



**HEARTS**  
**— WITH A —**  
**MISSION**

**TOGETHER WITH YOU**



Our new Transitional  
Living Program  
(for youth 18-21)  
opened on  
March 10!





# Update from Hearts With A Mission



A COMMUNITY  
WITH  
HEART



## A Special Young Man

Thatcher Rackley donated everything he received for his 8th birthday, \$235.00, gifts, and clothes! He wanted to help young people have safe shelter, clothes, and food.

At Hearts With A Mission, we strive to be good stewards of all of our resources. We truly appreciate every gift, every volunteer, and every prayer.

Thatcher's gift reminds us of the sacrifices of the giver. We have never lost sight of that, but this helps us to refocus on that truth.

Thank You Thatcher!

Hearts With a Mission exists because we live in a Community with Heart and we love our Heart's Community!

*Letter from the Executive Director*

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, in prayer and thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:6-7**



If you have been online or watched TV at all in the last couple of weeks, you have seen the panic, fear, and anxiety surrounding this health crisis. Although I don't have a ton of answers I find myself coming back to this scripture and want to encourage all of us to continue walking forward in prayer and thanksgiving. We are grateful for each of you, for your support of Hearts With A Mission and your desire to love and serve children...

In the last few weeks I'm guessing you have received dozens, or even hundreds of emails from different companies sharing about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how they are taking precautions. We are deeply committed to the health and safety of our community, staff and volunteers as well as the youth and families in our care. To avoid a lengthy repeat, you can go to our website at [heartswithamission.org](http://heartswithamission.org) to read about HWAM's response to the current crisis, or call us at 541-646-7385 and we will be happy to send the letter out to you. We want you to know our priority is to do our part in keeping our entire communities safe and healthy.

Unfortunately, we believe the hardships we are experiencing now may get worse, especially for the vulnerable, already isolated families we serve.

We have begun sending out prayer emails along with words of encouragement. Please let us know if you would like to opt out of receiving these prayer communications so we can remove your email from that list.

**We want to start with a few prayer requests and hope you will join us in this as we truly believe in this power.**

Pray His Perfect Love will displace and remove All Fear. (1 John 4:18)

Pray our communities will live together in harmony during these uncertain times. (Colossians 3:14).

Pray for our youth (some who have already endured great trauma) that this crisis will not add to their stress.

Pray especially for our staff as they endure living life with kids 24/7 as group outings are no longer an option.

Pray for HWAM's sustainability as cash flows will be challenging as we navigate through this Pandemic.

Be encouraged you are not alone at this time. We are praying for you and our community and trusting in God's faithfulness to carry us through to the other side of this crisis.

Together with you,



Kevin Lamson, Executive Director  
Hearts With A Mission



## Chocolate Cake

If I told you just one thing NOT to think of, could you pull it off? I challenge you to think of anything right now, besides chocolate cake!

Of course, it doesn't work very well. Yet this is the approach that many people take in their lives. When asked what or who they hope to become as an adult, many youths will tell me, **"I don't care, I just don't want to be like my \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)!"** Usually, it's a parent or someone who hurt them deeply through some reckless behavior. While this is entirely understandable that they do not want to

be like that one person, the approach isn't very effective. In fact, it usually gets the opposite outcome of the one for which they had hoped.

We took this point to the archery range, where it is pretty quickly illustrated: The youth took their time learning how to wield the bow and the arrow, working their way to more and more accuracy, and hopefully a bullseye target! When asked what they were looking at all that time, the answer was easy: the target! To which I ask, why were they not looking at everything else? Why were they not focused on all the things in the room they did NOT want to hit? Because the arrow flies along the direction of your gaze.

Similarly, we tell kids to "keep your eye on the ball" when trying to hit it out of the park or to aim for the box on the backboard when shooting hoops. Just like the arrow that follows the direction of your gaze, our actions follow the path of where we focus. You become like that on which you meditate.

And so I find myself re-directing the youth to explore a different direction.



"I'm not interested in what you don't want to be. Tell me what you DO want to be!" and each of the youth scribbled on a balloon life goals and intentions. These, they took and pinned to the targets. Then, they set their eyes on the goal. They kept it in their focus, and with deep breaths, focus, and intention, they let their arrows fly - straight toward their targets!

So what is it that you'd like to be? How would you want others to describe you? How much of your time do you spend thinking on those things, or of others that exemplify those traits?

Each time this lesson comes up, it brings to mind Paul's admonition to the Philippians; to be grateful, and to fix their thoughts on "whatever is true, honorable, just, lovely, commendable, excellent, or praiseworthy" (Phil. 4:4 & 8). **Think on these things.**

May we "fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer, and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:2)



April Hubbard,  
MSW, CSWA, QMHP  
Youth & Family Counselor



At Hearts With A Mission  
we are committed to  
training our staff in the  
best practices



## TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

Experiencing trauma can  
change the way a person  
perceives the world



April teaches staff about trauma

Whether trauma is caused by a single event such as a natural disaster, or by repeated or prolonged exposure to abuse, an individual's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are filtered through their experience and perspective.

Think of sunglasses: You put them on, and everything is shaded differently.

*A trauma-informed perspective asks "What happened to you?" instead of "What's wrong with you?"*

By increasing our awareness about the impact of trauma on youth, we can better understand our kids and their challenges.



## Moving Forward

From the first day she entered the shelter, Nancy's parents told her she could not return home as she had done too much damage. Over 15 months, Nancy was supported by staff to try to preserve a healthy relationship with her parents. Unfortunately, her attempts had not been successful.

We quickly learned Nancy had a strong work ethic. She received the highest score on a GED assessment than any youth ever to take the assessment in the Grants Pass school district. Nancy in fact earned her GED within just a few months of being in the shelter.

Shelter staff supported Nancy to enroll in college classes at Rogue Community College and to pursue a job.

Nancy saved nearly \$3,000 while also purchasing her own cell phone and plan, and a brand new bicycle for getting to work. She and her boyfriend saved for 6 months to purchase a vehicle for them to drive. On her 18th birthday, Nancy exited the shelter and moved in with her boyfriend. They both have jobs. Both are attending Community College and pursuing their goals with the support of a large and active HWAM family and community mentors.

Our Case Manager continued to extend the invitation for Nancy's parents to be engaged in her service plan goals. The week before Nancy exited, she met with her dad and stepmom for dinner. Our Case Manager assisted with facilitating a new path of reconciliation. We were finally able to include Nancy's parents in the celebration of her achievements and hard work. Tears flowed as apologies were made, forgiveness granted and trust rebuilt.

Thank you for your commitment and support. You are contributing to some pretty cool stuff in the lives of our kids and their families.

Tony Mendenhall, *Grants Pass Shelter Manager*



**POSTPONED**  
The First Community Credit Union Homeless 2 Hopeful Superhero Run and Car Show has been postponed.  
We hope to reschedule at a later date as it plays a major role in providing financial resources for our organization.

## Aftercare's Finest

Jake has grown up right before our eyes. He started as a shy reserved kid that stayed pretty much to himself and has since developed self-confidence. Although he spends a lot of time talking with the shelter manager, it's safe to say that April Hubbard and certain staff are his main influences. After graduating a year early from North Medford High School, Jake was on the lookout for his own place. While many young people procrastinate when it comes to finding their own apartments or careers, Jake has been proactive.



*Peer Support Specialist  
Department of Health and  
Human Services*

Going to SOU and working at Macy's wasn't enough as he was trying to secure internships with the Central Point and Medford Police Departments. But even that wasn't enough. He took the initiative and interviewed at the Department of Health and Human Services, where he now holds a job as a Peer Support Specialist.

Most of us knew he would find himself in a position of victory because he had the drive. Jake continues his connection with Hearts With A Mission by attending our Aftercare program. We are very proud of him.

Will Young, *Medford Shelter Manager*

---

*"Being at Hearts  
With A Mission is like  
being in a family"*

---

# THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE HEART'S COMMUNITY! YOUR SUPPORT HAS CHANGED LIVES

## New Transitional Living Program: Moving in

For me, moving into the Hearts With A Mission Transitional Program, meant freedom and peace of mind. My whole life in the DHS system has had its ups and downs, some unhealthy foster homes, while others were relatively healthy. All the same, like all teenagers/young adults, I have never felt like I ever completely had the space to figure out who I was. I heard of this program first from my ILP worker, and once I settled in I realized it was the best choice I've made in a very long time.

I am a college student who attends the Rogue Community College on Riverside and previously was near impossible to find a decent place to study. I have a hard time not getting distracted. I had places I could study, but nowhere was comfortable or convenient for my personal learning needs. Now with my own room, I can focus much better, and accomplish what I need to succeed academically. As an 18 year old, I think it is also important for my own privacy that I have my own space, which is something I did not possess before. Having my own room means more to me than you can imagine.

Finally, the thing that has been the most beneficial of me living in the Heart's program is that I can practice my own Christian Faith in peace.

I believe overall that this program is helping me to become the young adult I want to be. Purchasing my own groceries, and the other liberties I have been given is a liberty that is constructive, but not overwhelming. Hearts With A Mission is giving me the opportunity to learn adulting in a safe environment, in contrast to trying to move out on my own. The number of responsibilities that I now have is new but manageable and achievable. Finally, I believe the structure of the house, as well as the support I'm receiving, will be sufficient enough to help me successfully transition moving forward. ~ Robin



Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for all the help and tireless hours put in to make the opening of our TLP Shelter possible!



### Paddington Express A Company With Heart



Paddington Express, in Ashland, announced Hearts With A Mission as one of the recipients in their Gift of Giving Campaign. We love this amazing store that is dedicated to helping so many non-profits in our community.







# Safe Families for Children

A Program of Hearts With A Mission

## Lincoln County SFFC: Families Helping Families

Collaborating with DHS with one goal in mind

SFFC, Lincoln County, and DHS recently collaborated to help support a single mom with a one-year-old girl and a 10-year old son. Struggling with depression and anxiety for years, fleeing from domestic violence, and a series of tragedies, this mom needed the support of a community to help keep her little family intact.

Mom, Gina, had reached out to SFFC last Sept, and the Lincoln County team had helped her get back on her feet. After a devastating tragedy, Gina had suicidal thoughts,

at which point DHS was called in. It was amazing to see the children entirely at peace while there was a chaotic storm around them because they felt safe and comfortable with the Safe Family staff as there were a relationship and trust built months in advance.

During this process, there was no additional trauma created for the children, and we were able to form a beautiful collaboration between DHS staff and SFFC with one goal: to keep this family safe, healthy, and intact.

*Studies prove that having a meaningful, trusted connection with one competent and caring adult in a child's life can transform trauma into resilience resulting in better opportunities and improved futures*



## Sewing the Seeds of Change in Josephine County

When I met Jenna 4 years ago, her life was fractured and in pieces. Her father had never been in her life, and her mother, Kayla, was a drug addict. She was desperate to have the relationship she once knew with her mother. She struggled to understand how her mother could choose drugs over her. Jenna's stay in Safe Families helped her get control of her health and to regain focus on her future. As the Family Coach and Mentor, I grew to love and admire Jenna for her strength and convictions.

Her mother could not overcome her addiction, and Jenna transitioned from Safe Families to another relative's home. She worked to pay her rent while attending high

school. Throughout my contact with Jenna and Kayla, Jenna has remained "agnostic" and stopped attending church once she was out of Safe Families. Kayla swore she would never set foot in a church.

I have maintained contact with Jenna, seeing her occasionally or texting. I was even invited to her wedding a year ago.

More recently, I reconnected with her mother, Kayla, who is no longer on drugs because she is terminally ill with cancer. While visiting with Kayla, she asked me if I would take her to church one Sunday. I jumped at the chance and brought her the next Sunday. She was sure the roof would crash around her but was pleasantly surprised when

she enjoyed the music and teaching. The following week she asked if I would take her again and if Jenna could come with us. That was two months ago. Both Kayla and Jenna are attending church with me as often as Kayla feels well enough to do so.

They are reestablishing a relationship that didn't seem possible four years ago. When God asks us to go, we must go because we never know which seed we plant that will start to grow. I am so blessed to be a part of this beautiful reunification. God continues to work in both of their lives!

~ Laina, SFFC Family Coach

# A movement fueled by compassion

## Do everything in love



As spring approaches, I can't help but think about warm sunshine, longer days, and fresh blooms. Spring is a time of seeds taking root and new growth.

At Hearts With A Mission, we continue our own season of growth with the opening of our new Transitional Living Program and expansion of our Safe Families for Children host home programs.

This expansion of our services would not be possible without you, our amazing volunteers and supporters. We are truly grateful for the gifts of your time and talents, your faithful prayers, and your financial donations. Your kindness and generosity is love in action.

We recently received a thank you note from a parent who wrote:

*"My wife and I both appreciate your outstanding effort helping our daughter and our family get through a very tough time. We admire what Hearts With A Mission does on a daily basis to take care of kids in our community."*

Your on-going support allowed us to plant seeds of hope for this family and so many others. 1 Corinthians 16:14 says: 'Do everything in love.' It is a tremendous blessing to work alongside each of you as we strengthen our community through your selfless acts of love.

Thank you,

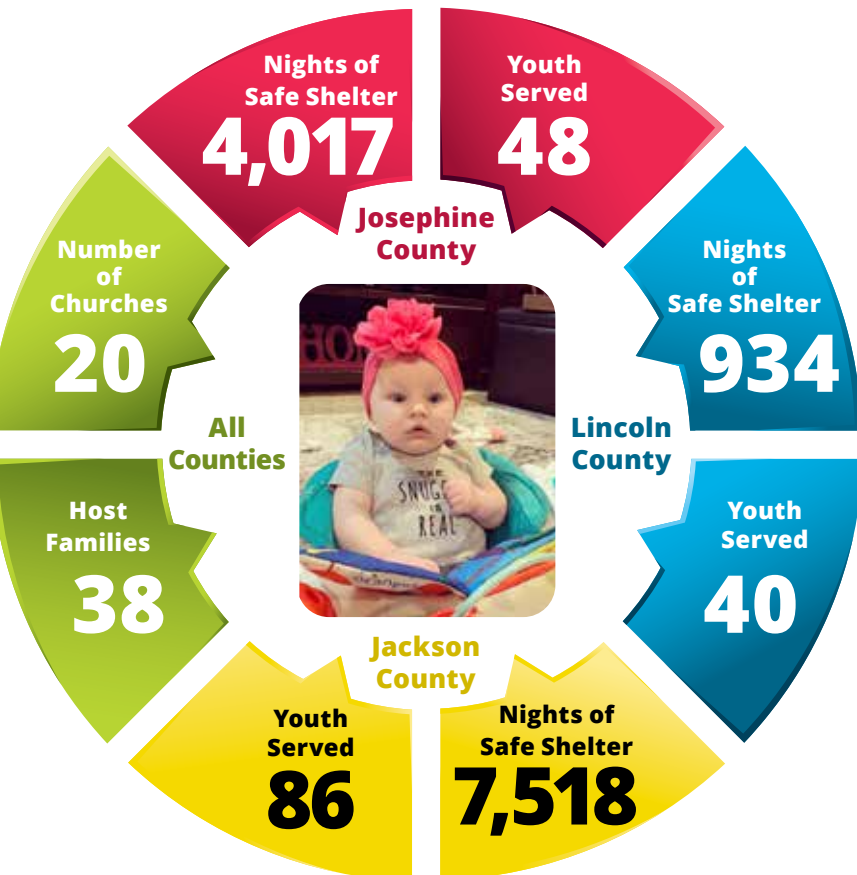
*Sharon Rush*

Hearts With A Mission  
Chief Program Officer



## HWAM Safe Families for Children Stats

■ Josephine ■ Lincoln ■ Jackson ■ All Counties



Safe Families for Children  
is a program of Hearts With A Mission



## HOW DOES SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN WORK?

While retaining custody, parents facing crisis can arrange to have their children stay with a Safe Family while they address the issues that led them to their situation.

**FREE SERVICE**

**AVAILABLE TO AGES 0 - 22**

**INCLUDES PREGNANT / PARENTING TEEN**

**For More Information Contact:**

**JACKSON & JOSEPHINE COUNTY**

Heather Siewell

541-951-4289 | heather.s@heartswithamission.org

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

Marisa Hayner

541-261-7410 | marisa.h@heartswithamission.org



HEARTS WITH A MISSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Fraenkel  
PRESIDENT

Rob Eastman  
VICE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Dyer  
TREASURER

Megan Jiles  
SECRETARY

DIRECTORS

Kirk Kolb

Darcey Mann-Self

Kathy Tinsley

Ken Meigs

Katherine Abdun-Nur

Seth Benham

Colleen Padilla

Lisa Merritt



**HEARTS  
WITH-A  
MISSION**

Every Child Deserves a Home



**A COMMUNITY  
WITH  
HEART**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR HEARTS COMMUNITY**

Youth Shelter | Safe Families for Children | Transitional Living Program



**SHELTER LOCATIONS**

Medford: 517 Edwards St | Grants Pass: 1504 NE 9th St.

**TLP PROGRAM | ADMIN OFFICE**

521 Edwards St | 529 Edwards St, Medford

**MAILING ADDRESS**

711 Medford Ctr #334, Medford OR 97504

