



Blanchet House & Farm

FEBRUARY 2025



A Big Year for Radical Hospitality

As we step into 2025(!), we're taking a moment to reflect on the positive impact our works of radical hospitality have had in the community. It's all about creating a space where everyone feels welcome, valued, and cared for—no strings attached.

OUR IMPACT

Radical hospitality is an ideology that goes beyond traditional notions of being polite or welcoming. The goal of our services is to meet people where they are, offering immediate assistance with minimal hurdles, which can include providing shelter, food, clothing, and human connection.

This approach recognizes that people experiencing homelessness and poverty often face complex challenges. Radical hospitality aims to provide support in a non-judgmental environment to foster trusting relationships.

From serving nourishing meals to helping people find safe housing, the combined efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters have made a real difference and touched countless lives. Let's look at the year in numbers!

Feeding the Hungry

402,876 Meals Served

We're proud to serve an average of more than 1,100 meals every day to those in need. Whether it's for our residents or guests, feeding so many peo-

ple three times a day often feels like a miracle—especially for those visiting our café for the first time. It's all thanks to you, our community, making sure no one goes hungry.

570,000 Pounds of Good Food Rescued

We're proud to have rescued 285 tons of quality, unexpired food, helping to reduce waste and make sure our neighbors facing hunger have access to nutritious meals. While buying food is still a necessary part of the process, rescuing food plays a huge role in what we do and is essential to our mission.

Referrals to Shelter, Housing, and More

In December alone, Peer Support Specialist Duke meaningfully engaged with 313 guests of our café. He provided 117 people with shelter referrals, 51 with housing connections, and 45 with referrals to detox or medical care. His tireless work showcases Blanchet House's commitment to holistic care.

Residential Programs

BLANCHET HOUSE IN OLD TOWN

117 Men Given Refuge

- Our transitional housing programs continue to offer men respite, com-

munity, and support to improve their lives.

- We provided a total of 6,087 nights of shelter in our Old Town program.
- The average resident stayed with us for 201 days before moving on to housing or other solutions.
- We ended 2024 with a full house of 45 residents.

BLANCHET FARM IN CARLTON

- 24 men found refuge at the farm in 2024, with the average staying with us for 105 days before moving on.
- We're beginning the year with 14 residents and a growing and thriving community.

Volunteer Contributions

26,888 Volunteer Hours

- We saw a 5% increase in volunteer hours from 2023, showing just how much people want to aid their neighbors in need. Volunteers are truly the heart of everything we do, making each meal possible.

Blanchet House and Farm's positive impact is only possible because of support from YOU. Together, we're building a more compassionate community where hunger, homelessness, and addiction are addressed with dignity, care, and hope. Thank you for being part of the solution.



Case Manager Maggie Cornish holds Otis at Blanchet Farm. Photo by Ryan Serle.

Good Things Happening At Blanchet Farm

According to our case manager, Maggie Cornish, there's much to celebrate at Blanchet Farm. Since moving into the new building, we've welcomed 24 residents, marking a new chapter for the program.

Several residents are approaching their 90-day milestones, and are looking for employment. Mitchell K. will begin EMT courses this spring while Brian M. transitioned from the farm to Old Town, where he's pursuing work and housing.

Success stories include Nathan W., who moved back to Texas and is training as a Recovery Mentor, and Greg V., who found work and sober living in Newberg.

The holiday season brought much joy and connection thanks to our incredible supporters who donated food and

gifts. For some residents, it was their first time receiving Christmas presents! With help from volunteer Barb Beck, who leads life skills classes, the men made wreaths, decorated cookies, and sent presents to their kids.

Otis (pictured above) is the farm's newest furry addition and has been a hit with residents, offering snuggles and playtime during their breaks from outdoor work. Maggie gave Otis a home after he was rescued by our cafe staff in downtown Portland.

As always, rain gear is essential for farm work, and we're always in need of new or gently used jeans, rain pants, and jackets in men's sizes M to 2XL to keep everyone comfortable and dry.

Contact mcornish@blanchethouse.org if you'd like to donate items.

Clothing Needs

A young man came to our door in December with only a blanket wrapped around him asking if we had pants. Imagine having to walk around in that vulnerable and miserable state.

CLOTHING CLOSET

We were completely out of men's pants. Luckily, we found a pair of small jeans that he could squeeze into but we'd prefer to give him something more comfortable.

We are always in need of men's jeans and sweatpants. If you can help please donate new or gently used men's casual pants and sweatpants Mon-Sat, 8-10:30 a.m. or 1:30-4 p.m at 310 NW Glisan St.

Most Needed Items:

- Jeans and Sweatpants
- Waterproof Winter Coats
- Belts
- Gloves and Hats



Join us for

LEND A HELPING HAND BRUNCH

A fundraising event to benefit
Blanchet House & Farm.

SUNDAY
MARCH 2, 2025

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PORTLAND ART MUSEUM

LIVE MUSIC • BUFFET

Contact Steve Cook at 503-241-4340 x103 about sponsoring or attending.



SCAN CODE
FOR TICKETS
OR TABLES

In Memory

We must say goodbye to friends who brought so much light and love to our community. Oliver Williams, John Andersson, and Chase "Buggy" Gleason were more than just residents—they were friends who left a lasting impact on everyone who knew them.

Oliver Williams



Oliver, who passed from cancer, stayed with us twice when he needed a home. His radiant smile, creativity, and impeccable style brought joy to everyone. A former window display artist, Oliver once transformed our cafe into a holiday wonderland. Always willing to help, he often volunteered to cook breakfast when we were short-handed in the kitchen. It was a privilege to know and spend time with Oliver. He is missed.

John Andersson



John, who passed in a car accident, came to stay with us to bolster his sobriety while he searched for housing. Despite working full-time, he earned just \$100 over the threshold for subsidized housing, highlighting the frustrating realities many of our residents face. John's kindness and positivity inspired everyone around him. He was a generous man who wanted to better the world through service. He is missed.

Chase "Buggy" Gleason



Chase, who passed unexpectedly at Blanchet Farm, joined the program last fall. He quickly embraced caring for the animals and used his rural Oregon upbringing to fix equipment and harvest our Christmas trees. Chase brought laughter and joy to the community, decorating the farm for the holidays and recording music with another resident. He will be missed and his loss is felt by the entire community at Blanchet Farm.



Operation Night Watch's Program Manager Susan Turnbow collects a donation at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the future home of Blanchet House's women's shelter.

Blanchet to Open a Shelter For Women in SW Portland

We are proud to announce the upcoming opening of Bethanie's Room, a nighttime emergency shelter for women in Portland.

NEW!

This vital new resource addresses a glaring gap in the city's safety net: the absence of emergency nighttime shelters for women in downtown without wait lists.

"We feel morally compelled to open Bethanie's Room to ensure no woman has to sleep on the streets," said Scott Kerman, Executive Director of Blanchet House. "This shelter is a crucial step in addressing the homelessness crisis and providing women with a safe place to be at night, a time which can be incredibly dangerous for them."

Bethanie's Room will offer up to 75 beds in the unused sanctuary of St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Portland, where our partners at Operation Nightwatch currently host services for people experiencing homelessness.

Open 365 nights a year, the shelter

will welcome women through referrals from partner agencies and a dedicated hotline for outreach teams. Women can also visit Blanchet House for a referral and receive a free cab ride to the shelter.

Named in memory of Bethanie, a houseless woman who frequented Blanchet House's free café and tragically died in a hit-and-run in 2024, the shelter honors her legacy and aims to protect other women from such fates.

The estimated first-year cost of \$1 million will cover renovations, staffing, and supplies. Trained staff is the biggest need at this time.

Blanchet House is actively seeking funding from the City of Portland, individuals, foundations, and businesses to bring this project to life by Spring 2025. To support Bethanie's Room, donate using the enclosed envelope, or contact Steve Cook at 503-241-4340 ext. 103.

Together, we can provide a safer future for Portland's women in need.

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

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A Meal. A Home. A Future.

The Power of Compassion

We were thrilled to hear from Crystal (pictured), a former guest of our café, who shared an update on her life.

MY STORY

"I was once or twice houseless and ate at Blanchet House regularly until I got back on my feet," she wrote. "I remember what it felt

like to be given clean clothes. My life is a lot different today than it was back then. Thank you, Blanchet House, for all that you do."



We serve without expectation, but stories like Crystal's remind us that providing meals, clean clothes, and kindness isn't enabling—it's empowering. It offers dignity and stability to those struggling, helping them move forward.

Thank you, Crystal, for sharing your journey. If you believe in the power of compassion, join us in 2025 as a volunteer or donor.



Your Donations Brought Comfort and Joy to a Child

It's common for people newly in need to come to us unsure of what we can offer, but they've heard that Blanchet

OUR IMPACT

House has food. Recently, a person arrived just as lunch service ended, with a young child. It was heartbreaking to see a parent in this uncomfortable situation—asking for food.

Thankfully we had sack lunches with fun drawings on the bags to give them. We also loaded them up with snacks, milk, juice, bread, and peanut butter.

We are not a food pantry, but sack lunches really help in a pinch. The parent was so grateful for the food that they asked if they could give us a hug. Thanks to our donors for making sack lunches—they truly make a difference!