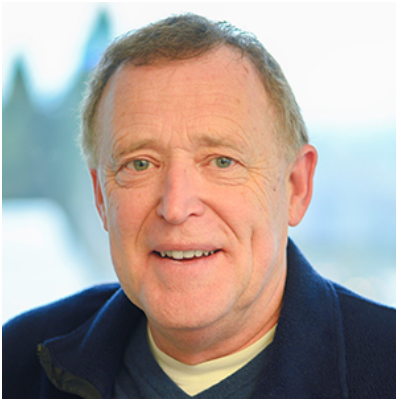


Letter From Board President Dan Fowler



Greetings Friends

Addressing homelessness is a complex issue that requires the collective effort of everyone in the community. We believe that every individual has inherent value and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. By working together, we can create a more compassionate and equitable society where everyone has access to safe and affordable housing and the necessary supports to sustain housing and live a fulfilling life..

Let me share a few ways that our community is collectively working together.

Recently our County Officials convened an “Addictions Recovery Summit.” Over two days, the Commissioners were in listening mode with a panel of providers from across North America to talk about approaches to addiction and recovery. On the second day the Commissioners brought that same panel back to learn from key community members about the system that we have in Clackamas County. From this summit new approaches to addiction recovery will evolve.

Not only are our county officials working together but two **Homeless Serving Non-Profits** (The Father’s Heart and LoveOne have forged a new partnership and new revenue streams to ensure their success for years to come. Each organization works in different ways to meet the needs of our unhoused citizens. In partnership can provide a full continuum of care. Father’s Heart provides clean clothes and other services from its brick-and-mortar location on Washington Street, while LoveOne goes into communities and offers laundry, hygiene and shower services through pop up events, as well as outreach, peer support, a rural food pantry and trash events. All together, these teams have a wide range of services and skills, and can walk alongside people from point of entry to stabilized housing and beyond.

Finally, I want to share how our **Homeless Solutions Coalition, The Father’s Heart, LoveOne Oregon City Police Department and the McLoughlin Neighborhood** have come together to address the issue of security. We all know that community health and wellness is critically important for all citizens of Clackamas County. Health and wellness

are especially important for people experiencing homelessness and those who serve them.

However, It is well known that the issue of homelessness can impact the community. While most people experiencing homelessness are good citizens who have hit on hard times, some act out trauma induced pain and suffering in ways that cause disturbances to neighborhoods and businesses.

When TFH is open – Monday through Friday from 9AM-2PM – its trained staff can quell any incidents involving homeless citizens. While staff are trained in de-escalation and other ways of helping people, there is a gap when TFH isn't operating. After several listening sessions with the impacted community it became apparent that a solution would be to provide 24/7 security around the Father's Heart Day Center when their staff is not on site .

We are pleased to announce that recently the County provided funds for this "Safety/Security Endeavor". Additionally a Safety Committee will be formed that includes members from the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association, the Homeless Solutions Coalition, Oregon City Police and the Father's Heart/Love One. We anticipate that through this new process we will be able to learn from this model so that it can be applied successfully in other parts of our County.

When we work together, we can leverage our collective strengths and make a greater impact. Whether it's addressing social issues, advocating for change, or supporting those in need, our combined efforts can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond what any one person could achieve. Let's continue to make ripples.

Ways You Can Help Our Homeless Solutions Coalition

Consider being part of the Solution. Perhaps your skill set does not revolve around food services, housing assistance or homeless outreach, but you do want to help. Perhaps you have some administration skills, or expertise in writing articles or social media experience. Maybe you have an interest in finances and fundraising activities. Perhaps you'd like to help host events or be on various committees.

As our Homeless Solutions Coalition continues to grow there is need for volunteers of all sorts

We invite you to be part of the Solution -- Let's find your "helping place".

Contact -- lynne@cedar-haven.net

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a positive impact in our community.



The Longest Night December 21st - 6:00PM

HOLD THE DATE - YOU ARE INVITED
Clackamas County will host its second annual "Longest Night Vigil" in December. Please let people know and plan to attend. You will be receiving additional information about location and how to get involved in a few weeks .

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, is a time when we remember the people who lost their lives while experiencing homelessness.

Since 1990, the "National Coalition for the Homeless" has sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day every year on December 21.

Hundreds of cities, representing more than 30 states have participated in the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

This poignant time brings attention to the tragedy of homelessness and remembers those who have died while living without a permanent home.



Second Home - Spread The Word "Host Homes Needed"

WHY -- because last year in Clackamas County the schools reported 195 unaccompanied youth.

[An unaccompanied youth is a young person who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian](#)

Second Home connects volunteer host homes with unaccompanied high school students experiencing homelessness. By ensuring that the students have stable housing and ongoing support, Second Home allows them to focus on completing their secondary education and realize their full potential.

Did you know that you can have a huge impact on an unaccompanied high-school student's life by hosting them? Or if you are not able to host we ask that you spread the word of this important need throughout your various networks . With the support and structure of Second Home, a student and host co-create a rental agreement to give a foundation to a shared living arrangement. Hosts do not take on parenting responsibilities, but rather are present in a student's life as a caring adult. Please contact Maria Mendez with any questions: via mmendez@emoregon.org or by phone at (971) 238-9368

[Listen Here to Student Stories](#)

Connect Meetings

Quarterly "Connect Meetings" occur in Sandy, Estacada and North Clackamas. These gatherings provide an opportunity for service providers and community members who assist not only unsheltered individuals but also those who are facing challenges that may put them at risk of becoming homeless



These meetings offer a time for networking sharing resources and connecting with each other. Attendees have said

"I have met many wonderful and helpful people through the Connect Meetings over the years, and even have the pleasure of seeing them at community events. The exchange of information that is shared at the meetings along with special guests from time to time, is information we would not get any other way."

"The Connect Meetings are beneficial to learn about other activities different community organizations are offering. I've learned there are so many services available right here in our backyards. When we work together, we can make more of an impact on those we serve."

Working together, we leverage our collective strengths to make a greater impact. Our combined efforts can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond what any one person could achieve. Let's Make Ripples.

Mark you calendar for the next series of Zoom meetings:

January 2 at 10 AM -- North Clackamas

January 3 at 1 PM -- Estacada

January 10 at 10 PM -- Sandy

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for one of these meetings please send email to following link [Email to Sign up for Connect Meetings](#)

Website County Places 665 Homeless and At-Risk People Into Housing

Supportive Housing Services program achieves remarkable outcomes in its second year

Clackamas County's supportive housing services program is celebrating remarkable outcomes at the end of the program's second year in operation. In the last twelve months, the program has:

- Placed 665 people into permanent housing

- Prevented evictions for 643 people
- Provided 676 people with rent assistance
- Served 788 people through emergency and transitional shelter, such as the Veterans Village

This news comes on the heels of the January 2023 point in time homeless count, which shows homelessness decreasing by 30% in the last year in Clackamas County. In addition, the supportive housing program boasts a 98% retention rate. This means that 98% of formerly homeless people placed in housing have not returned to homelessness in 12 months. The benchmark for successful housing retention is 85%, meaning that Clackamas County is well on our way to meet our goal that homelessness is rare, brief, and does not reoccur.

Notable in the supportive housing services program expansion this quarter, Clackamas County also accomplished the following:

- Improved the partnership between our housing, mental health and addiction programs
- Launched a robust street outreach program to people experiencing homelessness
- Vastly improved the coordinated housing access program, which connects people in need to the most appropriate housing and resources for them. Coordinated housing access specialists are now answering hotline calls live, providing better service for county residents.

Visit Our Webpage [HSCCC.com](https://www.hscclcc.com)