

Subject: HSCCC Winter News | Our team grows, our work continues!

Sent by: Dan Fowler

To: HSCCC Friends List

Date: February 25, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is, without a doubt, an urgent and important moment in Oregon and Clackamas County for addressing the homelessness crisis. I'd like to thank [Governor Kotek for providing bold leadership to end homelessness in the state](#). However, I am even more grateful to stand together with you as the [Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County](#), where we are ready to be a part of the solution!

My long held belief is that we must build solutions together at all levels: national, state, *and local*. In Clackamas County, we have discovered that the key to housing the homeless is to build trust. Every community has its own needs, values and goals related to homelessness. Similarly, homelessness itself is not a monolith. Homelessness is a big issue, and the solutions are individual.

That is why organizing at the community level gives us insights we otherwise wouldn't have. When we listen to people who are experiencing homelessness and the outreach workers who support them every day, we can find unique solutions to address the needs of individuals, families, and entire communities. You, as friends of HSCCC and our Clackamas County communities, are all critical to that work.

In September, I announced that HSCCC had taken the foundational step of becoming a nonprofit organization. To help us facilitate our joint efforts during such an urgent moment, we have taken another important step by hiring an Interim General Manager. This position will ensure that HSCCC is well-established as a 501(c)3 as well as build a strong organization that will help us serve our community for years to come.

Today, I am pleased to announce Joe Wedding as our Interim General Manager. Joe brings many years of leadership in the nonprofit and higher education sectors to HSCCC, and we are thrilled that he has joined our team. Please join me in welcoming him to HSCCC!

When a community identifies an issue that affects us all, such as homelessness, we know it isn't someone else's problem to solve, it is ours. Left untended, this issue will continue claiming the lives and livelihoods of too many people we know. It is impacting our healthcare resources, crime, business, safety, workforce and the use of public dollars. Addressing it now isn't only a moral imperative, but it also makes good fiscal sense. While the price tag of the Governor's initiative on homelessness may seem big, if we don't act now, it will be bigger.

Oregon has led the nation in many areas in the past. Let's lead again!