aid.

"I just wanted to thank you all for being there when I needed you. You helped me save my life." –Alan M.

We often hear from thankful people who once needed our food or housing services. Blanchet House offers so much more than a free meal. We offer hope for better days and a chance to get back on your feet.

THANK YOU

Blanchet's staff and volunteers provide encouragement and relief when people find themselves at their lowest moments in life.

We strive to restore human dignity to the people we serve and they feel it.

Like the breakfast guest who left us a one dollar tip. This act of gratitude from someone who must have so little reminds us how appreciated our services are.

Your support makes this special place of hope possible. When people say 'thank you' they are thanking **you**.



On the Ledge Art Show Benefit

35+ artists created original work inspired by the comfort of food for this year's On the Ledge art show to benefit Blanchet House's services.

Prints are available to purchase online throughout August. All proceeds go to benefit Blanchet House's services and the artists.

Prints are available for purchase at BHOntheLedge.com.

Questions? Contact Gabby at 503-241-4340.

Departing Board Members



Thank you to long-serving Blanchet House board members Dan Petrusich and Bill Reilly. They both are stepping down as active leaders and joining the emeritus board.

EMERITUS BOARD

Dan and Bill were instrumental in the planning and building of the new Blanchet House which opened in 2012. It's because of their commitment to helping others that we have a beautiful facility today.

"I count myself as fortunate to have worked with Dan and Bill on important strategic projects for Blanchet House," Scott Kerman says. "Their legacy is important and inspiring. I'm enthusiastic about continuing to benefit from their knowledge, experience, and passion as we move forward on critical capital projects."

We hope that you will join us in recognizing these great individuals for their contributions to our community and thank them for all that they have done to help others.

Learn more about our board of directors at BlanchetHouse.org/Our-Team.



Musicians Visit the Cafe

Professional violinists Vijay Gupta and Soovin Kim volunteered to perform in the cafe during lunch. Their beautiful music soothed weary souls and elevated the dining experience for our guests.

"It was so beautiful! Guests loved it, especially a woman who is really struggling with mental health," said staff member Jenn Coon. "I've never seen this woman look so happy."

Thanks so much to Chamber Music Northwest for organizing performances for the cafe. Learn how your music group or organization can get involved by contacting Gabby at 503-241-4340.



Congratulations

Chad Seelye, Blanchet House's Program Services Coordinator, completed Peer Mentor Training. Chad helps to run Blanchet's meal services with so much empathy.

STAFF NEWS

"I've learned that there are many roads to recovery," he says. "Having been homeless and addicted in my earlier years I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the community. This training gives me a little more know-how when assisting the folks we serve at Blanchet House."

Rally Your Community!

You can now fundraise for Blanchet House using our website. It works just like GoFundMe. Create a fundraising campaign online then share it.

Ideas to try:

- **Host a fundraising campaign for meals**
- **Have friends sponsor you in a run or bike event**

Contact Kristi at 503-241-4340 x103 or BlanchetHouse.org.

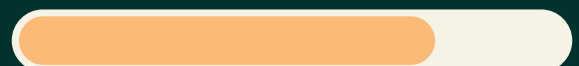
NEW!



Leilani's Plate Fundraiser

\$300 of \$500 raised

8 donors



Support my campaign to donate hot meals to hungry people served at Blanchet House.



310 NW Glisan Street
Portland, OR 97209
(503) 241-4340

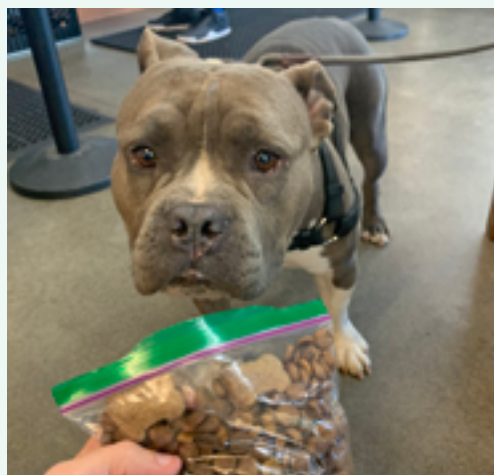
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On the Ledge Art Show

Art that supports Blanchet House.

Details inside >>



Furry Friends Welcome

At Blanchet House we welcome well-behaved pets to accompany their owners in our free cafe.

Many people living houseless have pets who are their only immediate family. This relationship provides a number of benefits including safety, emotional health, and companionship.

Volunteers offer water and pet food to go thanks to generous donors. You can donate small to-go bags of dog food Mon-Sat. Please call for hours.



Volunteer at Blanchet Farm

You can now volunteer at Blanchet Farm. Help the residents weed the gardens, walk the goats to munch on blackberry bushes, paint a barn, feed the pigs, or harvest fruit.

NEW!

Blanchet Farm's residential recovery program is a one-of-a-kind facility located in beautiful Yamhill County. The farm's goal is to help people with substance addiction build sobriety, self-worth, and relearn job skills by being responsible for the care of animals, gardens, meals, and facilities. The farm animals also eat most of the food scraps from Blanchet House's kitchen.

Volunteer sign-up is easy at BlanchetHouse.org/Volunteer.