



## Our Residential Program Evolves to Serve Diverse Needs of People Experiencing Homelessness

Hassan and David (pictured above) met in Blanchet House's residential program and have grown to be good friends and supporters of each other. You can hear them laughing and joking in the hall, which lightens the mood and lifts spirits.

Though they come from very different backgrounds, they share the need for a safe refuge to pursue opportunities that will improve their life's direction.

Hassan had a difficult childhood spent in a Kenyan refugee camp with his family after they were displaced by war. He's now enrolled in college and works hard, giving back in the kitchen. David came to Blanchet seeking to build sobriety with a supportive community. He's now working full-time for Clean & Safe, a city janitorial program.

Both men have accomplished so much in a short time and are inspiring others in the residential program.

### Evolving to Help More

Over the years, our program has adapted by offering shelter to people who are not only struggling with addiction, but have other barriers to housing and employment.

"Lately I'm getting calls from men looking for a place to stay because they're homeless due to mental health issues, lost their job and need help applying for disability, finished detox, or are

staying in sleeping bag in a relative's garage. It happens all the time," says Kristi Katzke, Intake Coordinator for Blanchet House. "The friends or family won't let him sleep indoors but he can sleep in the garage or backyard."

Our program is often at capacity, which means we are housing up to 50 men at a time. Because people are in a state of transition, beds in the house can open up without our planning. Kristi then contacts someone on the wait list and welcomes them in. It's a special day for a person when they are shown their room, given clean sheets and clothes, and then invited to eat a great meal in the café. After a chance to settle in, shower, and sleep, they start the next day working in the kitchen.

### Who's Staying With Us?

We are now providing temporary housing to men who are:

#### EMPLOYED BUT HOUSELESS

This includes men who are employed full-time but have recently lost housing and need a bed. There is a great need for this type of housing, so we created a few "working beds."

Residents staying in a working bed are not required to serve in the kitchen so that they can keep their jobs outside of Blanchet House. These beds are critical to keeping employed people from falling into homelessness and spiraling further away from housing.

#### REFUGEE OR MARGINALIZED

There are asylum seekers from other countries who have nowhere to live once they arrive, and as single men, their options are limited. Many have had their lives threatened because of their sexual identity or ethnicity.

#### RECUPERATING

Some of our residents have lost their employment and housing after suffering a medical crisis like cancer, a stroke, an accident, or chronic disease. They need a temporary place to recuperate which is not easy to find if you don't have family or savings.

#### IMPOVERISHED SENIOR CITIZEN

More older Americans are finding it difficult to hold on to housing while living on social security or a limited income. It takes time to find a new place to live and Blanchet House offers a place of transition.

### One Thing in Common

Something that everyone who stays with us is experiencing is a lack of access to suitable affordable housing. It can take months and even years to secure an affordable place on a small income, social security, or disability.

**Your donation can end and prevent someone's homelessness by providing them with a bed at Blanchet House. Thank you for caring for our residents.**



# 541 Plates Served During One Meal Service!

In June, we set a meal service record by serving a shocking 541 plates of spaghetti in one hour.

It's alarming that so many people are so in need of a free meal that they are willing to stand in a long line wrapped around the block in the hot sun and sit next to strangers. But, as you know, at Blanchet House of Hospitality no one is a stranger and everyone is served as a respected guest.

CAFE  
NEWS

Our compassionate and dedicated staff, chefs, volunteers, and residents worked so hard to make sure everyone in line was fed. And able to receive a second plate if they were still hungry. We're glad we can be here to serve thanks to our incredible volunteers and donors.

Did you know that \$25 will pay for 16 meals in our cafe? We make excellent use of every dollar you donate. We're one of a few charities that can accept surplus donated food and immediately serve it to hungry people. This helps to keep costs low so that we can focus on solving the root causes of someone's homelessness. We now have specially trained staff to work with meal guests. Every day they help people access shelter, detox, medical care, sign up for housing, disability, and so much more. The spaghetti is pretty great, too.

Please consider donating if you can. Thank you.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DONG

## Collins Family Legacy

We were so happy to see the sons and daughter-in-law of Blanchet House founder Kevin "Kev" Collins volunteering to serve lunch this spring. Mike, Phyllis, and Thad (pictured right) loaded up 329 plates for our hungry guests.



Kev Collins pictured in his University of Portland yearbook.

Kev was the driving force alongside Fr. Kennard to opening Blanchet House of Hospitality with his friends from the University of Portland back in 1952. His family has supported the mission in so many ways since then and continues to help. Thank you, Collins Family!



## Have you included Blanchet in your will?

If you've thoughtfully included Blanchet in your will, we'd love to hear from you and invite you to our Legacy Society event this winter! By joining the Legacy Society, you'll unite with others committed to alleviating suffering for years to come.

To attend the invite-only event or to discuss adding Blanchet House & Farm to your will, contact Steve Cook at 503-241-4340 ext. 103 or [scook@blanchethouse.org](mailto:scook@blanchethouse.org).





## Fire at the Door

Residents were awoken early in the morning to a raging fire at a cafe door. They acted quickly to put it out and secure the building. Unfortunately, the glass door and metal frame will need to be replaced. The fire burned so hotly that it bent the metal!

Thankfully we were able to still open to serve 340 plates of breakfast, but in a smoky-smelling cafe. We try to never close because so many people depend on us for food.



## Hairstylists for Humanity

Local barbers volunteered to cut more than 30 heads of hair in our parking lot. Anyone in need of a trim or transformation was welcome to take a chair.

Mykal who founded the non-profit Hairstylists for Humanity, brings together barbers for special pop-up events. His crew organized the special event. Thank you Mykal, Vancouver Barber Company, and Fades and Shades of Newberg.



Greg holds a Save the Bees t-shirt he received as a gift from a volunteer beekeeper. Greg grew up in Newberg, Oregon near Blanchet Farm, his dad owned the local Ace Hardware store.

## Blanchet Farm Welcomes Residents Into Upgraded Dormitories

Greg, who's staying with us at Blanchet Farm, now introduces himself as, "a beekeeper's apprentice" since he started spending Saturdays learning the art and science of beekeeping.

FARM NEWS

Beekeepers Katy Fackler and Brian Wagstaff volunteer to teach interested residents how to care for the farm's hives and harvest the honey. Beekeeping can be a therapeutic skill and is one of the unique hands-on activities that make Blanchet Farm transformational for people who've tried more traditional recovery programs.

"I am an addict and I'm working hard to break the cycles of my addiction," Greg says. "I've been to dozens of recovery programs but this place is special."

Meaningful work goes a long way to rebuild a person's self-esteem and confidence after losing so much to their substance abuse and addiction.

Because of the community's incredible generosity this past year we were able to raise \$8.5 million toward our goal of \$9 million to construct new dormitories at the farm. We're cautiously and slowly welcoming 24 men to stay with us in the new facilities to begin the journey to build healthier lives.

Blanchet Farm has rightly gained a reputation across the country and many men want to come stay with us. We recently welcomed Stephen (pictured in yellow), from out-of-state, he got right to work his first day helping to refinish the welcome sign at the entrance to the farm. The guys are sanding and staining the background, and painting the letters.



*If you would like to be a part of rebuilding Blanchet Farm by donating toward our goal please contact Steve Cook at 503-241-4340 ext. 103.*



# News from Blanchet House & Farm

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

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Portland, OR  
Permit No. 931



## Our Art Show Is Live!

You can now view and purchase art from Blanchet's fifth annual On the Ledge Art Show.

**SPECIAL  
EVENT**

28 artists created work inspired by the theme, Homegrown. All proceeds benefit Blanchet House's services and the artists. You can check out the art at the Lloyd Center and other exhibition spaces around Portland throughout August.

Shop the  
collection and learn  
more at  
[BHOntheLedge.com](http://BHOntheLedge.com).



## A Meal. A Home. A Future.



## We Wrote a Children's Book

As homelessness becomes more visible, children may ask tough questions about what they're seeing. *Toby Finds A Home*, a new illustrated book published by Blanchet House, can help to explain and start conversations about complex issues. The heartwarming story follows a curious houseless cat named Toby who observes how people can support each other despite their struggles. Through Toby's journey, young readers learn about kindness, community, and seeing the best in everyone.

Pre-order a copy now by emailing us at [info@blanchethouse.org](mailto:info@blanchethouse.org) or call 503-241-4340. Proceeds will go to support Blanchet House's services. You can also schedule an in-person reading by our staff for a group.