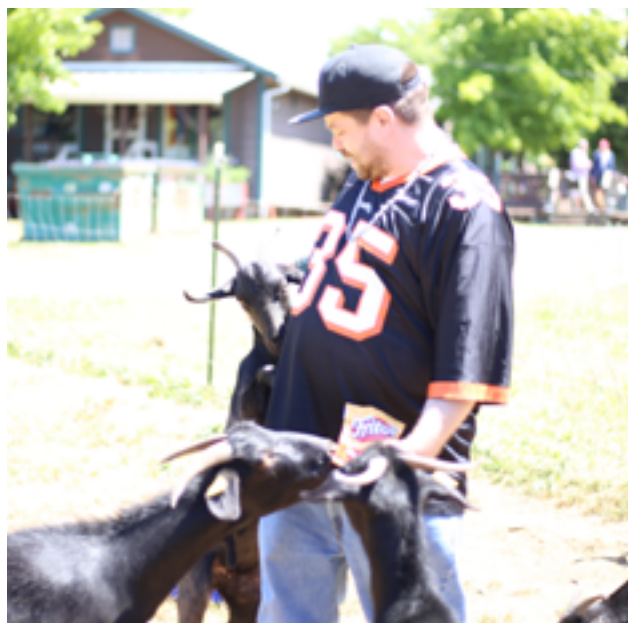


Blanchet House & Farm Campaign Study



In 2021, Blanchet House conducted a study to determine the timing and feasibility of a \$9 million fundraising campaign. Respondents overwhelming support the construction and improvement of facilities to provide pathways of recovery for people struggling in our community.

The campaign's objective:

- 1. Implement facility upgrades to the men's rehabilitation program at Blanchet Farm.**

New and Improved Paths

For 70 years, Blanchet House has provided critical aid to alleviate suffering and give people a chance at a better life. It is one of the largest meal providers in the city, open six days a week, and runs two life-changing residential programs for men.

The need for Blanchet House's services has grown, and they must adapt in order to help more people with complex needs.

Because the fraught path to homelessness is different for every person, so is the path to housing security. Helping to end an individual's homelessness requires an approach that is innovative, person-centered, and follows current best practices.

"What we've learned is that helping someone become housed takes time, a safe place, and individualized support," says Scott Kerman, Blanchet House Executive Director. "If we can keep doing that and be able to offer these services to more people, then we will move people from the street to healthy and self-sufficient living."

If the fundraising campaign is successful in generating \$9 million in philanthropic support, Blanchet House is positioned to bring a new level of care to its most vulnerable citizens, adding to its already impressive array of services.

"Our farm program has been incredibly successful at helping people change their lives for the better. But the facilities are worn out. They were not designed with a recovery program in mind," explains Kerman.



"I couldn't fathom a place

like this existed."

—Jim, a resident of Blanchet Farm

Blanchet Farm Facility Improvements

Blanchet Farm offers men who have relapsed after trying more traditional programs something different. They get another chance to build recovery while performing meaningful work like farming, animal husbandry, woodworking, and facilities maintenance while embraced in peer support.

Farm manager Ross Sears knows first-hand about the challenge of overcoming addiction.

"When you get here, the work part of it—working together to fix or build something—that is priceless," Sears says.

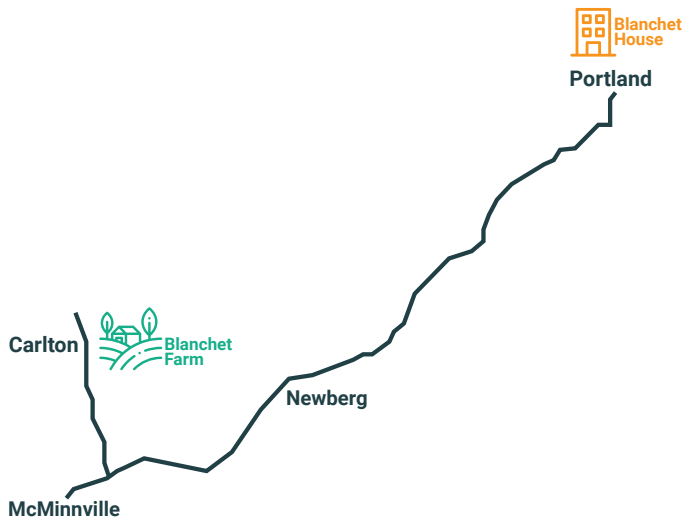
When Sears came to the farm 12 years ago seeking recovery, two things stood out as being different from any other program he'd tried. He was with a group of peers who knew his struggles, and there were animals to care for.

"Besides teaching accountability, the animals give the men a reason to get up in the morning because they've got to make sure the animals are taken care of," Sears says. "Having a routine makes it easier for them when they leave here."

The recovery program also offers on-site Alcohol Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. Sharing with peers who are working on overcoming their addiction is a critical piece that helps residents remain sober and find a more productive path in life.

As effective as the farm program has been for nearly 60 years, the facilities are in great need of improvement. The planned upgrades include:

- Purpose-built dormitory to house up to 20 men while they move through a nine-month program.
- Dedicated rooms for house meetings, community and family gatherings.
- Private office space for confidential meetings between men and peer support specialists.
- Space for residents to manage the sale of farm products that can generate revenue for programs.
- Improved kitchen facilities and dining space.
- Dedicated study and computer areas for residents to work on job applications and school.



JIM'S STORY

"I couldn't fathom a place like this existed," said Jim, a resident of Blanchet Farm. "It's hard to believe."

A few weeks prior to coming to live at the farm, Jim, 50, lay at the bottom of a ravine waiting for death. A meth-induced psychosis caused him to wander the coastal woods looking for a place to end his life. Two days passed before he was able to crawl up the steep terrain eventually making his way to a hospital thanks to the kindness of strangers.

Now sober and safe, Jim is in the farm's woodshop turning a branch he collected from the ravine into a walking stick for his dad.

"I've been through many rehab centers and therapeutic communities," Jim says. "I never came across a place like Blanchet Farm. It's a perfect environment for a person to get back on track, spiritually, mentally, and physically."

Jim feels ready to move off the farm to take a job in construction in Alaska. He's thankful for the opportunity the program gave him to regain his life.

"You know, I got to the point in my life where I thought there weren't any good people left out there. I was so hopeless," he says. "I know I still have a ways to go. When I look back on my life and see the trail of destruction I've left behind, I see that I have to live the rest of my life paying it forward. I know I can't make up for all that I've done in the past, but I am committed to helping people in the future when I leave here."

It all adds up to a place where men who need another chance have the best opportunity to achieve it. Upgraded farm facilities will ensure that the program remains vital for decades to come.

Community Benefits

This project will benefit the community by providing more pathways for people who want a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

Blanchet Farm Improvements

- Build modern, purpose-built facilities to continue to serve men in recovery.
- Expand job skills and related training to help residents re-enter the workforce.

A Trusted Partner

Blanchet House's long-respected mission makes it well-positioned to expand its services. Its innovative and quick response to meet the needs of people during the COVID-19 pandemic have shown that the organization is more than up to the task.

"Blanchet House does such a good job helping people with their basic needs," says Carrie Banks, a Blanchet House donor who has worked with survivors of domestic violence. "If people can't get those needs met, then there is no chance that they can move on to a better life, find a job, stable housing, all the things so many of us take for granted."