



# HEARTS —WITH-A— MISSION

Together With You

FIRST QUARTER 2026



Safe Families  
for Children

WORSHIP NIGHT WITH

# PHIL STACEY

COMING IN APRIL



## Shout Outs



**Thank you Airport Chevrolet for wrapping your arms around us and supporting us in so many ways!**



**Thank you to Full Leaf Tea Company for being an incredible supporter. We are so grateful for everything you do!**



**Thank you to the Oregon State Police who show up for us all year long, including presents for our youth in the youth shelter.**



**Thank you to King Aesthetics for consistently showing up for us and supporting us throughout the year.**



# Your Legacy Matters

Dear Friends,

Let me introduce myself, as next month will mark one year of serving at Hearts With A Mission. God put a calling on my heart for protecting and serving the marginalized early in my life as my parents adopted my baby cousin and she became my precious little sister. With this, and other opportunities to build compassion, I've seen how a village of support can make a lasting impact.

One of the activities I enjoy is getting outdoors. Oftentimes, I'm with friends or family hiking through a variety of terrain. Crossing miles of dry land can feel exhausting and redundant. There is a special feeling of life and hope when I come upon a stream of water and see the life that it brings. The contrast between the dry land and that with a source of rippling water is evident.

This reminds me of you, our generous community. Your generosity towards programs and people that we serve together has been much like a stream of refreshing water. As we give, we don't always see the ripple effects of lives changed and the hope that is nourished. But there is evidence and fruit in that life impacted. Your contribution empowers others to continue growing, changing and dreaming about a thriving future.

The generosity of your spirit flows kindness, open-mindedness and empathy towards others. Thank you for partnering with Hearts With A Mission to provide the ripple effect of generosity. You make a difference to those who are experiencing dry land and your legacy is providing a front row seat for those like me, blessed to work on the frontlines for our community.



*Karen Alexander*

Karen, Alexander, Program Manager



## Celebrating A Season of Kindness!

Megan Jiles, Events and Volunteer Coordinator

This Christmas season reminded us just how generous and compassionate our community truly is. Because of your kindness, countless youth, families, and seniors felt seen, supported, and deeply cared for.

Your gifts and encouragement made the holidays brighter for those who needed it most. The love you shared brought hope, warmth, and joy to so many lives, and we are incredibly grateful.

Thank you for standing with Hearts With A Mission and spreading such meaningful Christmas cheer. Your continued support is making a lasting difference in our community.

# Beautifully Unexpected

Bryan Wenzel, Youth Shelter Manager

The kids were filled with excitement and happiness as they opened their presents. Many were amazed to receive gifts they had actually asked for. It was incredible to watch their wish lists come to life with the very things they had hoped for. Our community truly showed up. People went above and beyond to honor the requests on each child's list. Throughout the holiday season, we experienced kindness again and again. It was beautifully unexpected. When Riley\* opened a pair of expensive shoes, staff and volunteers immediately understood the financial value of the gift. But to Riley, the meaning went far deeper. Those shoes mattered to him. He knew that when he went back to school and friends asked what he got

for Christmas, he could proudly show his gift, just like the other kids. To Riley, it meant the chance to feel like he belonged. After the holidays, staff noticed a real change in the home. The kids seemed lighter and more carefree. They came home from school in better moods and with brighter spirits. We are deeply grateful and thankful to everyone who helped make this possible.

\*Names changed for privacy.



When asked about her memories from this past Christmas, Rachel, one of our lead life coaches, shared a meaningful moment she experienced with Becky\*.

While decorating the Christmas tree together, Becky suddenly began to cry. Rachel gently asked what was wrong, and Becky replied, "This is the first time I've put up Christmas lights since my mom died." It was a deeply special and sacred moment that Rachel felt honored to share with Becky.

\* Names changed for privacy.

# They felt loved and not forgotten

Janelle Tefteller, ILP Supervisor

We at the Independent Living Program (ILP) would like to say our warmest heartfelt thank you's to our generous community that donated Christmas Stockings, \$25 gift cards, and presents to our ILP youth.

We have around 80 ILP youth and each youth was able to receive a gift card. Included in the 80 youth, we have 25 aftercare youth, meaning they no longer have an open Child Welfare case, who received Christmas stockings. We had an ILP group event for our youth where we got IN and OUT and then hot chocolates as we walked around Cherry Lane looking at Christmas lights.

Each youth that attended that event got to pick a donated present. Special thank you's to Eagle Point Community Bible Church who have consistently donated Christmas stockings to our ILP youth for the past couple of years and to the Living Waters Church, Crossfit Ravage Gym, and a mom's group from The Story Church for their gifts.

**"These are the best stockings we have gotten since being in ILP!"**

ILP serves current and former foster youth ages 14-23 and each of them light up like a little kid when they receive a Christmas gift. Some of our youth have never been given a stocking before. In addition to the gifts, each ILP staff writes a heartfelt Christmas card to the ILP youth on their caseload that details the youth's positive growth, positive characteristics, and how proud we are of them.

**"I've never gotten a stocking for Christmas before. What's in it?"**

Some of our youth commented that they still had their Christmas card from last year. We should never underestimate the power of kind words and building our youth up. Thank you to our generous community for helping our ILP youth feel loved and not forgotten during the busy Christmas season!

# The Transition to Gratitude

Michelle Edwards, Case Manager/Peer Support Specialist - Adult Addiction

This past holiday season at HWAM Transitional Living Program (TLP) felt less like a series of events and more like a true family gathering. It is rare for every resident to be present for our holiday celebrations, but during November and December 2025, everyone came together for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, making the season especially meaningful.



As Thanksgiving approached, the conversation began during one of our regular monthly House Meetings, alongside our usual Life Skills and Social Skills discussions.

Residents talked about favorite Thanksgiving foods and traditions from their past. Some shared memories of meals made by family members and chose to recreate those dishes, while others happily volunteered for cleanup, laughing that they “just like to eat all the food.” Several residents wanted to help with preparation and cooking, eager to contribute their part, just as family members do when a big holiday meal is on the way.

Together, residents and staff created the menu and shopping list. Those who chose to cook went grocery shopping with staff, selecting ingredients for their recipes. On Thanksgiving Day, the kitchen became the heart of the house, filled with laughter, teamwork, and learning. Residents asked questions, staff offered guidance, and everyone worked toward a shared goal. It was less about perfection and more about being together.

The table was set with care, and residents and staff gathered to share the meal as one. We were honored

to welcome our CEO, Kevin Lamson, who joined us and saw firsthand the family-like environment his vision has helped

create. At the residents’ request, Program Manager Tony Mendenhall prayed over the meal as everyone held hands. Residents also shared what they were thankful for, many expressing gratitude for a place that feels like home and a program that supports them as they build Life Skills and move toward independence. After dinner, residents pitched in to clean up - no reminders needed.

Our Christmas celebration carried that same warmth and sense of belonging. Once again, every resident was present. Staff handled the shopping, preparation, and cooking, creating a holiday meal meant to be enjoyed together. Before eating, one resident asked if they could say a prayer, reflecting the comfort and trust that had grown within the home.

After dinner, everyone gathered in the living room, where stockings were waiting at each resident’s seat. As gifts were handed out, the room filled with smiles, laughter, and joyful reactions. Residents expressed heartfelt appreciation, with comments like, “There’s still more?” and “This was the best Christmas I’ve ever had.”

As staff, we were deeply moved by the gratitude, connection, and sense of belonging throughout the season. We are thankful to witness the impact of what HWAM provides these young adults; not just housing and skills, but a family-like environment where memories are made and community support is always present.



**“This is the best Christmas I’ve ever had!”** TLP Resident

## Lincoln County students make hearts for seniors



The 7th and 8th graders at **South Beach Christian School, in Lincoln County**, hand-made 54 heart pillows and donated them for our Hearts for Seniors clients.

Each is tagged with the school name and a Bible verse. We have enough to give to all of our current seniors in Lincoln County! Some students were interested in volunteering!



# Our Galentine Events were an absolute blast!

## Jackson County



Thank you to our sponsor Full Leaf Tea for helping make the event possible! Thank you to Susan Nyitrai and Karyn Adams for prepping all the craft materials. Our Galentine's event was such a fun evening filled with laughter, connection, and a wonderful group of women coming together to celebrate friendship. We truly appreciate your support and everyone who joined us.

FULL LEAF TEA CO. 

## Klamath County



Thank you to Growler Guys of Klamath Falls for the donation of the space, Ginya Lockwood for our cheesecake bar, Maureen Jespersen and Erika Cross for decorations, and The Tent Company for the photo backdrop and balloon arch. We had an evening filled with love, laughter, learning and tears as we heard from a former mom supported by HWAM and a current volunteer.



## Coos County



Thank you to Wildflour Public House, Kell Smith from Oregon Coast Artisan & Trade Education Collective, and Ezekiel's Tin Rooster for contributing so generously to our first Galentines event in Coos County!

We are so grateful for these businesses and all the individuals who came to learn about and support our mission. We are already looking forward to next year!

*Wildflour Public House*

CHRISTIAN RECORDING ARTIST AND AMERICAN IDOL FINALIST

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NIGHT WITH

# PHIL STACEY

April 15 - Lincoln County  
 April 16 - Coos County  
 April 17 - Jackson County  
 April 18 - Klamath Count



For more info  
[hwam.org](http://hwam.org)



Supporting  
 Hearts With A  
 Mission and  
 Safe Families  
 for Children

Kids 12 & Under  
 and 75 & Older  
**FREE**



**REGISTER TODAY!**

**HALF MARATHON**  
**10K | 5K | 1 MILE**  
 AT VALLEY OF THE  
**ROGUE STATE PARK**

SAVE THE DATE



# MAY 2RD

For more info go to [hwam.org](http://hwam.org)

**RUN / WALK  
 FOR HEARTS**



# Safe Families for Children

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

## The fruit of generosity

Makylee Bowker, SFFC Jackson



As Christmas approached, our team at Hearts With A Mission - Safe Families for Children set a simple, practical goal. We planned to keep gifts small and manageable, something we knew we could accomplish, while keeping stress low for both families and staff. What unfolded instead

was a beautiful reminder of how God multiplies generosity far beyond our plans.

Almost immediately, community members began reaching out, asking if they could “adopt” a client or family for Christmas. Churches set up giving trees. Individuals stepped forward to bless entire families. Others graciously donated meals, ensuring that some of our families experienced not only gifts under the tree, but

warmth and nourishment around the table.

By the time Christmas arrived, every individual we served received multiple gifts. The abundance didn’t stop there. God provided so much that we were able to donate leftover gifts to the Youth Shelter, extending the impact even further. What began as a modest plan became an overflow of provision, joy, and connection.



Scripture reminds us that “a generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25). This season, we saw that truth lived out. The fruit of compassion was evident not only in the gifts given, but in the encouragement, dignity, and hope shared

with families during a meaningful time of year. We are deeply grateful for a community that reflects Christ’s love so tangibly, and for a God who takes what we offer and multiplies it for His glory.

## Learning to thrive by the example of others



Bethany Holmes, SFFC Klamath

At our most recent Safe Families for Children graduation appreciation ceremony, we witnessed some powerful moments as one of our clients, Julie,

invited her support team to celebrate her graduation. One by one, the people who know her best painted a beautiful picture of who she is.

Her longtime friend shared how Julie has always made space for others, welcoming her into activities and community from the very first day she moved to our city. Through life’s struggles, she said, Julie never let anyone feel left behind. A coworker spoke about Julie’s constant generosity and the quiet ways she shows up for those around her.

Julie’s boss fought back tears while reflecting on the growth she’s witnessed, highlighting Julie’s growing confidence, leadership, and work ethic that led to her rapid advancement within the company.

There wasn’t a dry eye in the room when Julie’s son proudly shared how his mom has always been there to provide, protect, and support him. He spoke candidly about life’s hardest moments and how his mother helped him rise above circumstances that could have held him back.

As each member of Julie’s support team spoke, one theme stood out: her selflessness and care for others. When it was Julie’s turn, she simply expressed deep gratitude for the people who stood beside her.

Because so much has been poured into Julie, she has been able to pour that same generosity into others, creating a beautiful circle of support. Today, she and her family step forward confident and ready to thrive beyond the SFFC program.



Julie signs the Safe Families for Children graduation banner



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.

## The Senior's program is ramping up

Colleen Padilla, HFS Josephine

Josephine County seniors are reaping many fruitful blessings thanks to the generosity of many champions who show up with joyful hearts and practical help. Three clients, ages 69-97, were given hope for safe mobility, with ramps in Cave Junction and Grants Pass.

“My first contact with the Hearts for Seniors program was uplifting and encouraging. My husband is dealing with AFib and dementia and I have arthritis and osteoporosis.



We have a large yard and needed help to get our garden ready to plant. We were privileged to have a wonderful volunteer who was kind, respectful and a very hard worker. Our wooden porch was falling apart and difficult for us to traverse and we were connected to a grant program that provided a fantastic new porch and ramp. The entire experience has renewed our faith in our fellow humans at a time in our lives when we needed help in more ways than one...the kindness, understanding and assistance has helped us more than mere words can express. We are forever grateful.” - Linda, Grants Pass



Another client, Ruth, needed a simple ramp into her apartment allowing her the independence of checking her mail and taking out her garbage with her walker. After a call to Home Bridging Grants Pass, another fruitful project was immediately completed. Volunteer Anna, shared that Ruth was “one happy girl and thrilled with the ramp.” And to sweeten that deal, a grab handle was installed on the same visit.

## The Power of Showing Up

Stephanie Miller, HFS Jackson

Recently, one of our longtime volunteers at Hearts With A Mission shared that she would be moving and could no longer serve with us. As we talked, I thanked her for the countless hours she poured into our programs and the many lives she touched. What followed was a conversation I won't soon forget.

We found ourselves reminiscing about a time when we were deep in the trenches together, helping a family in crisis. It was overwhelming, messy, and exhausting work. At the time, she admitted she wasn't sure any of it would truly make a difference. It felt like so much effort for a situation that might never change

But as she reflected on that experience now, something beautiful had shifted.

Through that season, her heart had been changed. She realized the true impact wasn't in the tasks we completed, but in the act of showing up, sitting in the mess, and being present with a family during their hardest moments. Offering time, compassion, and consistency mattered far more than any single outcome.

She shared that sometimes showing up is the blessing. We're called to serve with obedience, not with expectations. And while we may never fully see the results of our efforts, the greatest outcome is that families and seniors leave knowing they are seen, cared for, and loved.

That is the heart of Hearts With A Mission and the legacy our volunteers leave behind, one act of presence at a time.



### Puzzles and Pie

Our seniors gathered for fellowship, eating pie, and working on puzzles together.”



JOIN US  
**2026 Events**

CHRISTIAN RECORDING ARTIST  
 AND AMERICAN IDOL FINALIST

Worship Night with  
**Phil Stacey**

**APRIL**  
 15, 16, 17, 18  
 See page 5



**May 2**

**Superhero Fun Run**  
 Rogue Valley State Park  
 Half Marathon | 10K | 5K | 1 Mile



Scan to sign up for Superhero Run

**September 26**  
**HWAM Annual Auction**



Scan for more information



**HEARTS  
 WITH A  
 MISSION**

hwam.org | 541-646-7385

A COMMUNITY WITH HEART

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	PO Box 2245, Roseburg, OR 97470
Coos County	PO Box 626 North Bend, OR 97459