

happy holidays

'TIS THE SEASON

No Matter What Holiday You Celebrate, We'd Like To Wish You a Safe, Healthy and Happy Holiday Season and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year!

Despite the many challenges of 2020, Nightingale Hosted Shelters ended the year on a high note and grateful for an abundance of blessings. Thanks to our generous donors, local businesses, and community partners, we have funds to operate for the next 24 months.



A Few Highlights From 2020

JANUARY - We received a \$2,500 donation from Good Samaritan Society and used it to buy indoor siding and ceiling panels for the warming shelter purchased last year with a grant from the City of Eugene.

MARCH - Covid-19 became the dominant challenge in March and remained so for the rest of the year. NHS didn't have masks, hand sanitizer, or a thermometer when Covid arrived and local stores had sold out, so we called on donors and Board Members for help. Lana Hobbs donated 30 handmade masks, other donors provided cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer, and MaryKay White found the last remaining thermometer on Kauai and sent it by overnight shipping to the camp. Camp Managers Nathan Showers and Tracy Joselyn did an amazing job implementing cleaning protocols, masking, and social distancing.

APRIL - As Covid worries continued, local food kitchens shut down, and stay-at-home orders closed many businesses, including restaurants where several camp residents worked. The NHS Board decided to buy a storage shed so that the two Conestoga huts being used for storage could house new residents. The Board also mandated that any new residents must test negative for Covid prior to moving into camp.

MAY - With food kitchens closed, NHS reached out to the business community. The following local businesses donated a dinner once a week for six consecutive weeks to camp residents.

- Domino's Pizza - Willamette Street
- Fisherman's Market
- Marche' Provisions
- Market of Choice - Woodfield Station
- Mazzi's

Joella Ewing also delivered a hot meal to the camp every Monday, and several NHS Board members and community members also provided meals for residents.

NHS applied for and received a Covid assistance grant from United Way (\$2,500).

JUNE - The NHS camp continued to practice Covid precautions, and we applied to the Oregon Community Foundation (\$3,000) for operating expenses, which we received.

JULY - Our city of Eugene Grant (\$10,000) for Peer Support expired in July, so we submitted a new request to the City for peer support.

Because, a large fund-raising gathering like the one we held at the Vet's Club in 2019 was not possible, we decided to hold a "virtual" fundraiser by sending out personal letters to donors and NHS friends.

AUGUST - United Way granted NHS \$10,000 for 2020-2021 operating expenses.

SEPTEMBER - We hosted a socially distanced farewell gathering for Tracy Joselyn. Everyone was sad to see Tracy leave, but happy knowing that she was moving to Portland to be close to her son and granddaughter. Tracy worked at NHS from December 2014 until her departure in September.

OCTOBER - Tina Thomas, Sandy Cutler, and Megan O'Connor prepared materials for our virtual fundraiser. At the October NHS Board meeting, members picked up materials (fundraising letters, donation forms, envelopes, stamps) and sent out packets to NHS donors and friends.

The City of Eugene gave us \$10,000 to continue the Peer Support program for camp residents, and we bought a generator and microwave oven for the camp.

NOVEMBER - The Emerald Valley Rotary donated \$7,000 to NHS for operational expenses and also gave the camp a new refrigerator. Tractor Supply Company of Junction City donated propane for December 2020 and all of 2021.

Our virtual fundraiser was a big success and brought in \$28,000 for operating expenses - enough for NHS to operate for the next 24 months.

Board members prepared Thanksgiving dinner for camp residents. Residents set up tables outside under cover and enjoyed a delicious turkey with all the trimmings.

NHS applied for a \$5,000 CARES Act Covid relief grant from the Oregon Health Authority. After the grant was approved, we applied for an additional \$10,000.

We upgraded the camp kitchen with the following:

- Kitchen shelter (20x30x8)
- Rubber flooring for kitchen
- New propane stove and oven
- Pop-up shelters (2 shelters, 12x12x8)
- Kitchen table and washing and drying equipment

Other November donations included computer software (\$300) from Cadence Communications and Cam straps to tie down our kitchen shelter and pop-up shelters (\$250) from Oregon Paddle Sports.

DECEMBER - The Oregon Health Authority granted NHS \$15,000 in CARES Act Covid relief funding for COVID expenses in 2020. (These funds were to be used by December 30, 2020). Since the grant is retroactive to March, we can allocate up to \$15,000 in COVID expenses spent in 2020, such as our hand-washing station, PPE supplies, and generator, to the CARES Act grant, freeing up \$15,000 for use in 2021.

We have received hundreds of bottles and cans and are setting up a process to recycle them at the BottleDrop Redemption Center. As a non-profit, we qualify for a special program that will allow us to drop off up to 100 bags of cans/bottles a month, without having to go through the arduous process of putting every item through a receptacle.

The NHS Board will prepare a delicious Christmas dinner for camp residents, including ham, scalloped potatoes, yams, rolls, salad and dessert.

We end the year with 17 residents in camp, five with regular employment through All Star Labor & Staffing and another five doing yard work and other part-time labor for community members.

All in all, 2020 has been a good year for Nightingale Hosted Shelters. The NHS Board and camp residents thank all of our donors, business partners, and community partners for their generous donations and support.

We will hold an NHS Board Zoom meeting in January. Details will be sent out in early January.

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Sane Holiday Season and a Happy New year.

Sandy Cutler, President
NHS Board President



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