



**Blanchet
House & Farm**

NOVEMBER 2025



Will We Have Enough?

Dear Friends,

Every day at Blanchet House begins with the same question: *Will we have enough?*

*Enough time to give each guest the care their unique needs deserve?
Enough food to serve the long line that stretches around the block?
Enough warm coats and dry socks to hand out when the rain won't let up?*

This year, providing enough has felt more uncertain than ever. The crowd in need of our help grows in so many ways. Families with children. Seniors living on fixed incomes. Neighbors who lost housing after a medical bill or a job layoff. People struggling with mental health challenges and addiction forced to survive on the streets.

At the end of each month, when paychecks are spent and benefits run out, the line for a seat in our café wraps around the block. Sadly, there have been days when we have to turn people away from eating sec-

onds. We're serving an average of 1,100-1,400 meals per day, and every one of them depends on support from friends like you.

But what we do is about more than food. It's about human connection. We caught our amazing staffer Ava (pictured above) comforting a guest who was ill. It was such a simple act, but it's the real work of ending homelessness—meeting people where they are, with compassion and dignity.

And those connections make lasting change possible. John, for example, just got an apartment! He was staying with us in our transitional housing program, where men find stability while addressing the challenges keeping them from moving forward. Without stable housing, it's nearly impossible to get a job,

find medical care, apply for disability, or achieve lasting sobriety. John worked hard, and with the support of our staff, he's now thriving in his own home. We're so proud of him.

This year, we've seen other powerful transformations too. Every story is different, but they all start the same way—with a simple act of generosity that makes it possible for us to open our doors.

But we are also serving more people with acute needs. Many endure chronic homelessness, meaning they've been without stable housing for at least a year. High acuity is often

layered with serious challenges like physical disabilities, chronic health conditions, or the difficulties of advanced age. These neighbors need consistent support, and connection to services that help them survive.

And here's the truth: **we can't keep doing this without you.**

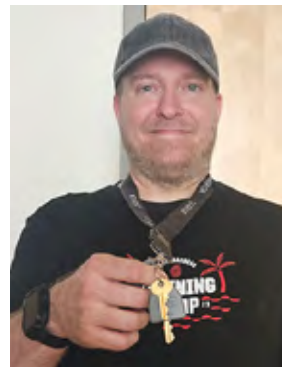
As the year ends, food costs are soaring and the need is greater than ever. That's why your gift is so important.

When you [give](#) to Blanchet, you ensure that someone who is hungry will be fed, someone who feels invisible will be seen, and someone who is hopeless will find encouragement.

Your generosity keeps hope alive for hundreds of people every day.

With gratitude,

Your Blanchet House Community



John holds the key to his new apartment.



Got Milk?

Rising costs are making it harder to keep up with the need for milk and other kitchen staples. If you're coming to volunteer, we'd be grateful if you could bring a gallon with you to share with our guests.

A huge thank you to volunteers Tom Curtin and Francesca Kur-nick (pictured) for donating milk!

Skill Building at Blanchet Farm

At Blanchet Farm, every chore is a chance to grow. Recently, our residents learned how to safely fell trees during a clinic led by arborist Karlek Janislampi. Instead of hiring out the thinning of our woods, we turned it into a hands-on opportunity for men in recovery to gain confidence through new skills.

FARM
NEWS

Coming Soon! Blanchet Farm Metal Shop

We're excited to share that a new on-site metal shop is being established at Blanchet Farm, thanks to generous funding from the HDR Foundation. This program will provide residents with hands-on instruction in welding and basic metalworking, which are high demand skills in the workforce.

Residents are eager to get started, and we look forward to watching their confidence grow as they gain valuable experience. HDR employees have long supported Blanchet House by volunteering in our café, and we are deeply grateful for their continued commitment to helping us expand opportunities at the farm.

Foraging for the Future

Skill-building also happens in unexpected ways. A few of our residents recently foraged for chanterelle mushrooms in the forests surrounding the Farm. Their harvest will appear on the menu at The Blind Pig restaurant in Carlton.

"It's great for us to get out deep in the forest, sometimes on our hands and knees, looking for these beauties," said Don, a current resident. Opportunities like these connect us with nature, healthy routines, and their wider community.

Your support makes it possible for Blanchet Farm to transform everyday work into life-changing growth.



New Women's Shelter Taking Shape

We're excited to share that Shelly Bancroft has been named director of our women's shelter, Bethanie's Room. Shelly brings extensive experience in shelter management and a deep commitment to serving women with dignity and compassion. She first joined our community as Residential Manager, working with the men in our Blanchet House program.

BETHANIE'S
ROOM

"It is an honor to be part of a team addressing the incredible need of sheltering unhoused women and partnering with organizations to help them obtain resources. If not now, then when?" Shelly says.

Thanks to your generous support, we've met our fundraising goal to cover the first year of operations! We're also thrilled to report that we now have a permit to begin construction of new



Shelly Bancroft, the new director of Bethanie's Room.

restrooms, an essential step toward welcoming women into this space of safety, care, and hope.

New neighbors have stepped up to volunteer to help us beautify the outdoor space. Their work is creating a welcoming environment for our new neighbors and the women we will serve. Skip Monaco donated pink flowering escallonia bushes to build a privacy hedge.

Inside, we're partnering with trauma-informed interior designer Hannah Dahlquist of OUI Design, who is shaping every detail—from colors to lighting—with one goal in mind: to foster healing, rest, and dignity for women in crisis.

Bethanie's Room is becoming a reality because of you. Thank you for standing with us to create a safe haven for women in crisis. Stay tuned to our emails for opportunities to donate and volunteer.



Neighbors Grow Food For Us

Tim, 80, and Judith, 81, have been donating veggies and flowers from their garden all summer. Blanchet House of Hospitality is one of a few charitable kitchens able to accept homegrown produce and use it to feed people in need. Thanks, Tim and Judith!

SPECIAL DONORS

You can drop off surplus good quality produce Mon-Sat, 8-10:30 a.m. or 1:30-4 p.m. at 310 NW Glisan, Portland, OR.



Clothing Needs

We rely on kind supporters to provide clothing for our guests. We ask donors to please consider the clothing they would want to wear. When we give out clothing, we affirm the worth of the person receiving it. Thank you for your help!

Our most requested items:

- NEW Socks and underwear
- Sturdy shoes and boots
- Warm coats, hats, and gloves
- Rain gear

Drop off clothing Mon-Sat, 8-10:30 a.m. or 1:30-4 p.m. at 310 NW Glisan, Portland, OR. You can also shop our [Amazon wish list](#).



Charitie Johnson, a Peer Support Specialist, talks with guests in line outside Blanchet House.

Charitie Tends the Line

"Amidst a sea of hollow promises and unreliable help, Blanchet is a beacon of commitment and concreteness," Peter Hartwig writes in a feature for *Bittersweet Monthly*, an online magazine profiling Blanchet House.

PEER SUPPORT

At Blanchet House, a hot meal is often just the beginning. For many of our guests, the path out of homelessness or crisis requires more than food. It takes someone willing to listen, encourage, and help navigate a system full of barriers. That's where our peer support specialists come in.

Meeting People Where They Are

At the end of each month, when paychecks and benefits run out, the line for a meal at Blanchet House grows especially long. On one recent morning, we served 472 plates. Amid the crowd, peer support specialist Charitie Johnson moved from table to table, offering encouragement and helping connect people to vital resources.

Charitie recently sat with a man in our café who had just been released from the hospital and was still in pain. Instead of rushing through, she listened, and began connecting him with care.

"I'm proud to say that I am 12 years sober," Charitie shares. "This is my dream job. During service, we help a lot with hygiene, clothing needs, and building relationships with peers. We support with de-escalation and listening."

Her lived expertise allows her to meet people where they are with empathy, understanding, and hope.

Bringing Peer Support to Our Women's Shelter

We've seen firsthand how peer support specialists transform lives. They walk alongside people who feel lost in complex systems, connecting them to critical services like disability benefits, housing, and emergency shelter. If we want to truly end someone's homelessness and help them stabilize, we must provide a trusted guide. That's why we're bringing peer support specialists to our new women's shelter.

More Than a Service, It's Hope

Peer support staff like Charitie literally walk with our guests through moments of crisis. They help with everything from navigating medical needs and accessing detox to reconnecting with family or finding a safe place to sleep. These relationships build trust, restore dignity, and open the door to stability.

Peer support is not just a service, it is a lifeline. While once funded by the county, Blanchet House has now taken on this responsibility, with plans to expand this vital care to Bethanie's Room. You can help keep peer support strong—both during meals and at our women's shelter—by making a [gift](#) today.

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A Meal. A Home. A Future.

Catching More Than Fish

At Blanchet House, we know that ending an individual's homelessness and suffering means more than just providing a bed. Our unique residential programs offer men experiencing joblessness and addiction a safe, structured place to begin recovery. Here, they find shelter, meals, community support, accountability, and pathways toward health and independence.

**SUCCESS
STORY**

People like James, who came to Blanchet House seeking stability while working to overcome addiction. Recently, he was able to take a fishing trip with his son, where they shared laughter and made memories that once seemed impossible.

Our program gave James the structure he needed to focus on recovery. When men like James are given the chance to invest in their sobriety, children gain a father who is present, families gain hope, and communities gain stronger, healthier neighbors.

This is the ripple effect of recovery. Every time we invest in one person's healing, we are also investing in stronger families, safer communities, and a more compassionate city.

Blanchet House's residential program is one way we are working to break the cycle of homelessness and addiction. With your support, men like James can find the stability they need to reclaim their lives and help heal the people and communities they love.



James with his catch on a fishing trip with his son.