



Blanchet House Releases Children's Book About Homelessness and Helping Your Neighbors

Media Contact: Julie Showers, jshowers@blanchethouse.org, 917-620-7627

Portland, OR (Sept. 19, 2024)--Blanchet House is excited to announce the release of its first children's book, *Toby Finds a Home*. The beautifully illustrated 36-page hardcover book aims to help young children better understand hunger insecurity and homelessness through the eyes of a stray cat named Toby.

A public story time will be held at Powell's Books on Nov. 16, at 10:30 a.m.

On his journey through Portland, Toby discovers Blanchet House's free cafe where people from all walks of life come together for meals. As Toby becomes a familiar presence at the café, he brings comfort to diners, many of whom are facing homelessness. Through Toby's eyes, young readers learn about the challenges and resilience of people experiencing hard times, as well as the importance of compassion and community. This uplifting story gently teaches young readers to look beyond circumstances and see the humanity in everyone they meet. Restoring dignity to people surviving on the margins is key to Blanchet House's charitable mission.

The book is illustrated by Portland artist Eva Wrzesinski and co-authored by Marie Showers, a retired public elementary school teacher, and her daughter Julie Showers, the Communications Director of Blanchet House.

Proceeds from the book go directly to support Blanchet House's services to people experiencing homelessness and poverty. The book can be ordered directly from Blanchet House at <https://blanchethouse.org/childrens-book-toby-finds-a-home/>. Bookstores and libraries can order the book from Ingram using ISBN# 9798990958302.

The book is paired with a downloadable guide with five ways kids can help from home like packing care kits and sack lunches for people experiencing homelessness.
<https://blanchethouse.org/guide-for-children/>

To schedule a story time paired with a care kit making activity, please contact Heidi Janowski at hjanowski@blanchethouse.org.

The illustrator and authors are available for interviews. Photos attached.