



HEARTS
— WITH-A —
MISSION

A Community With Heart

SUMMER 2026





Shout Outs



Thank you Schreeve Insurance for faithfully supplying our seniors with birthday cupcakes every month! You have brought so much joy to our seniors!



Thank you Juggernaut! For 3 years now, HWAM has been blessed by Juggernaut Marketing by being the beneficiary from their World's Greatest 4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament!



A HUGE thank you to the Warrior group from MTN Church for faithfully showing up year after year to support our Superhero Run!



THANK YOU to Reclaiming Lives – Recovery Café for supporting us over the years! We are so grateful for your reliability, compassion, and heart for our community.

Update from Hearts With A Mission



Dear Friends,

Did you know that K–12 students in Jackson and Josephine counties experience homelessness at one of the highest rates in Oregon? It's why we started Hearts With A Mission. Behind every statistic is a young person longing for hope, safety, and someone who cares.

For years, Hearts With A Mission has been a refuge for youth in crisis. While the needs of our community increase and our mission expands, our goal is the same: to provide safe people to belong with, and a safe place to call home.

We have seen another generation with needs on the rise, our senior population. Our seniors' stories are different, but their needs are often the same: connection, stability, hope.

This is why we serve seniors.

When people lose stable housing, or simply lose someone they can count on, they often lose more than shelter. They lose a sense of security, purpose, and belonging. In its place, isolation and loneliness quietly take hold.



When we first met Dee, a 74 year old Jackson County resident, she shared: "I don't remember the last time I felt seen or cared about. When visitors asked how I was doing, I told them the truth: 'Not so good.' I planned to go back to bed as soon as they left. That's how loneliness quietly wears you down."

Stories like Dee's remind us that hopelessness doesn't discriminate by age. Whether someone is 17 or 74, the human need is the same: to feel safe, to be loved, and to know they belong.

After being matched with a companionship volunteer through Hearts for Seniors, Dee reflected: "They made me feel seen, heard, understood, and appreciated. I can't remember the last time I felt that way. As the minutes went by, I felt exponentially revived, and by the time they were ready to leave, I wanted to dance and sing for joy. I haven't had this kind of face-to-face time in over 25 years."

This is the difference compassion makes. Thank you for your financial contributions, volunteering, or simply choosing to care. These are the ways you become part of someone's journey toward hope, healing, and belonging.

Every day, people throughout our community need hope, a teenager in crisis, a single parent struggling to make ends meet, a young adult building an independent future, or a senior longing for companionship and purpose.

No matter their age, every person deserves to be seen, valued, and loved.

Together, we can transform lives across generations - one act of kindness, one caring heart, and one neighbor at a time.

Blessings,



Kevin Lamson, Executive Director



The purpose of Hearts For Seniors (HFS) is to act as a bridge to independent living, supporting seniors to be able to stay in their own homes while also fostering a sense of friendship and positivity.

Celebrating Summer with Food, Friends, and Fun

Stephanie Miller, Hearts for Seniors

This June, Lithia Driveway proudly hosted the second annual Hearts for Seniors Appreciation Luncheon, bringing together matched seniors and volunteers for an afternoon of connection, gratitude, and celebration.

The event featured beautiful decorations and delicious food from local vendors, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone in attendance.

Guests enjoyed a mouthwatering barbecue lunch catered by Back Porch Bar & Grill, followed by sweet treats from Betty's Hand-Dipped Ice Cream's customizable dessert cart. A photo booth by Boujie Pics, captured smiles and special memories throughout the afternoon, while an exciting game of Bingo offered gift baskets and prizes that kept everyone laughing and engaged. In addition to hosting this wonderful event, Lithia Driveway generously donated to the Hearts for Seniors program, further demonstrating its commitment to supporting our community.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who dedicated their time and effort to making this event such a meaningful experience. After last year's overwhelming success, our seniors and volunteers were delighted to learn that the luncheon would become an annual tradition. Thoughtful touches, warm hospitality, and genuine kindness made each guest feel valued and appreciated.

Moments like these remind us that even the simplest acts of generosity can leave a lasting impression. Thank you, Lithia Driveway and all who made this event possible, for helping strengthen our community and enriching the lives of our Hearts for Seniors family—one meaningful connection at a time.



Feeling Valued

Colleen Padilla, SFFC/HFS Director
Josephine County

Sally, a Grants Pass area client has been receiving the help of two volunteers who are working diligently to reduce fire hazards around her home and return her property to park-like enjoyment. After many years of debilitating

illnesses, mobility struggles, and managing grief after the loss of her husband, Sally reached out to Hearts With a Mission and our Hearts for Seniors (HFS) program.

With over 30 hours already contributed by volunteers and multiple dump runs, Sally shared unabashedly ...

"It's the first time in years I have felt like someone actually cares about me and my pitiful little life. And it has been a gift to my soul and my spirit to know your wonderful organization."

Need help with rent, utilities, or housing stability?



New support available through our Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) program which may be able to help eligible Oregon Health Plan members (of all ages), with rent assistance, utility costs, housing support services, and more.

Available in Jackson & Klamath counties.

Scan the QR code
to learn more





A Home For Chloe

Staci Hughes, Development Director

Can you imagine being a child whose mother has just passed away, and arriving at a youth shelter because you have nowhere else to go?

How would you feel? No sense of security? Maybe anxiety, depression, or grief, which no child should ever have to carry.

This is Chloe's story.

At Hearts With A Mission, we believe children belong in homes, not shelters. While kids are with us in our youth shelter, every staff member works intentionally and faithfully to make their stay feel as much like home as possible.

When Chloe arrived, she didn't trust anyone. She kept people at a safe distance and carried the weight of unimaginable loss on her shoulders. Over the next six months, our staff patiently earned her trust, walking alongside her as she navigated grief, heartbreak, and uncertainty.

The nights were often the hardest. When the world grew quiet and distractions faded away, the pain would surface. During those moments, Chloe leaned on the healthy, caring relationships she had built with our staff. These relationships that reminded her she wasn't alone.

And then something beautiful began to happen.

Our team, including our family counselor, started helping Chloe reconnect with her father after years of estrangement. It began with letters. Then came voicemails and phone calls. Eventually, they met in person for family counseling sessions.

Little by little, trust grew.

Connection grew.

Hope grew.

At one point, Chloe couldn't imagine reunification ever being possible. But as she healed, she found

the courage to say something that changed everything:

"I want to be a normal kid, but I don't know how."

That honest admission became the beginning of a new chapter.

Today, hope looks different for Chloe. It looks like knowing she has people who love her, support her, and want her to succeed. The girl who once avoided everyone became one of the most social, playful, and joyful young people in the shelter. She built friendships, made memories, and discovered what it feels like to belong.

For almost nine months, Chloe spent birthdays, holidays, and even sick days with us.

But just a few weeks ago, we got to celebrate something incredible. Chloe went home, to HER home, with her dad. As she left she was filled with excitement, joy and a little angst. HWAM had been her home for a long time now.

Her HWAM family surrounded her with encouragement, support, praises, love and a confident reminder that HWAM will always be here for her and our doors are always open.

Our heartfelt thanks to Chick-fil-A for their incredible partnership with Hearts With a Mission!

Time and again, they have generously provided meals for our Youth Shelter and program clients, offering not only nourishment but also comfort and stability.

Their generosity doesn't stop there.

Throughout the month of July, Chick-fil-A supported HWAM by donating a portion of the proceeds from every Pineapple Dragonfruit Gallons sold.

Thank you, Chick-fil-A, for your continued generosity, community spirit, and commitment to helping our programs thrive.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and the difference you make in so many lives!

If you would like to support the Youth Shelter by providing a monthly meal for the youth, contact Stacy at Hearts With A Mission, stacy.s@hwam.org.

Showing up for Marcus

Janelle Tefteller, Independent Living Program Manager

I work with a lot of kids who have various needs for support and I wanted to share something that really touched me involving a young man named Marcus.

Marcus is such a kind, gentle soul who has spent much of his life being overlooked simply because he doesn't make a lot of noise or ask for attention. For so long, he has quietly fallen through the cracks. Marcus didn't even realize there were supports that could help him in his schooling, such as special education classes.

Working with TLP staff, Tony and Michelle, Marcus saw people willing to fight for him. He witnessed them going above and beyond to help him get the help that he needed. I saw real happiness in his eyes as he recounted the story of Tony going to bat for him in one meeting. Hearing him describe how cared for he felt because someone was willing to stand up for him honestly brought me to tears.

Marcus now has an Individualized Education Plan and the team is working on securing the long term supports that Marcus will need looking into the future.



What does a light in the community look like?

We asked youth at our Youth Shelter to share their thoughts on this question.

Here's what one young person had to say:

By Nick P.

In the short amount of time I have been on this earth, I have gone through a lot. There have been many times in my life when I felt lonely or helpless. I felt like my family wasn't there and no one wanted to bother with me, but people in my community showed me that wasn't true.

Whether it's someone I know or someone who has never met me, there are people who want me to be okay. They care about my well-being and want to help.

This includes counselors, therapists, and people at Hearts With A Mission, but it also includes many others I've met who had no reason to help other than the drive in their hearts.

My school librarian in freshman year was the sweetest person. Even though her job was the books, I could always go to her when I needed something. One bad day she bought me a cookie and a root beer from the store by the school. It was a small gesture, but it meant the world to me.

When my immediate family was out of the picture, my extended family stepped in. My grandparents gave me a place to stay while we figured out what came next, and my aunt and uncle eventually took me in.

When things became too hard for them, Hearts With A Mission welcomed me. Since I have been here, I have felt the love and support of so many

people. A youth shelter is never where anyone hopes to be, but I am incredibly grateful for the experience I've had. All the staff are so caring and want us all to succeed.

The volunteers who donate dinners, the clothing donations, and the support from local businesses all help us back our lives when we need it most.

You don't have to do this for work, and you don't have to wait for the perfect opportunity. All you need is the willingness to help. The people who have made the biggest difference in my life did it because they cared, not because they expected anything in return.

I have also been able to give back to my community. I have volunteered at the library, played guitar for a senior foster home, and I've been there for individual people when they needed help.

Within Hearts With a Mission alone there are so many opportunities to volunteer. You can be a companion to a senior, you can be a Mommy Mentor, you can host kids through Safe Families during the day or overnight. At the youth shelter you can donate meals for us or help with the clothing shed.

All these things have a huge impact on our individual lives, and you can be the one providing light in the community.



Safe Families *for* Children

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) surrounds families facing a crisis with a caring, compassionate community of volunteers.

A Light in the Community

Bethany Holmes, SFFC/HFS - Regional Director - Klamath, Douglas, Coos, and Lincoln counties

Lynn is a single mother of three who shines as a true light in her community. Navigating the daily trials of raising children with special needs, she learned early on that she could not do it alone. With deep humility, she utilizes professional services, peer support, and Safe Families for Children. However, Lynn does not just receive support—she gives it back abundantly.



Lynn has been sober for years and uses her past struggles to love and understand others without judgment. She meets daily with individuals navigating their own recovery journeys, connecting them to resources and walking beside them with unyielding encouragement.

Her boundless empathy was on full display during a recent community gathering. A young child experiencing an overwhelming moment of distress collapsed onto the floor. Lynn calmly walked over and met the child with quiet compassion, offering a calming presence and letting them know they were not alone. Lynn continuously thinks outside the box to uplift those around her. Having overcome significant challenges as a parent, she now uses her hard-earned experience to encourage, mentor, and support other families facing similar obstacles.

Through her own journey, she has learned that asking for help is not a sign of weakness but a courageous step toward healing and growth, and she empowers others to embrace that same truth. Wherever there is a need, Lynn steps up, proving that one dedicated heart can illuminate an entire neighborhood. Her journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, compassion, and the belief that our greatest struggles can become our greatest gifts to others.

What is a Circle of Support?

The Circle of Support (COS) model is unique to Safe Families for Children. We believe there is a role for everyone and that each role is vital in helping keep children safe and families together. The COS is a group of people working together to support a parent while also keeping volunteers supported as they open up their hearts and homes to host children.



A real-life example

Young Mother is Supported in Times of Crisis

Colleen Padilla, SFFC / HFS - Director Josephine County

Melissa, a young mom with two small children, was experiencing domestic violence. She found Safe Families for Children (SFFC). A wonderful volunteer provided three nights of overnight hosting for her children. She utilized hosting, mentoring, and resources coordinated through Safe Families, to help her and her children during a difficult time. Melissa notes “I have felt extremely supported in my rough times. I love how non-judgmental everyone is.”



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Thank you to our other Heroes:

ALL our Volunteers! | Stan Goodell | Devon Abblitt | Emily Storm | DJ Poppa | Katz Krepes | LH Coffee | Rogue Burgers | Kona Ice | Ham Radio Team | Mercy Flights | Oregon State Police | Rogue River Police | Forest Service | Rogue River Fire Department | National Guard | and all of you who came out to support us!



It was an INCREDIBLE DAY!

Megan Jiles, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

Our Superhero Run was our **BIGGEST** one yet and we're still smiling from all the joy, energy, and community spirit that filled the park.

Hundreds of heroes showed up, from tiny runners in capes to longtime supporters ready to hit the trail. The costumes were amazing, the laughter was contagious, and the sense of purpose was felt everywhere.

Whether you ran, walked, volunteered, sponsored, or simply came to cheer, **YOU** helped make this event unforgettable. Your support directly impacts youth, families, and seniors in our community and we couldn't be more grateful.

Thank you for showing up with heart, hope, and superhero-level enthusiasm. We can't wait to do it again next year!



19TH ANNUAL HEARTS WITH A MISSION SATURDAY NIGHT AUCTION FEVER



Save the date!
September 26

5 ways to contribute:

- Become a Table Sponsor
- Donate Live Auction Items
- Donate Silent Auction Items
- Donate a dessert for the Dessert Dash
- Advertise in Auction Catalog

Contact megan.j@hwam.org



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Connect With Us



HEARTS WITH A MISSION TOGETHER WITH YOU

FAITH | HOPE | LOVE | SERVICE | COMMUNITY



About us

Youth Shelter	517 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501
Transitional Living Program	521 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501 1504 NE 9th St, Grants Pass
Hearts For Seniors	505 Edwards St, Medford, OR 97501
Mailing Address	711 Medford Ctr #334, Medford, OR 97504
Lincoln County	PO Box 299, Newport, OR 97365
Klamath County	PO Box 6510 S 6th St PMB# 292, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Douglas County	711 Medford Ctr #334, Medford, OR 97504
Coos County	PO Box 626 North Bend, OR 97459

