



July 2019

VOL. 15, No. 7

Howard Street Charter School



A Rendering of The New Home Of Howard Street Charter School at 625 Marion Street Northeast

Rich Duncan Construction broke ground on the future home of Howard Street Charter School on May 28 th , 2019.

Howard Street Charter School seeks to provide an innovative public education balancing the humanities, language arts, science, and technology. After 22 years at its current location, Howard Street will be moving to its new downtown location in February of 2020. Howard Street Charter School was founded in 1997 as part of the South Salem High School building and was the first charter school to be added to the Salem-Keizer School District.

The new central location will allow Howard Street to be close to public transportation and therefore allow easier access for families of those attending the school. The new location will have many firsts for Howard Street, including a dedicated science lab and its very own music classroom. Some features include solar panels, plenty of glass that allows for natural daylight, and a large common area that includes a stunning bleacher stair for gatherings.

Rich Duncan Construction, Inc. is very privileged to be their builder of choice!



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Marion County Fair Promises Family Fun and Entertainment



From Carnival Rides to Concerts to Rough Stock Rodeo, the Marion County Fair Offers Family-Friendly Fun for Everyone!

The annual Marion County Fair is just around the corner and kicks off an extended weekend of family fun from July 11-14 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Friday and Saturday nights will feature two big nights of entertainment featuring national country performers Restless Heart and Jerrod Niemann.

Each day of the fair offers family-friendly activities with something for everyone!

Thursday, July 11, is Honor Day. Seniors, veterans, and military service members enjoy free admission all day. A special tribute to veterans takes place on the main stage at 5:30 p.m. Stop by the Real Heroes area to learn about fire, police, and military services.

Friday, July 12, is an Awesome Day. The first 3,000 fairgoers wearing an Awesome 3000 t-shirt will get in for free! Carnival rides, inflatables, and more will keep you busy all day and ready to hear country legends Restless Heart on the main stage at 8:30 p.m.

Restless Heart, with 25 top 40 country hits and six number one hits over the past three decades, will headline Friday night on the main stage. Restless Heart has enjoyed one of the most successful careers in country music history, delighting fans with blockbuster songs that are now considered country classics.

Agriculture Day is every day at the fair, but especially Saturday! Rodeo fans – Wild West Events is back – with their action packed rough stock challenge on Saturday night, followed by Jerrod Neimann live on the main stage.

Niemann's 2018 hit "Old Glory" will fit right in with the Real Heroes area at the fair. He describes the ballad as, "One-hundred percent heart, zero percent politics." A veteran of multiple USO Tours, Niemann said he knew how much those heroes were willing to sacrifice in the name of duty – from missing their children's first steps and soccer games to holidays, anniversaries, and so much more.

See Marion County Fair, Page 2

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Special Quarterly Pullout Section that focuses on the people, programs, and organizations that help our communities thrive. Page 11

Marion County Fair

From Cover

Family Day is Sunday, July 14. Bring the kids to see all the costumed characters and critters, hands on activities through STEM projects, Home Depot kids build, MakeyMakey, and more. See your friends and neighbors performing on the main stage, catch a puppet show, watch a Lego LIVE build contest, and don't miss the all new Trashion Show featuring recycled/reused garments created from items that would otherwise have been thrown in the trash. This year we're excited to add the Salem Ukulele Orchestra to our entertainment line-up. They'll hit the main stage throughout the day on Sunday and will present two ukulele classes on Sunday afternoon. No ukulele, no problem – there will be free ukuleles to use during each class.

The number one attraction at the fair is

still the animals. The barns will be bursting with youth animal projects from rabbits and chickens to swine, goats, sheep, beef, and dairy – and everything in between. The petting zoo is popular for kids of all ages to get their hands on adorable critters. Save time for attractions such as Pirates Parrot Show, featuring a Pirate Ship stage; Barnyard Adventures for the little ones; and Puzzlemania with its traditional, custom, and giant puzzles and games.

Funtastic Shows carnival offers presale discount wristbands online now. Inflatables and human water balls are always popular, as are the amazing food booths and great shopping throughout the commercial exhibit areas.


Plan to stay for the day – you'll need hours to see and do all there is at the fair.

Tickets are on sale now at www.marioncountyfair.net and entertainment and parking are complimentary with paid fair admission. For up to date information on activities and entertainment follow us on Facebook at (facebook.com/MarionCountyFair/) We can't wait to see you at the Marion County Fair!.




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July 5: Greeters Networking
Hosted By: Holiday Inn Salem

July 9: Chamber Business Women's 2019 Summer Social

July 10: Ribbon Cutting:
Willamette Humane Society

July 11: Public Policy

July 12: Greeters Networking
Hosted By: Marion County Fair

July 16: SYP: Third Tuesday

July 18: Ribbon Cutting:
World Financial Group

July 19: Greeters Networking
Hosted By: Oregon Marketing Group

July 23: Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening: MicroEnterprise Resources Initiatives & Training (MERIT)

July 26: Greeters Networking: Advantage Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC

July 26: Ribbon Cutting: JPI Insurance Solutions

Foundations Support Willamette Art Center Outreach to Salem Schools

At a recent dedication of an amazing student-created sculptural installation at Adam Stephens Middle School, a number of students shared their observations about their creative process and product. Art was described as a way to “get away from the stress of school,” and as a way to express students’ interests, beliefs and talents. One comment stood out above many, though, as an advanced art student described a struggle that she faced with her clay project as a metaphor for a life lesson. “A few pieces fell off,” she said, “but that is like life. Things fall apart, but you just learn from it and move on.”

Although the concept of leaving a legacy is often associated with those planning for their later years, in three Salem-Keizer schools this spring, the Willamette Art Center worked with students and their teachers to carry out Legacy Sculpture Projects. The projects, intended to build long-term pride and student ownership in their schools, involved guiding students through the creation of stacked clay sculptural pieces mounted in columns, a concept based on Native American carved wooden statues. These projects were funded by the William S. Walton Charitable Foundation, the Salem Foundation (Clifford J. and Grace M. Taylor Fund) and the Willamette Art Center.

Adam Stephens Middle School

Adam Stephens Middle School Teacher Gladys Jacobsen was the first Salem middle school teacher to sign on to the William S. Walton-funded middle school grant project. Jacobsen and Pam Prosise, Willamette Art Center’s Outreach Coordinator, developed a theme for the school installation, which was to be created as a display in two alcoves of the Stephens library. Jacobsen’s art students sketched out their individual pieces that reflected self, family or community using rectangular, cylindrical or ovoid shapes. They then practiced working with Soldate, a special sculptural clay, creating smaller cylindrical connecting pieces.

Nikki Svarvaruud, Willamette Art Center’s Technician and instructor, joined Jacobsen and Prosise at Stephens to instruct each student in how to build a core shape. Students worked with pinch-pot and slab forms to develop the foundation for their pieces, then decorated using a variety of familiar and new grant-funded tools such as texture mats, cutting tools and molds. Once pieces were bisque fired, the first of two kiln processes through which clay is taken, students chose Mason stains in their school colors to stain their pieces. Finally, they coated them with a clear glaze to make them shiny after the glaze firing.

Because of the unique location of the sculptures, which were to be mounted atop library shelves, Prosise and Jacobsen determined that two specialized welded steel stands were required. Despite a short timeline, local Salem business Martin Metal Fabricators not only completed the project in time, but also donated almost half of the cost of the stands.

On Thursday, June 6, students dedicated the Adam Stephens Legacy sculptures. Students shared writing from thoughtful reflections on their sculpture and process, and staff from Salem-Keizer schools and the Willamette Art Center were in attendance. After students added a few final pieces to the sculptures, the two pieces were unveiled to enthusiastic applause.

Claggett Creek Middle School

Claggett Creek art teacher Valerie Duncan was eager for an engaging end-of-the-year project for her 7th and 8th grade ceramics students. Planning around her two classes focused on creating group sculptural elements. Like Stephens Middle School students, Duncan’s young artists designed sculptural elements for self, family or community, then chose and joined groups of three to four to develop a group vision for each of the 18 pieces. This project was also funded by the Walton Foundation.

Duncan’s class sculptural elements were created on a larger scale than those at Stephens because the final sculpture was to be permanently displayed in the art room, stacked and affixed to the wall. The challenge of building the shapes to fit this unique configuration required problem-solving as students wrestled with large clay slabs and the challenge of supporting the structures as they were built. Teams collaborated to determine the designs they would add, and to decide whether they would create the designs by embedding pattern into the shapes with carving or texture tools or by attaching pieces made with slabs or molds.

Duncan’s students chose glazes from a limited color palette, chosen to tie the sculptural pieces together. The pieces were glazed before being fired, so went through a single firing process. Once the elements were fired, students arranged the pieces into two tall columns based on size, shape and color, and the sculptures were temporarily installed into “performance pieces” for photographs. The two tall sculptures were then divided into four shorter designs for permanent display.

On Monday, June 10 students celebrated their work with shared self-reflections and a dedication of the installation.

See Willamette Art Center, Page 5





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Willamette Art Center

From Page 3

Bush Elementary School

Bush Elementary School fourth graders, with funding from the Salem Foundation and with support from the South East Salem Neighborhood Association, also created sculptural elements for a Legacy Sculpture. Once installed next fall in Bush Elementary School, students will dedicate the sculpture and celebrate the beginning of their last year at Bush.

As part of the fourth-grade curriculum, Bush students studied Native American tribes of North America, and were familiar with carved totems that represented some individuals of certain tribes. After a discussion with Prosisie of the similarities and differences between Native American totems and a Legacy Sculpture, students completed research at home to learn more about the origins of their families.

Fourth grade students reported their research about where their ancestors originated and symbols that their family members associated with those places. Cooperative Learning Groups were then created to provide students with roles in their group work, and engineers, designers, sculptors and detailers made a plan for their sculptural element.

Due to time constraints, each group was provided a basic clay shape, based on their design. Like the Claggett Creek installation, the final sculpture will be stacked against and attached to a wall in the school's lobby. Students worked together to create symbols such as a black bear for California, a salmon to represent Oregon, a monarch butterfly for Mexico and an armadillo to symbolize Texas. In addition, smaller connecting pieces were crafted to represent less-common origins, such as Ireland, represented by a shamrock, and Russia, for which a Star of David was carved.

Although creating large clay pieces would be a challenge for almost any elementary student, Bush students have benefitted from art instruction and practice, including working with clay, for many years. Through many years of volunteer art program run by two dedicated women, known by students as "Miss Jill" and "Miss Cheryl", fourth graders have developed strong problem-solving and clay skills. Once their pieces were complete, they were taken to the Willamette Art Center for Svarverud to fire.

Glazing of the Bush Legacy pieces provided a stimulating end-of-the-year activity for students, as groups re-formed to choose from a color palette and plan out their approach. On Friday, June 7, fourth graders spent their afternoon with stain, glazes and brushes finishing their pieces. After a summer of anticipation, a family night for the Bush community will include the installation of their sculptures. In the future, the North East Neighborhood Association, which



engaged in the project planning process, hopes to have the sculpture duplicated in wood and mounted as an outdoor addition to their gazebo project at Aldrich park next to Bush Elementary.

The Legacy

The Willamette Art Center, like the Salem Foundation and the William S. Walton Charitable Foundation, is a non-profit organization committed to promoting the arts in the Salem Community. School Outreach is just one facet of the art center's mission. The art center offers scholarships for adults and children to take classes in the studio in order to ensure that lower-income community members have access to creative expression, the satisfaction that comes with producing art, and a supportive arts community.

Many years ago, a teacher in Silverton who worked with an alternative high school program was talking with a young man who had helped with a school Habitat for Humanity "Youth Build." The program's students had put up walls, strung wiring, and nailed a roof onto a house that was to become home for one of their classmates. That young man expressed to his former teacher the emotion that he felt every time he passed that home. He spoke of pride in his work, and of how he would remind himself "I did that." The connection that was built between students, now adults, and that structure, and, potentially, the respect that they developed for buildings and builders, provided excellent life lessons and perhaps even a deterrent to destructive behavior.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the Willamette Art Center staff in carrying out these Legacy Sculpture projects was the fear in the community that public installations would be vandalized. Ironically, one of the most logical ways to discourage vandalism is building ownership and pride in accomplishment. The Salem Foundation, the William S. Walton Charitable Foundation and the Willamette Art Center understand that the long-term potential for reward far outweighs the risk when students create and leave their artistic legacy in their schools in permanent clay sculpture installations. A plaque honoring the students and teachers who created these sculptures and the donors who made them possible will continue to grace each schools' walls beside the artwork for this and future generations to admire.



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According to FlexJobs.com’s marketplace report, there are now 3.9 million Americans who work at least half of their time away from an office. Fortunately, even in Salem, there are a variety of working environments to choose from. Some people find great success setting their own schedule and working from home in a relaxed environment. Others can be productive working in coffee shops or public

settings. However, each of these environments have drawbacks. For example, working at home can be extremely distracting. Being around the television, family, pets, etc. can be a serious impediment to productivity. Sitting in a coffee shop can be equally disrupting. If you’ve ever worked in an office, there is a strong chance that you have been subject to the confinement of a cubicle. A cubicle’s lack of natural light, compressed space, and mundane environment are all factors that can decrease happiness. All three of these options can be difficult for

employees or business owners. Fortunately, a new trend has emerged to alleviate these issues: coworking. Based on the goal of increased office interaction and prevention of isolation, coworking is essentially the gathering of employees, self-employed entrepreneurs, and (or) contractors in a shared working space. The idea is that people will network, bounce ideas off each other, and create a sense of community. Most coworking spaces focus on open floor plans, shared tables and common areas. This style is a gradual shift away from cubicles and isolated desks. Coworking spaces also have shared kitchen areas and conference rooms. The coworking movement encourages social interaction and helps keep staff happier. If you don’t want to work at a Starbucks, you have coworking offices right here in Salem. We’ve worked with several businesses as they begin to incorporate common areas and open floor plans into their buildings. Recently, we were involved in the sale of 960 Broadway Street, a dynamic coworking space in Salem. We are currently working on another shared working space, 280 Liberty Street, which will provide executive suites, similar to those offered at University Station in Salem. The Gray Lab and Co.Working (Co.W) are a few



other well-known coworking spaces. The only major downside to shared space is the potential for social distractions and a lack of privacy. Smart coworking spaces will also have private areas where people can make calls, work on sensitive information or simply escape from the group for a while. This way, co-workers can ensure that they are getting a manageable balance of privacy and social interaction. Look for the coworking trend to rise in popularity as businesses in different industries adapt to increase output and improve employee morale. Alex Rhoten is a Principal Broker with Coldwell Banker Commercial Mountain West Real Estate. www.CBCRE.com.

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Have you ever been to a potluck or buffet where you start out with a strong resolve to “eat healthy”? Over the course of the afternoon, facing a table full of dishes, your willpower starts to wane, and you eventually dig into Aunt Melissa’s chocolate pie. You also probably will “give in” after being offered yet another cookie. Have you had paint samples taped to your wall for months with plans to discuss with your spouse after a busy week at work? Research shows that the average person is faced with as many as 35,000 choices throughout the day. Each of those pile up and eventually wears us down. All these decisions, though maybe minor, can contribute to a condition called “decision fatigue.”

This fatigue is experienced when someone is forced to make so many choices that they become mentally exhausted. What they may not realize is that this can affect their ability to decide on important matters. Many people who work in business and (or) highly stressful careers understanding this feeling.

This core issue in decision fatigue is

willpower. Willpower is a finite energy that can (and will) run out. Therefore, it is important to conserve your energy for important decisions. Decision fatigue can severely hamstring your productivity and leave you tired and burned out. However, there are a few ways to alleviate the stress of this condition:

1. Identify what is important to you

First, you need to figure out what your priorities are. According to investor and tech entrepreneur Dave Asprey, you need to identify your goals and future vision and then have the willpower to say “no” to things that don’t align with this vision. If you focus solely on decisions that relate to you and your future, you will avoid wasting valuable time and energy on tasks that are not important. Having the strength to be selfish in these situations is vital to avoiding decision fatigue because it reduces the amount of large and small choices you must make during the day.

2. Simplify your choices

One useful strategy to avoid the fatigue of making choices through the day, is to eliminate everyday decisions with careful planning. According to Asprey, “humans make 34,997 unconscious and conscious decisions in an average day.” To reduce this number, simplify your decisions by

developing routines. This could mean meal prepping your food so you don’t have to debate whether you should spend money to buy food or make a separate lunch each day. Planning your work outfits before the week is another easy way to eliminate any indecision. Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, wears the same outfit every day to avoid making decisions. Try instituting a strict morning routine where you get up, shower, brush your teeth, etc. at the same time. This will also make your mornings less stressful.

3. Make the hardest decisions when your energy level is the highest

This may seem obvious but being well-rested and well-fed is vital to keeping your energy high. Making decisions when you are tired or hungry makes you more likely to make a mistake. For most people, mornings are the best times to make important decisions. Typically, you have less energy as the day wears on, so it is important to face your biggest challenges early and deal with smaller decisions later when your energy is lower.

This also is the case when you are asking someone else to make an important decision. If you get to them early, they are more likely to say “yes” as the day goes on they may just

defer the decision to another day or say “no” just to make it easy.

So don’t let the chocolate pie get to you and go ahead and make that paint color decision early Saturday morning.

Mary Louise VanNatta, APR, CAE is the CEO of VanNatta Public Relations, a PR, event planning and consulting firm in Salem, Oregon. prsalem.com



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ULC Monastery Nears Completion



Universal Life Church Monastery has been in the process over the years of converting a 1928 Seattle home into it's official Church rectory.

The building faces the Space Needle, and casts a shadow over I5.

During the evolution and upgrading of the church's rectory residence, they have held celebrations and numerous weddings.

The estimated completion date for the construction is August 15th.

Over the years, members of the church have celebrated the holidays with fellowship and church socials.

The design of the building has recently attracted many Seattleites who have wondered what it is, and if it flies. One thread on Reddit mentions individuals who

have attempted entry late at night, due to the rectory's lighting design.

Chaplin Freeman noted that he often has people stop and *knock on the door, asking to see the interior.*

The Universal Life Church (ULC) is a non-denominational religious organization that brings together people from all walks of life. We embrace individuals across the spiritual spectrum; anyone who wants to join our body of faith is welcome to do so. Further, the ULC is proud to open its doors to all people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or any other defining characteristic. Since the organization's founding, we've provided legal ordination to over 20 million ministers worldwide.

Become A Minister Today

The Universal Life Church Has Ordained Over 20 Million People Inclusively
www.themonastery.org
WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE.

JULY 2019

MEGA-TREND CHALLENGES:

Ron Hays

FEATURED NPO:

Gale's Lodge

FEATURED NPO:

Moving Forward Towards Success

FEATURE:

Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman

FEATURE:

NW Health & Human Services

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UNITED WAY:

"Radical Hospitality"



A monthly publication that focuses on the people, programs and organizations that help our communities thrive.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AT UNITED WAY

IN OUR MID-VALLEY REGION, WE ARE EXPERIENCING A CRISIS AROUND HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS.

In 2018, over 2,500 individuals experienced homelessness in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, including many women, families and children. We see people without shelter living on the street, but we also know there are many sleeping in cars, on a friend's couch, in unhealthy environments, or simply paying too much of their limited income on housing which cuts into available funds for food, medicine, or other basic needs. At United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, we are stepping up and responding to the need for safe, stable, affordable housing in our region through investing local dollars raised into community impact projects.

On April 6th a beautiful new home was dedicated on Turner Way in McMinnville by the MacHabitat's Women Build program. A single mom, Ember, and her two children Ava (8) and Grayson (2) now have a healthy, safe place to call home. Ember's home is the 11th to go up in Aspire, a 34-lot subdivision where neighbors are literally building their own community. A \$10,000 community impact grant from United Way helped make this home possible.

It was a long journey for their family to get to this place. Before being selected for MacHabitat's Women Build program, Ember had applied for a Habitat home three times. She worked extremely hard over the past five years to clean up her credit so that she could meet selection criteria.

Ember had been living in her parents' home, sharing a small bedroom with her children. They could not use the adjoining bathroom due to rust coming from old pipes, and the windows were infested with mold. They had

no privacy, and the children had no place to play. Medical professionals had advised Ember that Grayson's asthma was aggravated by the mold in the home and that his digestive disorders (gastroesophageal reflux disease and swallowing problems) would improve in a less stressful, healthier environment.

It's been a long-time goal of Ember's for her family to have a place of their own. She is extremely motivated to prove to her children that if you work hard enough, you can accomplish anything. In addition to being a great role model for Ava and Grayson, Ember is an inspiration to the families with whom she works at Yamhill County Head Start. In fact, Ember has been a Head Start teacher for several children in the Aspire neighborhood.

With a total budget of \$95,000 for Ember's Women Build home, our investment was leveraged nearly 1:10 by the community—impressive! Not only did the community step up with significant financial support, but 30 women gained construction skills via on-site trainings, 46 women total helped with the build, and over 1,800 volunteer hours were clocked. Ember herself put in 250 hours of "sweat equity" labor, while juggling work and kids.

United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley is committed to addressing our region's most pressing needs and investing in local organizations that have a significant and lasting community impact. Dollars raised in our region are invested back into local projects that are making a difference. We are thrilled that our community impact grant helped Ember reach her goal and we will continue to invest in projects that help people attain a safe, affordable place to call home.





WANT TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR OR ARE YOU A COMMUNITY NONPROFIT PARTNER THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF UNITED?

Send an email to Elizabeth Schrader at eschrader@unitedwaymwv.org or call (503) 363-1651.



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UNITED is a publication owned and developed by the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley. Any questions or concerns can be sent to Elizabeth Schrader at eschrader@unitedwaymwv.org or call (503) 363-1651.



United Way of the
Mid-Willamette Valley
UnitedWayMWV.org

MEGA-TREND CHALLENGES.

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS FACE SOME "MEGA-TREND" CHALLENGES.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy reports that donations for charities was down 1.7% this past year according to a recent report from "Giving USA". The report evaluates donations from corporations, foundations, bequests, and gifts from individuals. The decline lies in the gifts from individuals which was reported as down 3.4%. For United Way, that's a reduction of over \$55,000. That same report indicates that the decline in giving is uncommon, having only gone down 13 times during the past four decades.

There is concern that the tax code change may be adversely affecting giving. If this shows to be true, the impact on charities could be significant. A speculated cause of the change in tax law is an external cause. One has to reflect also on whether there are internal causes within the charitable sector that also apply: disinterest in some of the major causes due to donor fatigue, disinterest in fundraising modalities such as the proliferation of fund-raising events, apathy in the general population, and duplicity in causes.

Other external impacts might also include: the high cost of postage for direct mail, the abundance and proliferating inundation of emails, texts, tweets, and other methodologies of social contact, the decrease in disposable income due to increasing costs greater than the increase in wages such as healthcare.

It could also be just an anomaly of timing.

There is speculation but the data does not clearly show us the causes. It is data that does not teach us from a causal perspective as it comes without explanation or visible underlying rationale. However, it bears watching. Watching to see if there is a trend developing. Watching to see how individual charities are impacted. Watching to see which charities are impacted. It will also warrant watching the impact



Ron Hays
Executive Director,
United Way of the
Mid-Willamette Valley





as coupled with inflation. The impact may very well be larger than the drop in donations by individuals.

Funding for charitable organizations come from three sources: 1)

Government, 2) Earned Income (i.e. - fee for services), and 3) Philanthropic donations. The size of contribution to charitable organizations follows this same ranking with Government being the largest source of funding followed by Earned Income with donations being the smallest source of funding. A

simultaneous reduction in either of the two largest sources paired with the drop in donations can have a huge impact in the delivery of service and the survival of a charitable organization. With the deficit looming large, the amount of the government funding going to the charitable sector may pose a future challenge.

The same data which shows the drop in donations, also shows that bequests have been above 9% of total giving over the past 4 out of 5 years. Bequests greater than 9% occurred only 4 times in the 35 years prior to that. Most charitable organizations do not even focus on planned giving in a meaningful and consistent manner. Some that do when challenged by their fundraising of immediate donations defocus their long-term efforts for immediate returns. Data shows that this is probably counterproductive and short-sighted.

The report notes that there is the shift in the popularity and engagement with donor advised funds. The report indicates that it does not know the full effect of these gifts on charity in the near term but suggests that it may have impact.

United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley's leadership is acutely watching and studying the changes in philanthropy. It is

making appropriate changes in its operations and fundraising to accommodate the changes in the world. We continue in serving to make our community a better place for our people to live and grow.

In our ever-changing world it is important to stay connected with our community, to track the changes, to make impact and remain relevant it meeting the needs and challenges our community faces.

We are addressing some of our community's most pressing needs of affordable housing and homelessness. We

are continuing to provide assistance to the vulnerable within both our youth and senior populations. We are working with other charitable organizations where we contribute funds to use them in impactful ways, measuring and building upon that impact. We are diversifying revenue sources to remain stable and grow. We are encouraging more community involvement with our community to make impact through both donations and with volunteer engagement. We have embraced the move toward donor advised funds by making donor advised funds a part of the philanthropic offering of United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley. We continue to learn and have formed some strong bonds in program leadership with the Atkinson Graduate School of Management at Willamette University. We will continue to create forums for engagement with and for those who strive to improve our community.

We are vigilant in servitude to our community. We will live United and live bold.

https://www.philanthropy.com/article/Gifts-to-Charity-Dropped-17/246511?utm_source=pt&utm_medium=en&cid=pt



GALE'S LODGE

IN JANUARY 2017, THE POLK COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE (VSO) WAS OPENED TO ASSIST VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IN OBTAINING BENEFITS FROM FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.

The VSO is available to help advocate for veterans by providing navigation through the process of applying for and filing benefits claims. While the majority of Polk County's nearly 7,000 veterans are doing just fine, what quickly became evident is how many were housing insecure or homeless.

Polk County's overall population is hovering around 80,000. Of that number, there are approximately 300 unsheltered homeless individuals. Homeless veterans make up 11% of our homeless population. In 2017, our VSO assisted 254 veterans with connections to benefits and/or resources. Of that 254, 13% (33) of those seen were battling housing insecurity. At that time, there were 10 veterans who were chronically homeless, 11 who were couch-surfing or staying in short-term friend/family dwellings, and 10 who were at risk of becoming homeless within 60 days. Compounding the issue is the fact that except for a domestic violence shelter program for women, Polk County has no

overnight shelter programs at all; temporary, transitional or otherwise. We knew we had to act.

A CALL TO ACTION

In the Fall of 2017, several community meetings were held to discuss the need for a solution to the homeless veteran problem in Polk County. We realized that we have an amazing amount of resources for veterans with the glaring exception of housing assistance. The idea of having a transitional shelter at a local church was born.

With generous support from The United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, Polk County Board of Commissioners, Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs, private grants and donations, Gale's Lodge went from idea to reality. We purchased and remodeled a modular building and had it moved to the campus of Dallas United Methodist Church (DUMC). DUMC was the perfect site for this project as it serves as a site for the James 2 Community Kitchen, host Alcoholics Anonymous groups, co-dependency groups, parent education classes, and the Marion-Polk Foodshare produce distribution program. The church itself will serve as a day center for the veteran guests which will also offer a computer center for Veteran use to access

the many social service agencies who provide services to the veterans.

Gale's Lodge was named after a local Navy veteran named Gale Curruthers. He served in WW II and returned to Dallas where he was active in both the community and as a member of the DUMC. The lodge, as we call it, is a 7 room "bunkhouse", with each guest having a private room with bed, dresser, microwave, fridge and a few other items. The lodge has a shower, restrooms, laundry



facilities, a shared common area and a kitchenette. Local veterans serve as the lodge hosts and provide on-site supervision at night and ensure guests are abiding by the shelter rules and policies. Guests can stay up to 1 year while we connect them to more permanent housing and other resources.

We officially opened in June and we have several guests at the lodge.

Veteran Service Office - Polk County

**240 SW Washington St.
Dallas, OR 97338**

(503) 623-9188

www.co.polk.or.us/vso

HELPING WOMEN SUCCEED

Moving Forward Towards Success is a women and children's transitional live in program. While living in the program (MF) will assist the participants in learning essential life skills, and exploring a career in working with children. This program is designed to provide a fun, creative, educational training in a safe, supportive, encouraging environment.

The data in Marion County shows the amount of homeless women has consistently risen. We have learned that homelessness in single family homes with women as the head of household is an on going problem in the state of Oregon. We are working with our community partners in Marion county to help with this on going issue. We believe that offering a safe, stable, and secure place to live before addressing other needs the family helps to encourage positive growth. These women need mentoring, goal setting both personally and financially, and how to run their home when the are ready to move on from the program. There is no task too small when it comes to mentoring these women.

Our homes are based on a Christian family environment. Some of the homes except children. We offer many activities, training, cooking facilities and laundry facilities. As our women gain confidence in their living situation we have found that they become secure in their willingness to learn. Upon coming into the program they are made aware they will have the opportunity to gain needed documentation and certificates in order to achieve gainful employment at the end of a six to nine month time frame. We understand that not every woman will be able to achieve the same success in the same time frame so we have additional helps available on a case by case situation, each family is welcome to stay as long as they continue to work toward being independent and successful.

In part of our endeavors to meet the needs of these women we are hosting a Fund Raiser this July 20, 2019! This is an Pasefika Hawaiian Luau that includes dinner, dancing, and a silent auction with many items to purchase. Just by showing up your name goes into a drawing for a 2 night stay at our own Oregon Gardens which includes entrance to the beautiful Gardens.

For more information on where to buy tickets please visit our website at: <https://www.movingforwardtosuccess.org>

MOVING FORWARD TO SUCCESS

(503)881-9323

www.movingforwardtosuccess.org



WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE PROGRAM?

- Single women or women with children
- Participants – Able to volunteer approximately 20-25 hours of volunteer work experience, trainings, mentoring, and any other needs Women might have.
- Able to pass criminal back ground per qualifying for state child care program.
- Work and live in an environment with children/ elderly.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN:

- Stable housing
- Work experience
- Skills training
- Life mentoring skills
- Education for financing and budgeting
- Aid to assist in your journey toward self sufficiency
- Friendship
- And much more...

receive training and are supported by professional staff. Services provided are free and confidential for residents, their families, facility staff, and the public.

"Systemic change is our goal," says Director, Fred Steele. "We not only want to help the individual resident, but all those who will be in care in the future. This is important to all of us, considering an estimated 67% of people over the age of 65 will require some sort of long-term care support. Ombudsman volunteers not only make a difference in someone's life every time they visit their assigned care facility, but they frequently contribute to the work our program does in improving the long term care system in Oregon."

Being an Ombudsman isn't for everyone. It's a commitment of about four hours a week (though some choose to do more). The 5 day training to become a volunteer Certified Ombudsman happens throughout the year, throughout the state. In order to attend the training, an application process must be

We not only want to help the individual resident, but all those who will be in care in the future.

completed, which includes submitting an application, participating in an interview, having references checked, and completing a Criminal Records Check. Volunteers are expected to commit for at least a year after completing the training.

QUALITIES OF AN ADVOCATE INCLUDE:

- Good communication and listening skills
- Ability to work through conflicts
- Determination, tenacity
- Passion for helping people

Ombudsmen enjoy the benefits of support through a Deputy who works with them, especially on harder cases. They also have their team of other local Certified Ombudsmen, who they meet with monthly. The flexible schedule is an added bonus, and volunteers choose to work the days and hours that work for them.



Currently, there are hundreds of facilities in Oregon without a volunteer Certified Ombudsman assigned, leaving many residents without the advocacy they need. We are seeking dedicated individuals who desire to make a difference, have a caring spirit, a willingness to learn, and can give four hours a week.

To report a concern to the Oregon Long-Term Care Ombudsman, or to learn more about volunteering, contact us at www.oltco.org or call (800) 522-2602.

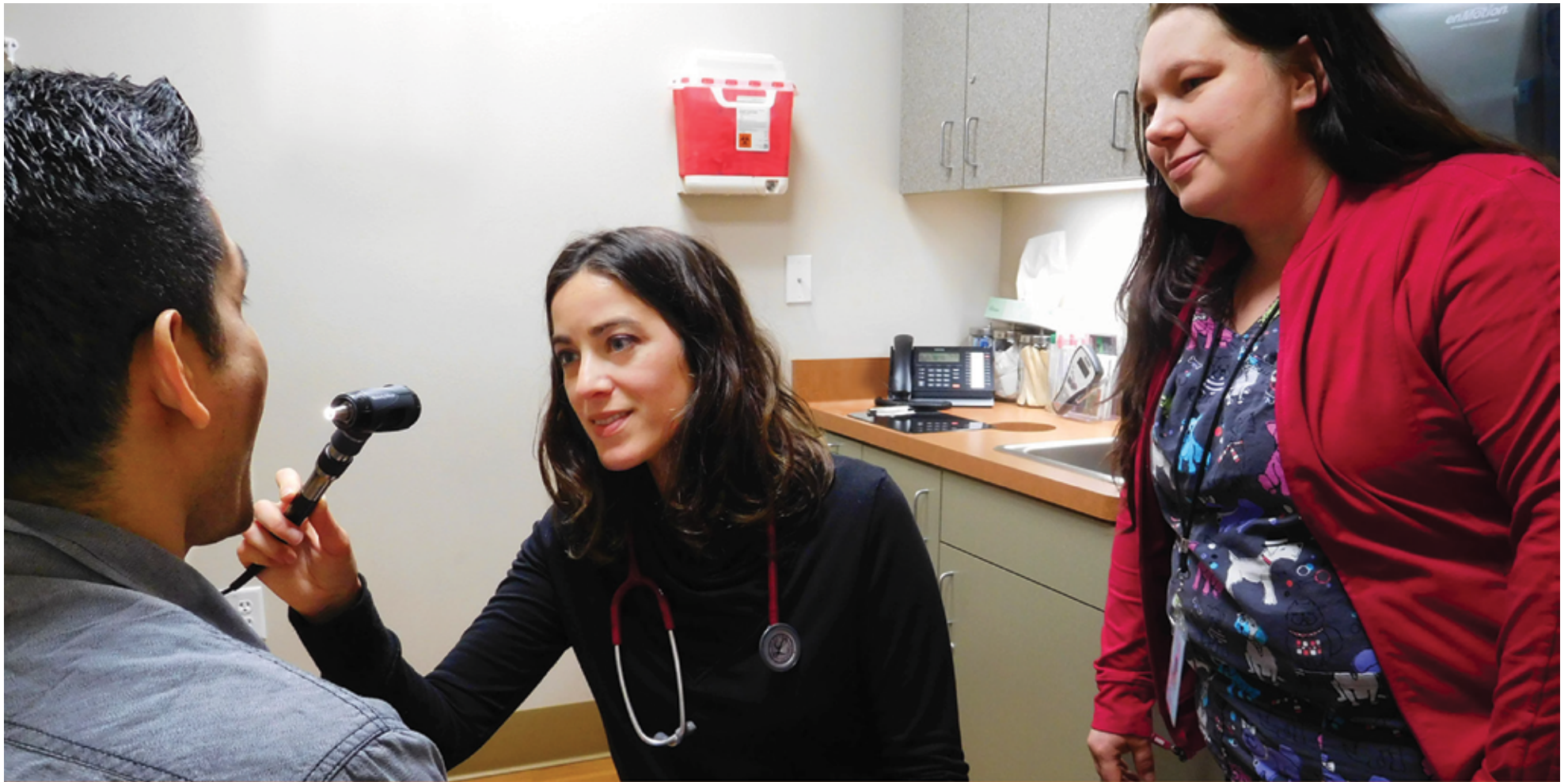
DENNIS DOUGLAS, A CURRENT VOLUNTEER CERTIFIED OMBUDSMAN, DESCRIBES HIS DECISION TO BECOME AN OMBUDSMAN:

My father had congestive heart failure. When considering to live in the facility, he was assured all his needs would be met. At first, my father's medical issues were stable. But soon, he grew weak and needed a wheelchair, which required someone to push it. Breakfast was at 8AM and because there were so few caregivers, he wasn't assisted to the dining room until an hour later. His food was often cold and when he had finished his breakfast, it would take another hour to get him back to his room. A few days before he passed away, my father fell in his bathroom. He waited an hour on a cold tile floor before someone answered his call light.



My parents' experience with long-term care is not unique. Over-worked caregivers, medication mistakes, and increased rent for services that may or may not have been performed can be regular occurrences in some facilities. For my part, I was anxious, and I worried when I wasn't with them. I kept my complaints to a minimum and subsidized my parents' care with my own time. I was concerned if I complained, there may be repercussions. I saw the Ombudsman poster every night. I never called that number. It's a disconnect I can't explain. They both died within two and a half years of entering the facility.

Eventually, I called the number and learned that I could help others. It's too late for me to call a Long-Term Care Ombudsman to help my parents. I did the best I could, and I can live with that. But if I can help someone in a long-term care facility and make their life better, it makes my life better. Because long-term care Ombudsmen fight for residents to give them a voice and protect their rights.



LEADERS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH



**1235 Edgewater St. NW
Salem, OR 97304**

(503) 378-7526

www.northwesthumanservices.org

ESTABLISHED IN 1971, NORTHWEST HUMAN SERVICES (NWHs) HAS BEEN RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS, PROVIDING MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES IN MARION AND POLK COUNTIES.

Community health centers like NWHs provide tremendous value and impact to the communities they serve, including jobs, savings to the healthcare system, and access to care for vulnerable populations.

Our West Salem Clinic Campus offers primary medical, dental, and mental health care. Our patients receive quality services from a committed team of professionals, regardless of ability to pay. Located in Monmouth, NWHs' Total Health Community Clinic provides healthcare to the rural populations of Polk County.

Individuals and families facing homelessness can visit our HOAP or HOST Programs for meals, showers, laundry, case management, and other basic needs services. Our 24-hour Crisis and Information Hotline acts as a lifeline of support providing crisis and suicide intervention services, and also offers emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, and prescription medications.



A UNIQUE APPROACH TO CARE

When we think about “healthcare”, often the first thoughts that come to mind are trips to the doctor’s office, hospital visits, and health insurance. At NWHS, “healthcare” means all of those things, and more. Our holistic approach takes into account the whole person – from living situations, to social connections, and even food security and financial stability. These components - commonly known as the Social Determinants of Health - are the economic and social conditions that influence the health of people and communities. At NWHS, each of our sites acts as an access point to many forms of care that address each component, thereby increasing positive health outcomes for our patients, clients and community.

Over the past 12 months, NWHS has added and expanded a number of services in an effort to address the social determinants of health that impact many of our patients and clients.

- Through a collaboration with Marion Polk Food Share, we saw the start

of Neighborhood Fresh Connect, an onsite mini-farmers market operating twice monthly, to allow our patients and clients to access free fresh fruits and vegetables, along with nutrition information and healthy recipes. NWHS is also the title sponsor of the Thursday West Salem Farmer’s Market.

- Joining the fight in the opioid epidemic, nine of NWHS’ medical providers were granted waivers to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), to patients suffering from opioid addiction.
- Our Crisis & Information Hotline launched the Mid-Valley Resources (MVR) website in September 2018, providing quick and easy access to local resources for food, shelter, healthcare and other critical social services within Marion and Polk Counties.

Just as in the beginning, these projects were developed and implemented with a common goal – to meet the needs of our community and provide a stepping stone to a brighter future.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Going forward, NWHS will focus on the upcoming remodel and expansion of our West Salem Clinic site. Our new facility will merge 3 currently separate structures housing our medical, dental and mental health clinic, into one cohesive building offering more efficient and coordinated care.

We anticipate that the increased number of exam rooms, dental operatories and counseling offices will increase our total number of annual visits by 24%.

We’re excited to see the positive impact our growth will have on those we serve, and we thank our community for the continued support throughout our nearly 50 year history serving Marion and Polk Counties.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

NWHS will celebrate all of these amazing accomplishments and services that we bring to the community during National Health Center Week (NHCW) from August 5th - 9th.

NWHS is part of a nationwide network of locally-run health centers that serve more than 28 million people nationwide. This year’s NHCW will highlight how health centers are at the forefront of a nationwide shift in addressing environmental and social factors as an integral part of primary care, reaching beyond the walls of conventional medicine to address the factors that may cause sickness, such as lack of nutrition, mental illness, homelessness and substance use disorders.

Connect with us to join us in this celebration, and come see what lies ahead in the future for NWHS!

NWHS BY THE NUMBERS*:

- Patients served at our Clinics: 12,285
- Total annual Clinic visits: 66,773
- Homeless adults receiving services at HOAP: 3,152
- Young adults receiving services at HOST: 338
- Total calls to our Crisis and Information Hotline: 19,548

*2018 data

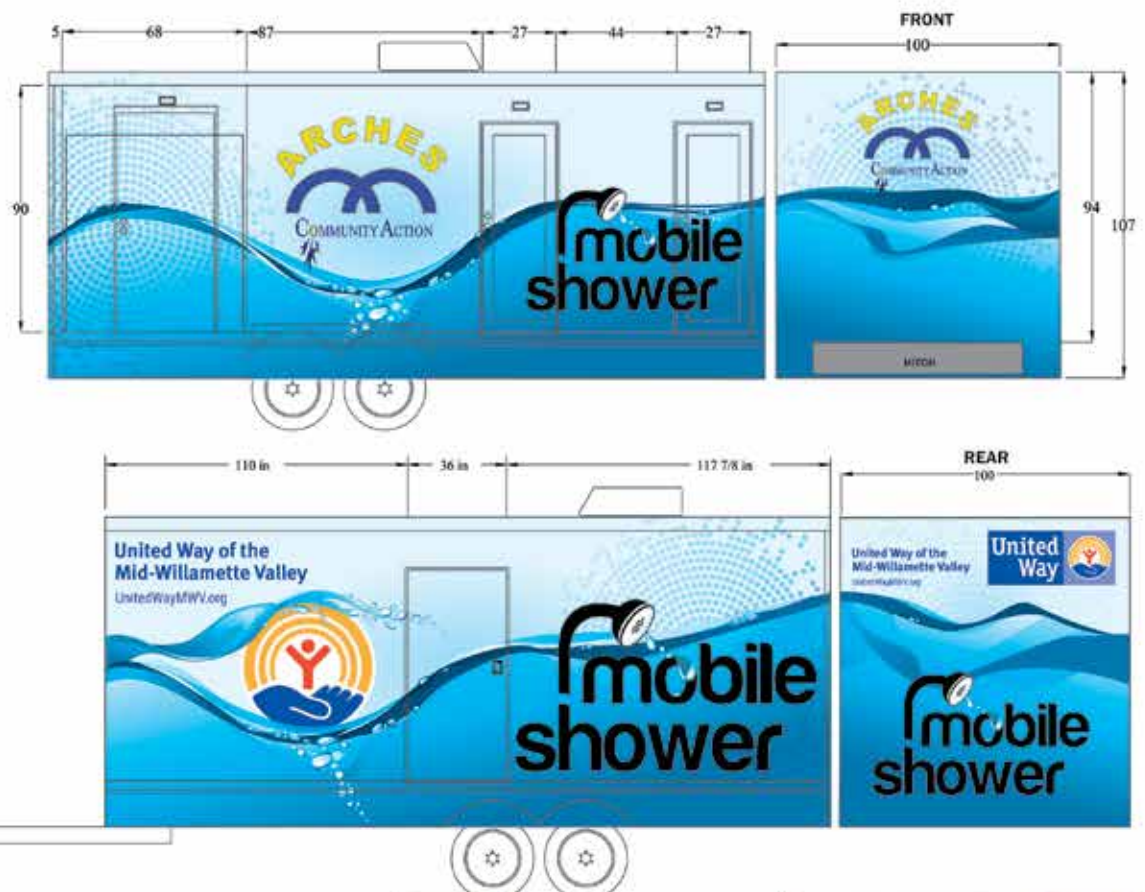
"RADICAL HOSPITALITY"

THE NEW MOBILE HYGIENE UNIT WILL BE ARRIVING SOON AND READY FOR SERVICE.

In partnership between United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley and the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, the mobile hygiene unit will be a 22 foot long trailer with three private restroom stalls that each include a shower, toilet, and sink. The trailer will provide basic hygiene services to the most vulnerable populations in our community. Operating on a set schedule, the trailer will be towed to different locations throughout the Mid-Valley, providing service to not just downtown Salem, but to other parts of the city and surrounding rural communities.

The mobile hygiene unit is modeled after Lava Mae, a nonprofit organization based in California and operating trailers in San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles. Lava Mae describes the service they provide as "Radical Hospitality". The team at Lava Mae has advised United Way staff throughout the startup process, and in July a Lava Mae staff member will be on site in Salem to train the Community Action crew on how to operate the trailer and provide services to up to 50 guests per day.

There are many benefits to providing this of basic service such as disease prevention or helping individuals cleanup for a job interview, but at its core, the mission is to provide human dignity. While most of us take it for granted, a warm shower is a luxury to so many people. Soon, we will be able to meet this basic need.



United Way of the
Mid-Willamette Valley
UnitedWayMWV.org



Inspiring Leaders and Non-profits

An interview with Jennifer Martin



HARVEY GAIL-
SPIRE
MANAGEMENT

Each month, I feature local nonprofit leaders who make an impact in the community. This week's interview is with Jennifer Martin, Board Chair of the nonprofit organization, Isaac's Room.

Tell us about your non-profit:

Our Mission: WE HELP DIVESTED YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD THE CAPACITY TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE.

Here's the story behind this amazing organization. Mark and Tiffany Bulgin, the founders of Isaac's Room, lost their first son Isaac in 1998, at two months old. Isaac's Room is their effort to extend the family love and support they would have eagerly given Isaac throughout his life to the young people in our community who have suffered from a shortage of it throughout theirs. Just as the room that Isaac was supposed to live in is physically empty and therefore available, the space we make in our lives for our own kids is now available through Isaac's Room.

Isaac's Room, at its core, identifies and develops youth aging out of the foster care system by teaching them they are the hero of their own story and that they CAN change their path and they have the power and control to make a difference in their own lives.

How did you get into the role? How did you find yourself in leadership in the organization?

I have known Tiffany for about 20 years and our paths would cross in the community occasionally. However, about three years ago, I became very actively involved with helping Isaac's Room identify a location for a second coffee shop. IKE Box, the coffee shop owned by Isaac's Room serves as a job training launch pad for the youth served by Isaac's Room. But the coffee shop was at full capacity and we needed more internship and apprenticeship job opportunities for "our kids." Through that experience, it became clear that I had a deeper passion for this organization other than just as a real estate broker.

What experiences best prepared you for this role?

I think the experience that helped me most is that of being a mom. I feel the pain of these children. Their journey and the place

where they find themselves when they join us is rarely their fault, but it is their problem to cope with and learn to rise above.

My roles on other nonprofit boards in the community, as well as my banking background, provide me with a skill set that is helpful to most organizations. Also, it is quite fortuitous that our organization is being faced with some unique real estate decisions to work through at this time that my real estate background has been helpful to have during our deliberations.

What is difficult about your nonprofit leadership role? What is easy?

I think the most difficult is determining where to draw the line in leading and doing. I love to be in the thick of things, especially when I am passionate about where I am serving. I also think the time management piece is also tough sometimes- the balance between operating Mid-Valley Commercial Real Estate, serving in various roles in the community, and being a mom and wife.

The easy part of serving is that this organization has so many ways to be loved- there are a lot of layers to our service. We have a hospitality team training program, two coffee shops, and we partner with other organizations in the community such as Bridgeway Youth, 1000 Soles and the Northwest Hub. We also own two homes that operate as a launch pad for youth who are successfully moving through our programs.

What have you uniquely contributed to your organization?

Well, I think my proudest moment was before being a member of the board, when we finished the lease for Isaac's Coffee Wine & Dessert at 210 Commercial. The partnership created between Isaac's and the brand-new owners of the building, Gene Bolante and Leonard Lodder, is one of my prouder real estate career moments, and that helped solidify my invitation to join the board.

What are you looking for in future leaders in your group?

Future leaders and board members for Isaac's Room need to be excited to be very involved. Our board members serve and volunteer at a high level, helping organize fundraising events, volunteering at those events, sometimes making dinner for our youth as part of their IKE Quest training camp, and providing their personal expertise to our leadership and strategic initiatives.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

You may have heard through social media outlets or in the newspaper that we have a very time-sensitive fundraising campaign targeted at the future of the IKE Box Coffee Shop, which also serves as the Isaac's Room headquarters. The YMCA, who owns the property and building, has achieved their fundraising goal and we've been given the opportunity to take our building with us, if we can raise the money and get it moved in time. Please visit www.movetheikeon.com for more information on the project and how you can help. This is a great community story and even greater play on words - Move the ICON....Move the IKE on.



Jennifer Martin is a great example of a leader who uses her professional skills to aid a worthy nonprofit. To learn more about Isaac's Room, visit www.isaacsroom.org.

Are you a volunteer leader of a nonprofit or association? -If you or someone you know would like to be featured in my column, email me at harvey@spiremanagement.com

G. Harvey Gail is president of Spire Management, an association management, event planning and consulting firm located in Salem, Oregon. www.SpireManagement.com , @HarvGail.

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Abandoned Oregonians



PATTI MILNE

**PEOPLE,
PLACES &
POLITICS**

Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely. And when this happens, trust is destroyed and working relationships cease.

In the case of the Oregon Legislature, Republican Senators finally had enough of the Democrat's super-majority tyranny and walked out. Not just once, but twice. They were bullied, ignored and suffered through manipulation of legislative rules and process.

And, as of this writing, Democrats' actions and proposed legislation have become personal and vindictive against the Republican Senators.

Rep. Carl Wilson tried to warn the Democrats to slow down in a floor speech when the House passed HB2020, the Cap and Trade bill. But, House Democrats were on a roll and snubbed Republican attempts to take a little more time on this devastating, far-reaching

Democrat Representative Paul Evans, chimed in with "...my own military experience taught me the difference between respectful diplomacy and giving in to terrorists...negotiating with people who are not invested in shared outcomes..." (tweet from Paul Evans).

Democrat Senator Ginny Burdick, Senate Majority Leader, in a rant, calls the Republicans "audacious" in their walk out.

This destructive atmosphere at the Capitol has gotten ugly for Democrat Senator Peter Courtney, Senate President. He has lost control of the process and of the Democrat caucus. At least two caucus members are no votes on HB2020, and a third Democrat was wavering. Courtney's been criticized for flip flopping on his practice of holding bills that do not have adequate support to win passage in the Senate. An environmentalist group standing in the balcony turned their backs on him in disapproval when he declared HB 2020 did not have the necessary votes. Things are falling apart.

The governor calling Republicans "danger-

Oregon's Nod to the Future-Cap and Trade

Musings of the Oregon Pioneer By Bob Cannon*

I'm assuming House Bill 2020, Oregon's Cap and Trade legislation, will pass in one form or another. The Democratic Party has a super majority and hence can pass whatever legislation they wish. The Bill is long and complex. I've been in the business of writing, reading and interpreting Oregon statutes my whole career and this Bill is a difficult read. I make no claim of being an expert. So why am I writing about Cap and Trade?

I think you need to understand the goals of this transformational policy. This is not about who is right or wrong, or if the policy is good or bad. Rather, some basic concepts on how Cap and Trade will work.

In its simplest terms, the Cap and Trade goal is to reduce the amount of CO2 released into the air to pre-1990 levels. The amount of CO2 that can be released will be set by the State for each industry/business and will be reduced each year to meet a pre-determined goal set for 2050. Hence, this is where the concept of "CAP" or "Capping" the amount of CO2 released into the air comes from. The "Trade" concept is based upon the concept that the State will allow business to buy from the State (via auction) additional authority to release CO2 into the air. If a business (emitter) exceeds or wishes to exceed its allowable limits established for the business, then the business will have to buy more authority from the State. This is the "Trade" part of the policy.

The selling of additional authority to emit more CO2 is how the State will make money. The sale of authority to emit more CO2 will generate two pots of money. The first pot of money is the "Transportation Decarbonization Fund." This fund will generate money from the sale of additional authority to emit CO2 from the sale of gasoline and diesel fuels. Legislative Revenue estimates this fund will generate \$14 Billion between 2020 and 2035. The second fund is the "Climate Investment Fund" which is estimated by Legislative Revenue to reach \$5 Billion between 2020 and 2030. These funds together will average more than a billion dollars of Revenue to the State each year. The primary focus is to eliminate the gasoline powered car and light truck from the road. The basic assumption is that by 2050 all vehicles on the road will be fully electric.

The proponents promote two futuristic assumptions: CO2 is bad. Hence Oregon's economy can be changed for the better, and this is the path for a better future for Oregonians. Businesses will have to reduce emissions or buy more authority to emit greater amounts at an ever-increasing cost to business. The economics of high costs for CO2 emissions will force businesses to reduce emissions. The public will move to all electric vehicles to avoid the high cost of gasoline. Natural gas consumption will be reduced. Electric furnaces will heat new residential housing. This will generate new

jobs and new technologies. The Oregon economy can absorb the billion dollars each year of additional costs associated with this policy.

The opponents note the tax bill of a billion dollars plus each year will have to be paid by the public, not just businesses. Costs will be passed to the consumer. Utility cost increases of ten plus percent will hit every consumer. The cost of gasoline will immediately increase by 15 to 20 cents per gallon. The assumption that people will move to all electric cars is not supported by economic reality. The cost of doing so is very high. The cost of groceries will rise as the cost of fuel goes up. The poor, working poor and middle income wage earners will be hit the hardest. Job loss is predicted as businesses react to increased costs. Inflation will spike as costs increase.

Both sides of this argument have valid points. There are two additional factors that have not been discussed by the opponents or proponents. There is an assumption the electric grid has sufficient power and will be able to handle the load of moving to electric residential heating and recharging of electric cars. Oregon currently does not have sufficient electricity to do so. Electricity can be purchased on the open market, but that may be very expensive. Five years ago, the fear of having an overloaded electrical grid was considered pure speculation and a bogus argument. The wildfires in California last year started by power lines breaking in the heat of the summer and destroying whole communities are now a reality. Utilities have announced that, as a last resort, that if their grid is overloaded during the summer heat, they will "brownout" or "blackout" their electrical grid. Solar and wind power are currently available. The power lines to bring the power to metropolitan areas are not in place. They can be built. There are no available battery systems yet to support periods of time during nighttime hours. We are told such new technologies will come.

The remaining discussion truly lies at the heart of the debate. Will this Bill make any difference? No, it will not. There is no evidence this will make any difference in the least. Oregon is simply too small to move the needle. This is a transformative and futuristic social/economic experiment that will cost billions of dollars. I do hope Oregon's economy can withstand the impact. Only time will tell.

As the Golden Man stands Atop the great dome of the Oregon State Capitol and watches the "goings on below," he is reminded that Salem has always been "awash in rain and politics."

**For many years Bob Cannon and Fred VanNatta shared writing articles for The Golden Man, Salem Business Journal, using the byline Oregon Pioneer. Bob can be reached at bobcannon3950@gmail.com.*

Citizen who go to the capitol to testify have also come under the wrath of the power-grabbing Liberals.

piece of legislation. Just a little more time. A little time for citizen input.

Nope. They had the votes. They did not need Rep. Wilson's advice, nor anyone else's. They pushed full steam ahead regardless.

Citizen who go to the capitol to testify have also come under the wrath of the power-grabbing Liberals. Citizens taking precious time out of their busy day and many traveling long distances have shared stories of how rudely they were treated by Democrats when visiting legislators' offices and when trying to provide testimony before a committee. They were cut short and often not even given the opportunity to testify because, it appears, they were on the wrong side of the issue.

The power-hungry liberal Democrat leadership's abuse of power began at the beginning of the session and has continued to escalate over these past few months.

With super majorities in both the House and the Senate, and Democrats elected to all but one statewide position, they are armed with all they need to push their long-sought, far-left agenda.

Democrats, giddy with their new power, have eliminated long-held procedural traditions and courtesies, and pushed all semblance of decorum aside.

"We have endured threats of arrest, fines, and pulling community-project funds from the Governor, Senate President and Majority Leader. We will not stand by and be bullied by the majority party any longer," said Senate Republican Leader, Herman Baertschiger, Jr., in a recent public email.

ous" only hurts her own credibility while destroying the hope of a working relationship with Republicans into the future. Her label together with other outrageous, eyebrow-raising accusations against Republican s, like calling them terrorists, is an overreach.

In their frantic zeal to please the far-left whose money Democrats have become addicted to, and many have sold their soul for, they have abandoned Oregonians.

This is how the current Democrat Leadership is failing to lead Oregon. Whether the controversy over HB2020 was the final straw or not, it is clear that the future of the Oregon Legislature is up in the air.

Comments that are simply beyond the pale make the prospects of trust and the possibility of working to close out the session on June 30, almost impossible. The Republican Senators walked out after all options had been exhausted.

Although how and when remain to be seen, something will be worked out between the Senate Democrats and Republicans in order to finish their legislative work.

However, this overreach of epic proportions by Oregon Democrats may just have awakened enough Oregon voters before the next election comes around.

This abuse of power may just have been the final straw.

Patti Milne, retired Marion County Commissioner and State Representative, can be reached at 503.551.5590. Watch Patti on CCTV's Moms Matters.

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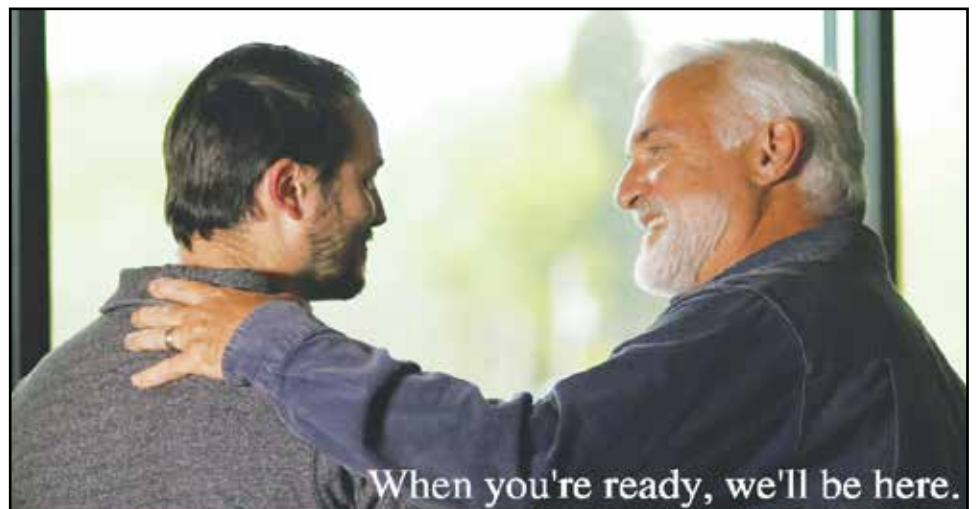
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