



**Blanchet House & Farm**



## Bee Boxes for Farm

Students from Yamhill Carlton High School built bee boxes for Blanchet Farm.

**FARM NEWS**

Soon bees will be placed inside their new custom homes. The hives will be cared for and maintained by the residents of Blanchet Farm, thanks to expert training from volunteer beekeeper Katy Fackler.

“Learning new skills, being present in nature, and doing meaningful work are core reset and recovery tools for all of us,” says Fackler, who started the beekeeping program at Blanchet Farm.

Thanks to the Home Builders Foundation for supporting this project by providing materials.

*Learn more about Blanchet Farm’s beekeeping program on our website.*



These heroes saved a woman’s life during breakfast by administering Narcan, aka naloxone. From left to right: Michael Prevec, Larry, and Ami Prevec.

# Humans Are Not Disposable

**BY SCOTT KERMAN**

We’re experiencing a rash of opioid overdoses outside our doors. Five times in one week, Blanchet House staff members rushed to revive unconscious people with Narcan, also known as naloxone. They saved their lives.

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

The call for help came, and they answered it. They are heroes.

Ami Prevec, Blanchet House’s Direct Services Coordinator is one of these heroes.

She told me, “A woman ate breakfast in the cafe then walked outside and collapsed. We ran out to her and she was turning blue, not breathing. We gave her Narcan, waited, then gave her another dose. A bystander stopped to help and administered CPR. We stayed with her until the ambulance arrived.”

As you know, Blanchet House exists to alleviate suffering and offer people, often at the lowest moment in their lives, a reason to feel hope. We serve people just as they are. We don’t always know their stories, but we know they’ve likely experienced trauma and abuse. Their recent days are dominated by negativity, disappointment, resentment, and shame. We serve people who often feel worthless or even shocked that anyone could care about them.

Some people in our community criticize the way we serve. We’ve been told that we’re “enabling the homeless.” Recently, two people left us voicemails to express their displeasure that our staff is saving lives with Narcan. One caller said that we’re “wasting taxpayer money on drug addicts.”

Let’s be clear. Human life isn’t disposable to us. And for the record, Blanchet House receives no public funds for our services. We serve thanks to generous people like you.

Our critics believe that if we let people starve and suffer then maybe they’ll stop being homeless. Maybe they’ll magically find an affordable place to rent, stop doing drugs or no longer have mental illness. It’s absurd, I know.

So we serve with dignity and compassion. And if this requires saving lives so that they have the opportunity to change their life later, then that’s what we’ll do.

“All I can say is that addiction led me to one of the darkest points in life, and getting to know staff, volunteers, and residents during meal times led me to finally choose to change my life around, and seek the help needed,” shared Chad, a previous Blanchet House resident and meal guest.

You can help us to continue to be here for people who are alone and suffering by donating and volunteering. Thank you for your life-saving support and compassion.



## Every Shirt Has a Life Story

Hannah Bachman (pictured above), Services Assistant, sorts, tags, and gives out the donated clothing. She often takes in the items of someone who recently died.

**CLOTHES CLOSET**

"I feel like I get to know the person by sorting through their clothing. Like, this man probably took trips to Hawaii," Hannah says while holding a shirt. "It's great that his clothes will be put to good use. It's also nice that our guests will have colorful things to choose from."

Hannah strives to offer a high-quality selection of adult-sized shoes and clothing to our guests. Guests like our neighbor Martin (pictured below) rely on the cafe's clothing closet. He recently picked out a dapper trench coat.

As part of our mission to restore dignity, we don't give out torn or stained clothing. If you'd like to help donate items, drop off Mon-Sat, 8-10:30 a.m. or 1:30-4 p.m.



## Students Collect Cans to Fund Services to Homeless

**BY GABBY THULLIER**

High school students collected refundable cans and bottles using BottleDrop's Blue Bag program to help the homeless community. The fundraiser was led by Blanchet House Student Ambassador Kaylee Nguyen and her community service group Project PDX.

**NEW!**

Nguyen started Project PDX after realizing that there were no clubs at her high school that solely focused on homelessness. Project PDX members volunteer, host drives, and assemble care kits to help organizations in Portland, including Blanchet House.

"[Homelessness] It's such a pressing issue in our community, and many of our students are directly affected by it," Nguyen said.

The students realized that a BottleDrop Blue Bag fundraiser would be a great opportunity to engage the entire school in fundraising for the homeless community. Bottles are something many students discard in the school's recycling bins. Project PDX encouraged their peers to donate them instead by dropping them off at one of five blue bag locations.

Most students donated single cans, but several brought large collections of cans to Nguyen's home. One Project PDX member expanded the drive by creating a drop-off box at her dance studio.

In the end, students collected more than 285 cans, a total of eight full blue bags. The deposits will help fund Blanchet House's services to the community.

"I'm glad to know that we were able to help out Blanchet in such a simple way by recycling in a purposeful way," said Nguyen.

Blanchet House is grateful to Nguyen, Project PDX, and the students and faculty at Sunset High School for supporting this endeavor.

### How to Collect Cans and Bottles for Blanchet House

- Pick up coded BottleDrop blue bags Mon-Sat, from 8-10:30 a.m. or 1:30-4 p.m. at 310 NW Glisan, Portland, OR, 97209.
- Collect empty OR-10 bottles and cans.
- Drop off blue bags at a BottleDrop location. There is a separate drop-off for the blue bag program. You do not need to manually insert each can and bottle.
- BottleDrop will credit Blanchet House's account.



## Looking On Their Legacy of Giving

Jim O'Hanlon, 95, the only living founder of Blanchet House, visited the cafe with recently retired board member Dan Petrusich.

### SPECIAL GUESTS

Jim came to present Dan with the 2023 Fr. Kennard Award for his more than 20 years of board leadership. It was great to have Jim in the house to see all of the new services we provide in addition to meals. He got to see the new clothing closet in action and sack lunches being given to-go at the exit.

Jim, Dan, and the founding members have inspired many people to serve. Their legacy of giving has also inspired others to include Blanchet in their estate plans. These gifts ensure Blanchet's mission will continue for years to come.

To learn more about how to make a planned gift, please contact Kelsey Leonard at 503-241-4340 ext. 130.



## Congrats Michael

Michael, a resident of Blanchet House's transitional housing program, graduated from Stone Soup's food service training. He also secured a full-time job in a nearby restaurant.

### SUCCESS STORY

Every day we witness people make positive changes in their lives. Your support makes this possible! Let's stay optimistic and continue to give people more chances.



## Blanchet Farm is Absolutely Unique, a Brilliant Concept

A film crew recently interviewed Blanchet Farm Manager Ross Sears and Foreman Ron Lovegreen. You can best understand the power the farm has to transform lives wrecked by addiction and trauma by reading the words of two men who went through the program themselves and who now helps others.

Ross:

"When I first got here, I didn't have anything to feel good about, not a single solitary thing. But, man, here I got to fix something. I got to build something. That's a big deal. That's something to finally feel good about again."

Ron:

"I don't think there's been a guy that's ever come here that hasn't been nervous, because you don't know what to think. You don't know what's going to happen."

Amazing thing about this place is that when you're new, you walk in the door, I'd say within an hour, you got three guys that are already your friends. I mean, it's just that much of a family type situation. So when you come in, you're welcome like a brother. It makes it a lot easier to work through things."

Ross:

"It's not like a typical treatment center. And the animals are so therapeutic to the guys. It doesn't happen anywhere else in the United States that I know of, and it changes guys completely."

Once you start caring for them and you know that they rely on you every day, and then you see their personalities and stuff, and you get to understand what's going on with them, it makes this a completely different place. Animals are unconditional love."

Ron:

"None of our chickens have their wings clipped or anything. So if they wanted to fly off, they could take off and go, but none of them want to. So it's kind of like the guys that come here, and then they don't want to go leave."

This place is very special. I mean, it's helped a lot of people, and it's going to help a lot more."

Ross:

"The farm is just so unique. It is absolutely unique. I'm the manager here, but I'm also one of these guys. I went through it. It's peers basically running this. It's another guy just like you. And it's amazing how well that works. It's just the whole idea behind this. This concept is just brilliant."

WATCH

Scan the QR code to watch the video on your phone.





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## A Meal. A Home. A Future.



### Working Room Prevents Homelessness

We receive many calls from people who are employed full-time but have lost their housing. It's a dire situation. This is the moment that could derail someone's positive course in life. This is why, Blanchet House now offers room and board for up to two people who are working but can't find housing.

**NEW!**

Everyone's situation is different. Some people need to stay with us for only a few weeks and others need months. But, this interim housing is keeping them from being homeless.

The majority of our rooms are for people who aren't yet employed and have no income yet. But we're responding to a growing need in our community. We're doing what we can to solve homelessness and offer a path of hope and healing with your generous support.



Blanchet House's **ON THE LEDGE** art show is calling for entries inspired by the theme *People · Places · Portland*.

Prints of selected art will be displayed and sold in August. Proceeds will be shared 50/50 to benefit Blanchet House's services and the artists.



Scan the QR code with your phone to learn more.