

Friends of the Unsheltered

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Who are we?

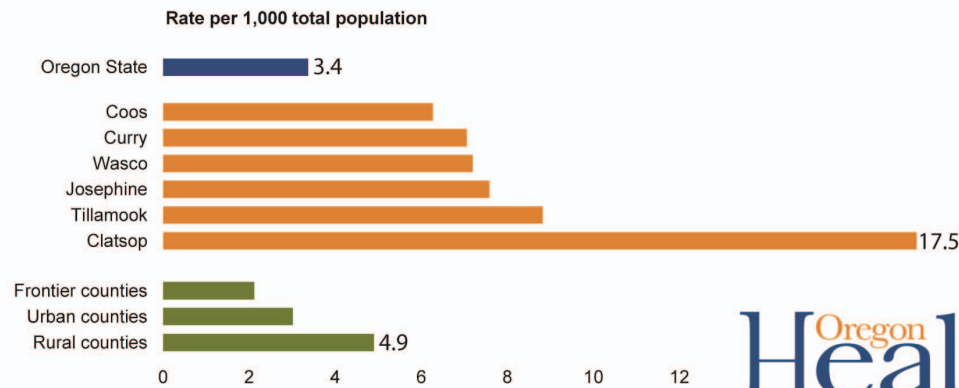
- Started spending 6 – 9 months in Astoria in our RV in 2013
- Started teaching Nonviolent Communication classes at Helping Hands in 2015
- Bought a house in Astoria and sold the RV in 2017
- As interspiritual ministers, started a Tuesday night “Authentic Spiritual Conversations” and a Sunday morning “Celebration of Spirit” service
- Joined the boards of the Astoria Warming Center and Filling Empty Bellies and attended HOST meetings
- Created a small group to identify needs and solutions related to serving people who are homeless in Oct 2018 which created a concept paper for a drop-in center in Jan 2019
- Presented the concept for a drop-in Resource Center at a public meeting June 2019

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Homelessness: Current Situation

Estimates of the homeless population by county, Oregon, 2017



Astoria Warming Center

“To prevent unsheltered people from dying of exposure in Astoria.”

2018-2019 Season Summary

- ❑ We were open 90 nights. On nearly half of these, we had more than 25 Guests.
- ❑ We were able to serve 185 different individuals: 51 Women, and 134 Men, resulting in a total of 2,272 overnight stays.
- ❑ Our Guests’ ages ranged from 18 - 77 years old: 8% were 18 - 24 years old; 64% were 25 - 54 years old; 23% were 55 and older. Senior citizens have been our fastest rising age group over the years.
- ❑ About half of our Guests have been homeless for less than a year.
- ❑ Just over 40% of our Guests identify with one or more disabilities.
- ❑ More than half of our Guests identify as being “from Astoria.” Another 10% are from Clatsop County.



Astoria Rescue Mission

Homeless Shelter & “New Life Discipleship Program”

Accommodations: 25 men and 7 women and children.
Length of Stay (general): 5 nights every 30 days OR 6-month residential program.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner
Services: Free clothing, laundry, showers, Bible studies, Chapel services

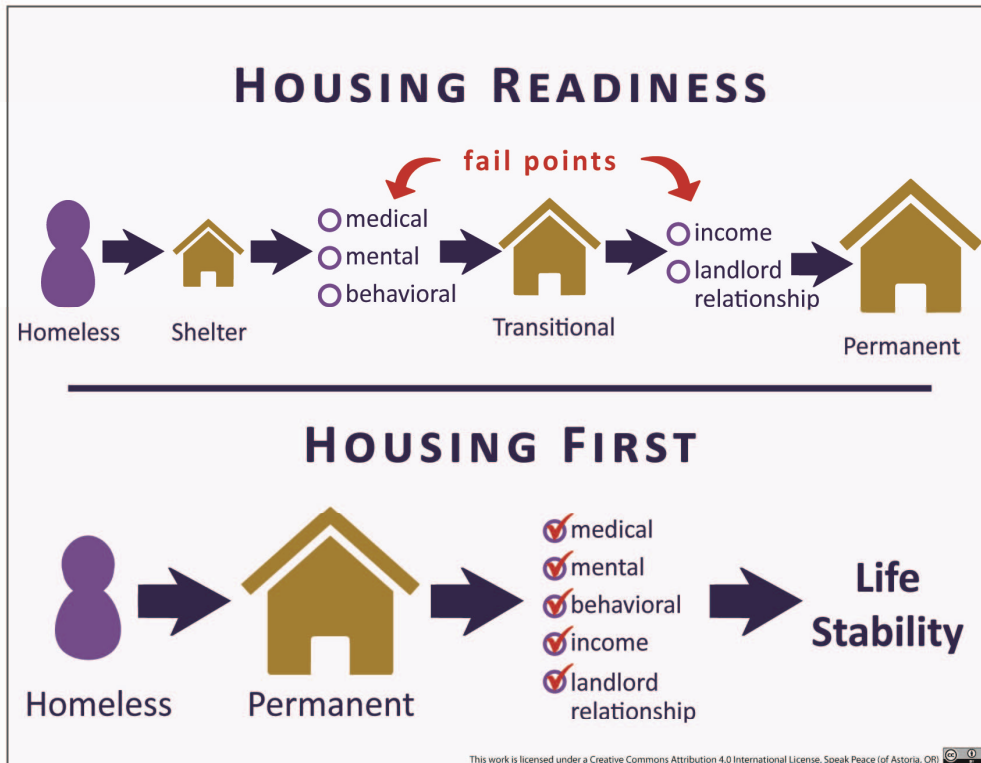
Helping Hands (emergency shelters)

Accommodations: 10 men and 8 women in Astoria some short-term overflow in Seaside.
Length of Stay (general): 4 days on / 3 days off for 2-weeks to determine interest in Reentry Program.
Misc: Referral-only / meals / sober campuses / no registered sex offenders / certified-registered-trained Companion animals



Housing Ready — Housing First

It's not “either/or” — It's both



Structural Barriers to Housing First

1. lack of affordable housing,
2. availability of living wage jobs, and
3. social or community exclusion.

Pathway's **Housing First**... “is a complex clinical and housing intervention that comprises three major components: (1) program philosophy and practice values emphasizing consumer choice; (2) community based, mobile support services; and (3) permanent scatter-site housing” (Tsemberis, 2010).

“In 2010, the Obama administration released *Opening Doors*, the first-ever comprehensive federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.... Over the next five years, HUD will work with its partners to deploy the solutions that we know are effective... informed by a Housing First approach...”
 —U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *FY 2013 Annual Performance Report: FY 2015 Annual Performance Plan* (July 2014).

Integrated Data

- Explored a consulting group called Built for Zero (BFZ) focused on ending chronic homelessness
- First steps to qualify for BFZ are (1) identify a convener to coordinate services across agencies and (2) construct an integrated, by-name data system so that case managers can track individuals through the system
- BFZ works through the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) which is inadequate for tracking individuals in Clatsop County
- Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) provides a more comprehensive system for building an integrated data system linking funding and services across agencies including CCA, CBH, Astoria Warming Center, Helping Hands and other temporary housing, all medical providers, VA, and other services delivered

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County-wide Coordinator position

- Shared an article called “Creating Systems That Work” with Chief Spalding and suggested a possible framework for a “next generation” process for HOST (Sept 2019)
- Spalding met with us to discuss the idea of a county-wide coordinator of services related to people who are homeless. He asked us to develop a job description (Sept 2019)
- Spalding presented the idea of a county-wide coordinator at an intergovernmental meeting and received general support (Oct 2019)
- Suggested that the county-wide coordinator position be placed under Clatsop County Public Health



Drop-in Resource Center

- Provides a welcoming, safe place for people who are homeless with access to day-time shelter, restrooms, showers, storage lockers, and a legal place to be;
- Provides a safe place for members to gather for socialization, peer support services, crisis mitigation, volunteer work, relevant classes, and recreation activities;
- Provides one-stop intake and assessment including housing, transportation, education, preventive health care, mental health services, and jobs;
- Outreach collaboration among social service agencies and community partners who also provide services in their separate locations.
- Location? Expressed our interest in the jail building for the drop-in Resource Center



Advocacy

- Identified Astoria zoning issues which make it more difficult to create shelters or low-income housing.
- Astoria Planning Commission Work Session on December 10th that will impact the Astoria Warming Center.
- Create an action-network!

