



Blanchet
House
& Farm



A resident of Blanchet Farm
lays next to Xera, a pet pig.

Animals Heal Hearts at Farm

"Happy New Year from Blanchet Farm where the animals are loved," says Ron Lovegreen, the farm foreman. "With a little more love and not hate, it will be a better world. 2023 has to be better. It's up to us! Peace and love to you all!"

If you haven't heard, Blanchet Farm is a one-of-a-kind place in the U.S. A 62-acre oasis in the beautiful Oregon countryside where men suffering from addiction and other challenges find a second chance at life. The residents of the farm take care of the animals and in return receive healing unconditional love.



Rob Davis accepts a bite of food from Melody Rose in the cafe. This image was chosen as a photo of the year by Oregon Public Broadcasting. Credit Kristyna Wentz-Graff/OPB

More Than Free Meals, We're Solving a Crisis of Loneliness

BY SCOTT KERMAN

For the past three years, our services to those in need have been seriously challenged by natural and man-made crises. However, day after day we're able to serve because your support lets us adjust as new challenges arise. To say we and our guests are grateful for your generosity is a tremendous understatement.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

And now it's a new year, but the need for services persists. A problem that's become more glaringly apparent is our guests' shortage of human connection. There is a crisis of loneliness in our communities and it's causing us great concern. Your help is needed!

Loneliness and isolation are significant issues for people who are experiencing poverty or homelessness. This is especially true for our elderly and physically disabled meal guests who occupy low-income housing complexes nearby. Our cafe may be their only connection to others.

Some people we serve may be predisposed to living in isolation because of trauma experienced throughout their lives. Some are living alone on the street completely destitute because they are unable to form relationships. We know that traumatic experiences make it more difficult for people to make healthy, trusting, and meaningful relationships.

Healthcare experts agree that loneliness is terrible for one's mental health, but can also impact physical health. This is why social connection and community is one of the five social determinants that determine a person's well-being.

This is where you come in. Our cafe is a rare space where anyone, despite their circumstances, is welcomed with compassion and dignity. Many people find a rare moment of happiness from their interactions with kind volunteers. Coming to our cafe gives people living on the margins something to look forward to.

The free clothing, care kits, homemade treats, and sack lunches that are donated by people who care fill our guests with love and hope. It's hard to imagine that when everyone else is pushing you away that there are others out there who want to make you feel good.

Won't you please help Blanchet House heal and help our community in need? Please if you can, join us in combating hunger but also loneliness, and isolation by supporting our cafe. I think you'll find that your health and well-being will be better for it, too! Please donate by returning the enclosed envelope. Thank you.



Dane poses with keys to his first apartment.

First Apartment

If we want to end homelessness we must offer safe places for people to live while they address all of the complex issues keeping them from living independently. And that's exactly what Blanchet's residential programs offer.

A NEW HOME

Last year, we welcomed Dane to live with us for eight months. He worked hard to build sobriety, secure a job, and address other challenges. We're happy to share that Dane received keys to his own apartment! We will miss his bright smile but are so happy for his success.

If you'd like to help end someone's homelessness please consider donating \$50 to cover one night's stay in one of our programs. Thank you.



The Christianson family serves lunch in the cafe.

Volunteer Spotlight

70 years ago Paul Christianson's dad, Dan, co-founded Blanchet House with his friends from the University of Portland. Today, Paul and his children Kelli and Andrew volunteer to serve in the cafe.

IN THE CAFE

We're still very much a big family of compassionate people helping in ways that we can. Volunteers are the hands of our mission.

Sign Up to Volunteer

Choose from one of three daily shifts to serve in our cafe. Sign up online at BlanchetHouse.org.

- Breakfast 6 - 7:30 a.m.
- Lunch 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Dinner 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

2022 Impact Report

Because of YOU we were able to offer delicious hot meals, clean and dry clothing, care kits, sack lunches, and a path out of homelessness and hopelessness last year.

283

Average Number of Days Someone Stayed in Our Residential Programs



50

Men Successfully Exited a Residential Program

564,432

Pounds of Surplus Food Rescued From Local Stores



297,099

Plates of Food Served in the Cafe or Shared with Peer Aid Groups

74,805

Pounds of Clothes Taken in and Distributed to our Guests in Need



21,236

Hours That Volunteers Served in the Cafe, Clothing Closet, and Kitchen



Peer Support Staff Saves Woman's Life

It was a typical busy but calm spaghetti night in the cafe until a woman ran in shouting for help.

A HERO EVERYDAY

Her friend outside in a tent had overdosed on a drug and was unconscious.

Christopher Woody, a Peer Support Specialist working in the cafe, rushed outside to save the young woman's life by administering two doses of Narcan (Naloxone). One dose often isn't enough nowadays.

"I was feeling a lot of sadness when she didn't come to after the first dose. I wasn't feeling a lot of hope for a while," Chris recalled.

Thankfully, the woman started breathing after the second dose, just before paramedics arrived. The woman whose life Chris saved is more than a stranger, she's someone's daughter and loved one lost to the streets.

Chris is a member of the Old Town InReach Program (OTIP) created by Blanchet House. He builds trust with our diners in most need to connect them with life-improving resources like detox, healthcare, and shelter.

OTIP peers like Chris have personally experienced addiction, mental health issues, or homelessness. This plus professional training makes them uniquely qualified to support people on the long journey to improved health and housing.

"I'm glad I was here, I'm glad I had been taught how to administer Narcan," Chris said.

Thank you, Chris. You are a hero.

You can support the life-saving work being done by the OTIP team by donating using the enclosed envelope.

JOIN US!

LEND A HELPING HAND BRUNCH

Presented by Fortis Construction, Inc.



Join us for Lend a Helping Hand, a fundraising brunch to benefit Blanchet House & Farm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

10am-12:30pm • SENTINEL HOTEL

LIVE MUSIC • BRUNCH • SPECIAL APPEAL

To buy tickets or a table,
contact Meg Stark, 503-241-4340 x109.

Please RSVP by February 27.

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A Meal. A Home. A Future.



Most Needed Items

Our adult guests experiencing homelessness need new and gently used clean, wearable clothes. Because we have VERY limited storage space we can only take the items listed below. Thank you for your help.

- Socks (L-XL)
- Long-sleeve t-shirts (M-3XL)
- Coats & jackets (L-3XL)
- Sweatpants (M-3XL)
- Hats & gloves
- Backpacks & large bags
- Men's gently used shoes. *(No dress shoes.)*
- Underwear (M/L)

Donation Drop Off Hours

Mon-Sat, 8-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.



Broken Window Reflects Crisis

During a recent breakfast service, a distraught guest smashed the glass in our exit door with a brick. It was a scary situation and a large expense for Blanchet House. Providing a free cafe for the community in need is challenging and costly.

IN THE CAFE

We're witnessing a higher level of agitation, hostility, and frustration among the people we serve in Old Town. It's due to a combination of factors including terrible weather, tent sweeps, mental illness mixed with meth/fentanyl use, and trauma.

We remain committed to offering relief and aid in whatever ways we can. Thank you for your continued compassion and support.