



HEARTS —WITH-A— MISSION

A Community With Heart

SUMMER 2025



Shout Out to



A big thank you to Lithia & Driveway for hosting a wonderful luncheon and for the generous donation. Your support of our seniors and volunteers made this a day to remember!



Thank you to Stan Goodell for his incredible effort in the 2025 Superhero Run! His team of amazing volunteers and work on the course was nothing short of spectacular.



A heartfelt thanks to the Warriors from MTN Church for volunteering once again at the Superhero Run!

We are so grateful for your unwavering support and commitment to our cause.



Thank you to the Medford Rogues Baseball Club for supporting us and creating a memorable night for our youth. We had a great time!



Update from HWAM

Dear Friends,

As we enter the summer season, we see consistent progress. This seasonal shift reflects a broader pattern of steady growth in the natural world and within the programs at Hearts With A Mission.

As growth occurs in God's creation, our programs show measurable development. This progress is directly linked to the continued support of our volunteers and donors. Your engagement is evidence of investment, seen clearly through expanding our services and outreach across our communities.

One example is our Hearts for Seniors Program, which assists isolated seniors aged 65 and older. Staff and volunteers have provided home visits, yard care, transportation, and grocery support, helping meet essential needs and reduce isolation. These simple but impactful actions offer stability and connection to those who often live alone with limited resources.

Many seniors have shared that the expectation of regular companionship has improved their overall outlook. Notably, one-third of those we serve report having no emergency contact, underscoring the importance of this program and the critical role our volunteers play in creating support systems that fulfill these needs.

This program's growth points to a rising need for connection and support among older adults. Every interaction helps improve well-being and reflects the value of your contribution. As I watch the Hearts for Seniors program and witness our broader mission, I celebrate the relationships built, connections made, and the lives shown compassion and hope for a better future. We recently launched Hearts for Seniors in all the counties we serve.

Thank you for being part of this effort. Your continued support helps drive sustainable impact, and we look forward to further growth in the months ahead.

With gratitude,



Kevin Lamson,
Executive Director



All of Hearts got to enjoy a night of fellowship in June. It was such a gift getting to connect with our people from all counties, as well as youth from our programs. A special thank you to Lynn and Gary Glass for providing dinner for our whole gang!



Lithia & Driveway host a luncheon for seniors

Lesley Fargason, HFS Case Manager

From the moment guests arrived, the event radiated warmth and care. A gentleman dressed in a tuxedo coat greeted each senior at the curb, lending a helping hand and setting a gracious, welcoming tone for the afternoon.

Inside, the atmosphere was festive and filled with joy. Guests enjoyed a lively photo booth and the opportunity to create their own flower bouquets—charming, personal keepsakes to remember the day. A delicious lunch brought everyone together over great food and enjoyable conversation.

Attendees also had the chance to learn about helpful organizations for seniors, upcoming events and ways to stay involved in the community. One especially touching moment came when a senior shared that it was the happiest she had felt in the past five years. A powerful reminder of the importance of connection and community. Another said, "I felt like I was at a Red Carpet Event."

We thank the great team at Lithia & Driveway for organizing and hosting this event that brought people together and left a lasting impression.

Expanding Hearts to Serve Seniors

Colleen Padilla, SFFC/HFS Director, Josephine County

Our hearts are full as we expand our Hearts for Seniors program from Jackson County to serve more isolated seniors, 65 and older living independently in Josephine, Lincoln, Coos, and Klamath counties. In Josephine County, nine senior clients living in Grants Pass, Merlin, Cave Junction, Takilma, Selma, and O'Brien were established in just six weeks. Meanwhile eight compassionate and generous volunteers have already trained to come alongside and provide individualized companion care and special project assistance.

Gena (pictured) has been enjoying a weekly visit and also enjoys a home cooked microwaveable meal now and then, which was prepared by yet another generous volunteer in Jackson County.



Carol was recently matched with a local volunteer who will provide rides to critical appointments

after her car's transmission went out. Yet another disabled senior in rural Josephine County shared that she has hope for better things to come after several visits with much needed groceries and supplies.

Whether through meals, rides to appointments, delivering groceries, building a ramp or chatting over a cup of coffee, the heart of the matter is that together we are giving hope to many with practical help, opportunity, and personal relationship.

Maybe you know a heart that needs hope, or you want to be that heart that gives hope. We are ready to hear from you and get to work on our next assignment!

Visit Hearts for Seniors to refer a senior friend or apply to be a volunteer, find your local chapter at hwam.org.



Colleen Padilla



Sowing seeds of love

Contributed by James and Janelle Wilson

Our opportunity to grow came in the form of a 17 year old youth needing a temporary place to stay. Matthew came into our lives over 4 years ago. We were a brand new Safe Families Host family and had gotten an HWAM Safe Families email with the need that a 17 year old youth living at the HWAM youth shelter needed a place to live as he was about to turn 18 years old and couldn't stay in the youth shelter anymore.

Matthew joined our family the day before he turned 18 and our lives changed forever in the best possible way. Long story short, we now consider Matthew our son and he is part of our family. We have family holidays together, family trips, and Matthew knows he is loved and cared for and that we are just a phone call or visit away.

While living at the TLP house Matthew met Shay, and while she didn't care for him at first, after they had both moved out of the TLP program they reconnected. A couple of years later, with the help of HWAM staff and volunteers, we were able to help them have an amazing wedding and now they are expecting their first baby, a little girl. Now we get to experience being grandparents!

So while we witnessed Matthew grow and change and become an amazing young man who has a stable job, car, home, sweet and beautiful wife, and about to be a father; we also experienced immeasurable growth and change. Our capacity to love has grown substantially and our family has grown even further with the wonderful addition of Shay and a new baby on the way. Matthew needed love, support, and investment into his life and we had no idea that by offering love and our home that we would be the ones grateful beyond measure for the joy and love that Matthew, Shay, and soon to join baby bring to our lives.



Planting seeds of hope

Karen Alexander, Community Engagement Coordinator

At Hearts With A Mission, we work hard to create a place where teens feel safe, supported, and cared for—no matter what they've been through. When a young person walks through our doors, they're not just getting a bed for the night. They're stepping into a home where people show up every day with love, patience, and a belief in their potential.

Life at the shelter is filled with routines and moments that build confidence and independence. Teens help plan meals, learn to cook, keep their space clean, and build skills like budgeting and job hunting. These everyday things may seem small, but they're the building blocks for a more stable future. Staff are always close by to offer support, talk through problems, and guide teens through life's ups and downs.

More than anything, we make sure every teen knows they're not alone. We offer consistent love—real, unconditional love that doesn't give up. It's in the way we listen, the way we cheer them on, and the way we gently challenge them to grow.

This summer, some of our teens got to go on an Adventure Therapy trip—hiking and even rock climbing. For many, it was their first time doing anything like that. They pushed past fears, encouraged each other, and came back with a new sense of strength.

At Hearts With A Mission, healing happens every day—in quiet conversations, shared meals, and the simple act of being there. This is a place where hope takes root.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO MADE OUR SUPERHERO RUN POSSIBLE!



A Special Thank You to First Community Credit Union

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to First Community Credit Union for being such an incredible community partner to HWAM over the years.



HEARTS WITH A MISSION SUPERHERO RUN

Superhero Run Recap

Megan Jiles, Events and Volunteer Coordinator

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made the Superhero Run such a meaningful success.

From toddlers just finding their footsteps to a remarkable 94-year-old participant, it was truly inspiring to see our community come together in support of our mission.

Watching smiles light up faces and spirits unite, reminded us why we do what we do.

With nearly 100 volunteers by our side, none of this would have been possible without you. THANK YOU for helping create such a special day. We can't wait to share another unforgettable event with you next year!

Mark your calendars for May 2nd, 2026!



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Stephanie Linseisen, Coordinator, Coos County

Brenda's days felt endless, each one blurring into the next. With five young children needing her nearly every second, her energy wore thin. She just needed a pause to catch her breath, to rest, to feel like herself again. The lack of sleep was taking its toll, leaving her drained and discouraged.

Then came an unexpected family change—one that hit like a wave. It knocked her off balance. Thankfully a friend connected Brenda to Safe Families of Coos County.



They recognized how desperately she needed a chance to rest and take a break. They soon connected her to the perfect family who would host her kids for a night allowing her to get some rest and have a chance to process her situation.

That little break gave Brenda a respite and the energy to continue caring for her kids. This support was so helpful for Brenda that the Host Family offered to be available to host her kids whenever she needed a break. Safe Families also found a Family Friend to be a listening ear for her, taking so much stress off of her, and giving her an adult to connect with as she processed life.

While her circumstances haven't changed, Brenda no longer feels alone and that makes all the difference. She also knows that when she absolutely needs a break, a chance to rest, or just a friend to talk to, she just needs to call Safe Families.

Leadership gathering

Brent Dumler, Coordinator, Lincoln County

Our recent case managers team leadership retreat was a resounding success, offering a valuable blend of professional development, team building, and fun. A core focus of the retreat was a review of our foundational core values: radical hospitality, intentional compassion, and disruptive generosity. These values were explored as guiding principles for our work and interactions.

"It was so great to be together in person!"

A significant portion of our time was dedicated to engaging and interactive group activities rooted in the 6 Types of Working Genius method. These activities were designed to help each team member discover their natural gifts and explore ways to collectively thrive at work. It was inspiring to see everyone participate and learn more about each other's unique strengths.



Lincoln County Team L to R: Brent Dumler, Jackie Hubble, Alemay Schones, Marisa Hayner, and Marti Smith.

The whole team made it over for the meetings, with the exception of Marisa who is out on maternity leave. Congratulations Marisa!

Beyond the structured activities, a major highlight was the opportunity for team members to finally meet in person. After countless Zoom interactions, being able to connect face-to-face fostered stronger relationships and a deeper understanding among colleagues. This valuable time together truly allowed us to share important work tools, get to know each other on a more personal level, and simply have fun.

A Dad's journey

*Bethany Holmes, SFFC/HFS Regional Director
Klamath, Coos, Lincoln and Douglas Counties*

When Hearts With a Mission (HWAM) first met Larry, he was overwhelmed and broken. He had lost part of his left leg, several toes on his right foot, his job, and now faced raising twin toddlers alone. His utilities had been shut off, and he was barely hanging on.

Larry often called HWAM—sometimes for help, other times just for a kind voice. One day, a creditor called: his unpaid bill had tripled, and he had 30 days to pay or lose his home. The HWAM team knew this was beyond them. They prayed—and called Theresa, a retired attorney and dedicated volunteer.

Theresa met with Larry, reviewed the paperwork, and sat beside him as he made the difficult return call. Thanks to her help, a 30-day extension was granted. Afterward, she prayed with Larry and shared how her own husband had also lost a leg.

“How is he... inside?” Larry asked through tears.

Theresa was honest about the struggles, but also shared how God’s love carried them through. In that moment, something changed in Larry. He felt peace and a spark of hope.



Larry with the loves of his life, his twins.

Despite the extension, solutions remained out of reach. But Larry’s spirit stayed strong. When Theresa returned later, Larry smiled and pointed upward: “God’s got this.”

Then, just before the deadline, Theresa received a call. A stranger—moved by a nudge they couldn’t explain—wanted to donate to someone in crisis.

She knew exactly who needed help.

Because of that unexpected gift, Larry and his children remained in their home.

Hope was restored. Faith rekindled. A miracle witnessed—not just by Larry, but by everyone who walked the journey with him.

Children *SAFE* Families *TOGETHER*

Growing skills and community

Nancy wears many hats, and as the Skills Trainer for our Transitional Living Program (TLP), she brings her talents into the lives of the 18–21-year-old residents in meaningful ways.

Two of her greatest passions—gardening and cooking—have recently blossomed into a beautiful project right in the TLP backyard. This spring, Nancy created a vibrant garden filled with lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, beans, peppers, and a variety of fresh herbs. She’s hopeful



that this labor of love will lead to a bountiful harvest for the entire HWAM community to enjoy.

But for Nancy, it’s about more than just the food. She’s been working side by side with TLP residents—planting, watering, and teaching them how to use the garden’s produce and herbs in their everyday cooking. The garden has become both a classroom and a gathering place, where residents learn valuable life skills and discover the joy of growing their own food.

One of Nancy’s favorite moments is when a resident asks, “Can we go get some lettuce or herbs from the garden?” It always brings a smile to her face.

Through this hands-on experience, Nancy hopes to show the residents that gardening is more than just planting seeds—it’s about patience, care, and the reward that comes from watching something flourish.

Upcoming Events



JULY 14 - JULY 18

If you are in Klamath, Coos, or Lincoln Counties, keep your eyes open for Summer Brewsday.



Please support our local business partners!

Save the Date!

Endless Summer Benefit Auction SEPTEMBER 27

Go to our website hwam.org or scan for more information

Presented by
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Mailing Info
here



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hwam.org | 541-646-7385

HEARTS WITH A MISSION TOGETHER WITH YOU

A COMMUNITY WITH HEART

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
Coos County	PO Box 626 North Bend, OR 97459

