



HEARTS —WITH-A— MISSION

Together With You

WINTER 2024





Thank you Pizza Schmizza

For years, Pizza Schmizza has donated meals for our youth, and has been an incredible community partner!



At the Story in Ashland

We were thrilled at the opportunity to share and connect with those who attend The Story. We are excited to partner with so many of them as volunteers.



Thank you Full Leaf Tea Company!

Full Leaf Tea Company has been a wonderful partner to HWAM. Their generosity and support has blessed us in so many ways.



A Heartfelt Thank You

to everyone who donated and volunteered their time, talents and treasures this past holiday season!

Message from our Board President



Fifteen years ago, I read an article about a guy named Kevin Lamson who was going to build a shelter for homeless youth. I thought to myself, "Hmm, that name sounds familiar, so I called the number, 'is this the Kevin Lamson I knew from back when?'" The voice replied, "Yep!" And that is how I got started volunteering with Hearts with a Mission.

My involvement with Hearts with a Mission was initially through small acts of volunteering such as providing meals, clothes, and hygiene items, and gradually taking on more significant roles like organizing fundraisers and committing to monthly meals at the youth shelter.

Every couple of months Kevin would ask if I was interested in being on the Board. To which I would reply, "Nope, not yet, have my hands full with other things." I put him off for several years until I finally had a "Jonah in the whale" situation.

It had been on my heart to do more for HWAM. Still, I kept pushing it aside, "God, I am not ready to take this on yet," until finally, God told me, "It's time." I found myself saying, "Yes." Then, having a panic attack, wondering where those words came from!! They came from God, and my heart opened to want to do more for HWAM.

In the six years of being a Board Member and two years as President, I have never known such a feeling of love and satisfaction, knowing that I am a small part of an organization that is making a tremendous impact on our community.

To hear the stories of the youth coming in, and later, hear about the impact HWAM is making in their lives now, makes me want to strive harder and do more with HWAM.

I am always humbled in the presence of the staff members and everyone involved with HWAM. It is an incredibly hard job that pierces your heart and hurts your soul to hear the stories, try to heal the wounds, unify families, and fix the broken pieces. I see servant's hearts in the compassion and care that everyone at HWAM brings to work every day.

God has opened many doors and opportunities to help this organization expand and make a difference in our community.

Our mission extends beyond providing shelter; we offer programs for Transitional Living (ages 18-21), Independent Living (ages 14-24), Safe Families for Children (ages 0-24) and now, Hearts For Seniors (65+).

HWAM has a Heart for this community, and I am so proud to be involved and in some small way, make a difference. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Together with you,

Darcey Mann-Self



Darcey Mann-Self,
Board President, HWAM

A Warm Reunion

Ten years ago, Randi found solace at Hearts With A Mission's youth shelter in high school. The caring staff, including Dannie, Chelsea, and Jessie, supported her throughout her stay, keeping her on the right path. Today she remembers learning to play the piano and other experiences she had there. She was introduced to a world of compassion through community service, including serving meals at the mission and engaging in various service projects that the youth participated in.

Randi recently led her church group in crafting and donating blankets to HWAM. Randi had mentioned her desire for a personal blanket during her time at Hearts With A Mission. The group decided to create and donate warm blankets to the shelter. With donated materials, they assembled cozy no-sew blankets. When Randi came back to the shelter to deliver the blankets, she was greeted by both Dannie and Chelsea, staff members who were so influential to her as a young adult.

At the TLP house, which was the youth shelter in her day, she saw the familiar piano and memories

flooded back. Randi realized that the people we meet leave a lasting impact on our hearts.

Randi's return to Hearts With A Mission, not as a resident but as a benefactor, beautifully portrays the cycle of giving and receiving.

It reinforces the shelter's mission and exemplifies the enduring connections and transformations that occur within its walls. This heartwarming reunion underscores the strength of the community and the cycle of support that continues to thrive.



Dannie, Randi, and Chelsea



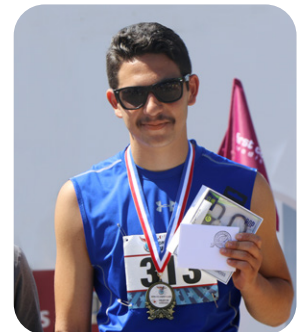
Jessica, Esmail, and Tony in Grants Pass

Esmail has recently begun a significant new chapter, having graduated from Hearts With A Mission's Transitional Living Program (TLP) and moved into his first apartment. His engagement with Hearts spanned several programs, including the Independent Living Program (ILP), Shelter, and Safe Families for Children (SFFC), crucial in his development over seven years. Facing challenging family circumstances initially, Esmail found growth and empowerment through the support and experiences these programs offered.

Graduating with cherished memories

Reflecting on his journey, Esmail says, "I love this place, and my hopes and dreams have grown here. It has shaped me into the person I am today." He is grateful for the supportive community and continuous encouragement that helped him become more social and outgoing.

Among his achievements, Esmail recalls the support from Amanda leading to his high school graduation and the excitement of winning his age group in his first running race, encouraged by Josh and Dane, which sparked his passion for running.



Esmail's journey underscores the impact of support, love, and self-belief. His participation in Hearts' diverse programs was pivotal to his success. As he embarks on this phase of independence, we celebrate the remarkable person he is and look forward to his bright future. Congratulations, Esmail, on your achievements and the journey ahead.



Stephanie, Justin, and daughter, Olivia



Safe Families for Children

We are excited to announce the launch of a new chapter in Coos County!

Safe Families is excited to announce the addition of a new chapter in Coos County. We've hired two amazing staff, Stephanie Linseisen as our chapter Director, and Jessie Barnard as the Youth and Family Case Manager. These two women possess unique work experience and knowledge of the area that will equip them as they develop a strong Safe Families program.

Stephanie comes with ten years of working in child welfare. "After ten years working in the child welfare system, I am thankful to have a change of environment that is allowing me to live out my personal call to care for vulnerable

children and families with an organization that is also fueled by faith. I am originally from Oklahoma but spent eight years doing ministry in Kentucky and then moved to the Oregon coast in April 2022. My husband is a pastor so much of our time is spent within the local church. We have one daughter, Olivia, who is four years old, who also keeps us busy. Our family has fallen in love with the coast quickly and we spend most of our free days exploring new places to hike, kayak, and enjoy. I am so excited to bring Safe Families to this area and cannot wait to see the way the Lord will move!

Family Case manager, Jessie Bernard, was born and raised in Coos County and says, "Coos County is a special place where residents truly care for and look out for one another. We know there is a great need here, as much of the community is faced with poverty, mental health challenges, and lack of resources including affordable housing and childcare, all of which are more difficult for those in isolation. We see how the Safe Families program can help address those needs and continue to create community and positive social connections in this special place."

Coos County hosted their first faith forum in January. They spent the evening enjoying a meal together, sharing the vision of Safe Families, and exploring how local churches can join our ministry. We had over forty individuals and nine churches represented!



Stephanie and Jessie at the Faith Forum



The Faith Forum introduced Safe Families in Coos County



Safe Families for Children in Douglas County is having a Fiesta!

Douglas County SFFC is gearing up for a Fiesta celebration! This festive event is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, in Roseburg.

Liberty Dryden and Lola Cornish have been working to ensure the evening is a success. They invite the community to come and enjoy a taco and nacho bar while learning about Safe Families and the various opportunities available in Douglas County.

For those interested in participating, please reach out to Liberty at liberty.d@hwam.org.



Safe Families for Children

With a little help and a little motivation...

Heather Siewell, Safe Families for Children Jackson County Director

Noah's life took an unexpected turn due to his mother's struggles with addiction, leading him to Oregon to stay with his aunt. Unfortunately, his aunt's mental instability presented further challenges. Thankfully, his grandmother, unable to house him herself, referred him to Safe Families for Children (SFFC).

Safe Families was able to connect Noah with Jim and Janice, a local SFFC Host Home. Janice said "Noah brings so much joy and laughter into our home. He has introduced us to new foods as he is an excellent cook." Together, they embarked on new adventures, such as snowshoeing, and enjoyed sharing diverse movie tastes, enriching each other's lives.

With the support of SFFC, Noah achieved significant milestones, including obtaining his Driver's Permit and prioritizing his education, which had been disrupted. He made substantial progress towards his GED through Project Youth + and aimed to transition to the Transitional Living Program while maintaining his bond with his host family. SFFC's assistance extended to crucial healthcare needs, including orthodontic, dental, optometric, and primary care.

The collective efforts of the SFFC community have been instrumental in Noah's journey. Heather, the SFFC Director, described Noah as "motivated, funny, and thankful," highlighting his determination and positive spirit.

Noah is still in contact with his family. His journey is a testament to the power of love, care, and support to changes lives.

"My mom on drugs is a very different mom than my mom off drugs."
~ Noah



Jim took Noah snowshoeing which was a first for both of them and they had a great time together.



Lincoln County

Lincoln County SFFC has created new outreach programs geared to support young people in their county.



Josephine County

Our Josephine County SFFC was blessed by Dutch Bros' Giveback Day.



Klamath County

Shout out to Klamath County businesses who have stepped up in a big way to support SFFC.



Independent Living Program

ILP loved having the opportunity to go ice skating in Ashland.



A heart for seniors

Hearts for Seniors (HFS) had an amazing first year of service! In December, thanks to the generosity of donations and the dedication of countless volunteers, over 86 seniors received Christmas cards and presents. The overwhelming support we received was echoed by our seniors, who were deeply touched by the outpouring of kindness.

First, to ensure that each senior's Christmas wish was fulfilled, we had a group from Procure Software volunteer to call them and gather their gift preferences. Despite everyone's best efforts, we were still a few gifts short of completing the lists and went to the store to see what we could find. However, as we were about to check out at the store, we received a call informing us that another delivery of donated gifts had arrived. To our amazement, everything we had put in our shopping cart was waiting for us in our office. It was a true Christmas miracle, and we were grateful for the perfect timing and specificity of the donations.

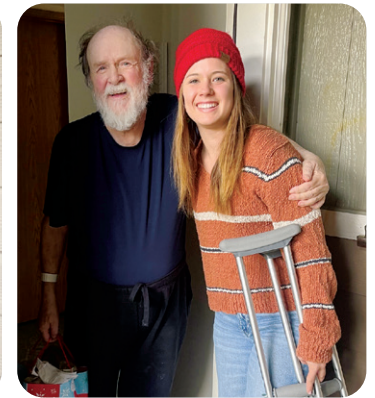


Next, over 30 people came together to organize and wrap the gifts, while a dozen more volunteers helped deliver them to seniors across various areas. We had two volunteer groups and two schools hand-write notes to each senior, letting them know they were cared for. The response from the seniors was overwhelming, with many calling us in tears

to express their gratitude. Some shared that if it weren't for the gifts they received from us, they would not have received anything at all. It was

heartwarming to hear their joy and appreciation, such as when they mentioned that the blanket we gave them was their favorite color and how did we know?

This experience was incredibly special, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous community for making the first year of Hearts for Seniors such a success. By simply showing up and caring, we are changing hearts and lives. Our presence reminds seniors that they are seen and supported. We are excited to continue growing and helping in year two of Hearts for Seniors, and we can't wait to see what the future holds.



Answering the call(s)



Behind the scenes, the HFS staff has used a quick visual tool to show the growing list of seniors and their needs. Lesley Fargason, HFS Care Coordinator notes, "Every week we receive dozens of calls requesting help for seniors. We usually have at least 20 seniors who are not yet matched with a volunteer. Volunteering one or two hours a week can make a huge impact in the life of a senior. We also have plenty of one-time volunteer opportunities such as helping with yard work, making and delivering a meal, or giving a ride to an appointment or grocery store." If you would like to get involved email us at seniors@hwam.org.

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What an unforgettable evening we had at last year's 2023 Benefit Auction! Thank you to the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who made the event a success!

PRESENTED BY
STEPHANIE JARRARD HOME LOAN TEAM | EMPIRE HOME LOANS INC

The Fabulous Fifties

17TH ANNUAL
HEARTS WITH A MISSION
BENEFIT AUCTION

JOIN US
Saturday
Sept 28, 2024
At the Expo

hwam.org
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**SATURDAY
APRIL 27**

**SUPERHERO
RUN!**

HALF MARATHON
10K | 5K | 1 MILE
AT VALLEY OF THE
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Early bird
pricing thru
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hwam.org



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A Community With Heart

HEARTS WITH A MISSION TOGETHER WITH YOU

FAITH | HOPE | LOVE | SERVICE | COMMUNITY



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 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 |

