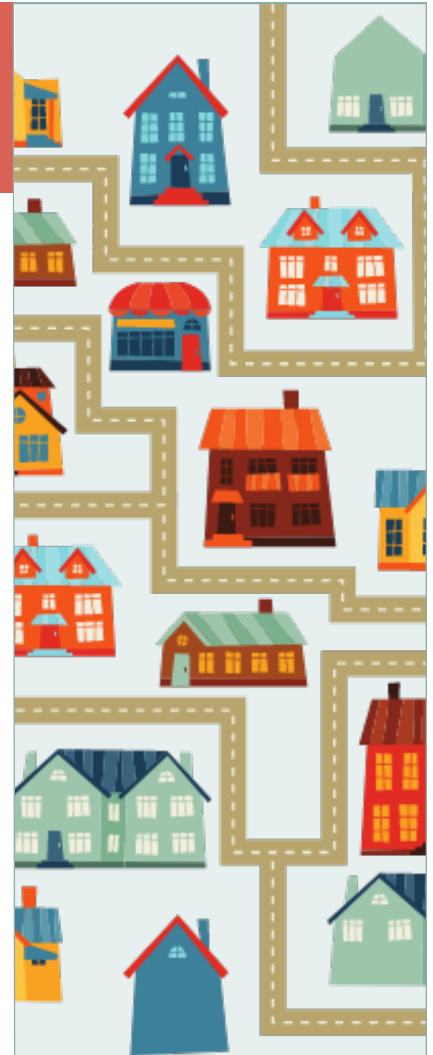


Inside OHRA



Notes from our Executive Director

Dear OHRA Supporters:

I blinked, and for the second time since joining the OHRA family, our annual Spring Appeal for your support kicks off with this letter.

First, thank you for recognizing the power and impact of OHRA through your donations over the last two or more years. Each dollar you give is an expression of trust in our team, our strategy, and our services.

Your support is also uplifting. This is especially important at times when our programs are disparaged by those who don't understand our value to the community. When this happens, we "turn the other cheek" because responding might require breaching someone's privacy, or worse, diminishing a community member who is being impacted by extreme circumstances. We turn the other cheek because it's right, and your support strengthens our resolve.

So, I am asking for your continued support and partnership as we continue to provide shelters, showers, clean clothes, and financial assistance to over 2,000 individuals each year in our community. These ongoing efforts have kept crime rates low, reduced expensive emergency room visits, and kept children and families housed.

Your continued support will also bolster our efforts to expand services where we see the highest impact. This includes plans to invest in permanent supported housing for chronically homeless individuals and establishing a social enterprise business that offers job opportunities to unhoused individuals who are ready and willing to work. Your donations have and will continue to have a direct and positive impact on the health and well-being of our community now and in the years to come.

Very best,

Dan Cano

Dan Cano, Executive Director
danc@ohrahelps.org



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A note from our Board President Cathy Gerbracht

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this season, I find myself quietly amazed at how far OHRA has come. What began as a fully volunteer-run effort has evolved into a highly professional organization with nearly 50 compassionate, skilled staff members, working every day to support our most vulnerable neighbors.

I'm especially heartened by the way OHRA continues to build thoughtful relationships with the City of Ashland, local businesses, and partners across our valley. There is a shared desire to listen carefully and respond with intention to the needs of our neighbors.

Last fall, our board approved a three-year strategic plan, and I'm already seeing it come to life. We are growing our capacity, diversifying our revenue stream and fostering meaningful partnerships with local businesses and agencies. We are also looking ahead toward more stable housing opportunities, pathways to meaningful work for those facing the greatest barriers, and deeper support for those experiencing substance use challenges, including plans to welcome an in-house therapist.

What continues to inspire me most is how this community of generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and those who shared a commitment to learning better solutions shows up, like everyone who attended the recent Gregg Colburn lecture. If you missed the event, I encourage you to explore his book, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

With gratitude,



A FAMILY FINDS STABILITY- *Paige's Story*

When Paige first connected with OHRA, she and her young family had spent months moving from couch to couch, trying to hold life together while navigating housing instability, mounting bills, and the emotional strain that comes with constant uncertainty. Again and again, they reached out for help — and again and again, they were turned away.

Then they found OHRA.

Working closely with housing navigator James, Paige was connected to support through the Oregon Rehousing Initiative (ORI), a statewide program designed to quickly move households from homelessness into stable housing with flexible, individualized support. Through ORI, OHRA was



Paige

A FAMILY FINDS STABILITY - *Continued*

able to help Paige's family secure an apartment and receive temporary rental assistance while they regained their footing.

For Paige, the impact went far beyond housing.

"Everybody at OHRA was very hopeful and encouraging," she shared. "I had never seen humanity like that before."

Paige described arriving at OHRA exhausted and overwhelmed after months of trying everything she could think of to keep her family safe

and together. She said what stood out most was not just the practical help, but the compassion. Instead of judgment, she found people who

"It felt like this angel came out of nowhere. Everyone else turned us down. OHRA made us feel cared about."

- Paige, OHRA guest

listened, reassured her, and treated her family with dignity.

"It felt like this angel came out of nowhere," she said. "Everyone else turned us down. OHRA made us feel cared about."

That stability gave Paige and her husband the breathing room they needed to move forward. While ORI assistance helped cover rent during the most difficult period, both continued working toward long-term stability. Today, Paige is employed as a Direct Support Professional, a role she deeply values because it allows her to help others navigate difficult circumstances. Together, the family has paid down debt, built savings, and reached an important milestone—they no longer need rental assistance.

Most importantly, their children now have something that had been missing for a long time, stability.

Paige says the experience changed how she viewed asking for help. After months of feeling judged and turned away, she found compassion, reassurance, and genuine care at OHRA.

"We can finally plan for the future instead of just surviving," she said.

Paige's story is a reminder of what OHRA strives to provide every day, not just housing assistance, but dignity, encouragement, and a path toward long-term stability.

Highlights of HOPE

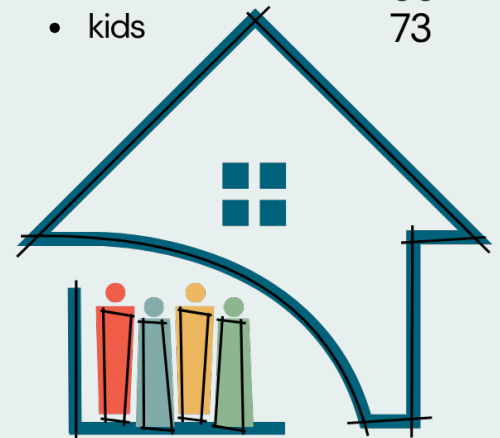


April 2025 -April 2026

People Newly Housed

245

- men 66
- women 99
- kids 73



People Receiving Services

2739

- resourcecenter 2331
- sheltered * 408

* (includes onsite, offsite/family & emergency shelters)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - *The Neighborhood Clean-Up*

This spring, more than 80 volunteers came together for OHRA's first annual Neighborhood Clean-Up—and what unfolded was far more than a day of service. It was a clear, tangible example of what community looks like in action.

Volunteers arrived ready to work, representing a true cross-section of Ashland. Elected officials, longtime OHRA supporters, local families, partner organizations like ACCESS and La Clinica, local businesses including Rogue Credit Union, as well as OHRA guests and individuals currently experiencing homelessness all worked side by side, neighbors connected through a shared purpose.



Neighborhood Clean-up Crew

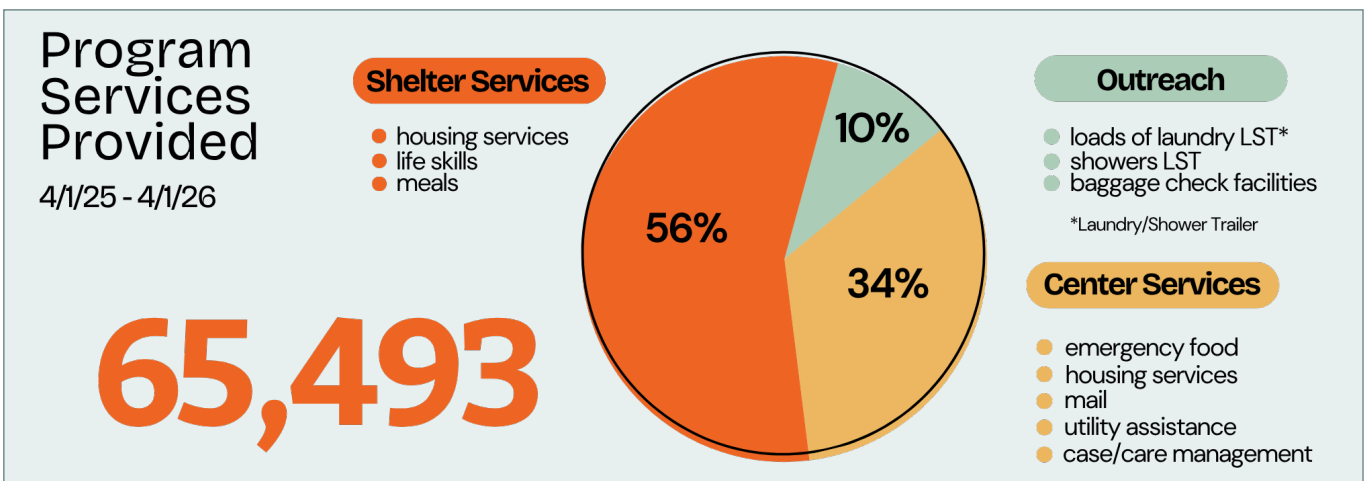


“Executive” Chefs Dan & Ben

Together, volunteers cleaned sidewalks, parking lots, and bike paths throughout Ashland and by the end of the day, the impact was unmistakable—an entire flat-bed filled with collected trash. We're especially grateful to the City of Ashland for hauling debris and supporting the effort with street sweepers.

The day concluded with a shared BBQ lunch hosted by OHRA's Executive Director, Dan Cano, and Deputy Director Ben Bellinson—a meaningful way to celebrate what had been accomplished together.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for showing up—for your time, your energy, and your willingness to be part of making our community better. We look forward to continuing this work together and hope you'll join us again.



MEANING AND COLLABORATION - *OHRA and Jackson Care Connect*



Part of the CareOregon Family

What began as an emergency response in the early days of COVID-19 has grown into a deeply integrated partnership between Jackson Care Connect (JCC) and OHRA, one that is improving both housing stability and health outcomes across our community.

In spring 2020, the pandemic exposed urgent gaps for medically fragile, un-housed individuals and JCC stepped in with emergency funding to help OHRA sustain temporary shelter for them. From there, the partnership quickly evolved. By the fall, JCC was supporting OHRA's winter shelter operations, helping offset dramatically increased costs tied to covid safety protocols. Over time, what began as transactional support became transformational.

Since November 2024, JCC has provided housing-related supports through the Oregon Health Authority's Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) program. As an early implementation partner, OHRA received capacity-building funding.

Today, JCC and OHRA work side by side to coordinate care for shared clients, aligning housing services with healthcare navigation. Weekly collaboration between teams ensures that individuals experiencing homelessness can access benefits, maintain coverage, and receive coordinated medical and behavioral health care. JCC staff regularly connect with OHRA navigators, participate in care team meetings, and even provide on-site support at the shelter—meeting people where they are.

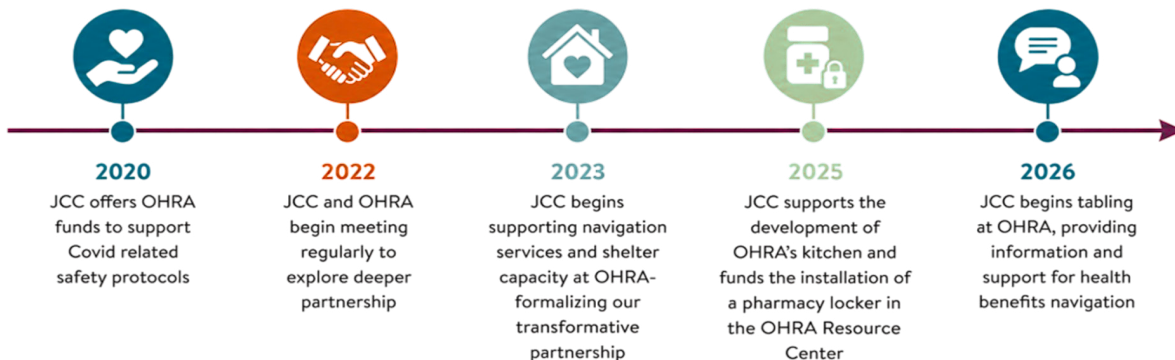
This partnership reflects the shared understanding that stable housing directly impacts physical and behavioral health outcomes. When people have a safe, stable place to live, communities see fewer emergency room visits, improved treatment adherence and stronger long-term outcomes. Data from the Oregon Health Authority reinforces this, showing measurable improvements in health outcomes and reductions in healthcare utilization when individuals maintain stable housing.

Recent collaborations, including JCC granting money to install the kitchen at OHRA and funding the installation of a pharmacy locker in the OHRA Resource Center, demonstrate how innovation and trust continue to drive this work forward. Most recently JCC partnered with OHRA to host the community lecture by Gregg Colburn.

Together, JCC and OHRA are building a model of care that is not only compassionate, but effective—improving lives while strengthening the health of the entire community.

“Our partnership is a meaningful one, and we are grateful for the close collaboration to serve our members’ needs.”

-Sam Watson, Director of Community Health Partnerships



MEET DWAYNE DIXON - *Finding Hope and Sharing It*

Dwayne Dixon is a brand-new member of the navigator staff here at OHRA and he is truly enjoying the work, the people, and organizational culture. He says, “You know how sometimes you wake up and don’t want to go to

work? This is different. I love getting up in the morning knowing I get to go to OHRA. The atmosphere is one of my favorite things about working here!”

That atmosphere and energy are key parts of what drives people like Dwayne to choose to work at OHRA.



Navigator Dwayne Dixon

Born and raised in San Francisco, he lived a nomadic life before settling down in Southern Oregon where he worked with The Pathfinder Network. Often, OHRA would receive mail for clients with Pathfinder, and over time, Dwayne got to know Martha and many other staff members. After learning about a job opening, Dwayne started his OHRA career and was hired to work weekends at the winter shelter.

That role led him to this current work as a navigator; one he finds meaningful.

Dwayne deeply enjoys working with guests because he values offering them as many resources and help as he can. He is especially grateful to give back after going through similar things to our guests. He enjoys encouraging guests to look for any and all opportunities for growth.

Dwayne’s been incredibly active since arriving, often spotted in the halls and breakroom connecting with staff and guests. He recently was a Team Lead with OHRA’s Neighborhood Cleanup. Dwayne made that event a family affair, bringing his children to participate. In his downtime, he takes care of his kids, supports all their extracurricular activities, and enjoys working out. Dwayne’s a great addition to the OHRA staff and we’re glad he’s part of the team.

“HOMELESSNESS IS A HOUSING PROBLEM” - *Gregg Colburn Lecture*



Dr. Gregg Colburn

OHRA was honored to host Professor Gregg Colburn, author of *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*, for two community lectures at SOU’s Stevenson Union on May 13th. Dr. Colburn spoke eloquently about housing issues across the U.S., his findings, and ways communities like ours can make a difference in the fight for human dignity in housing.



THE GIFT OF BEAUTY - *Supporter Impact*

This spring, something remarkable has taken root at OHRA, and it's about far more than landscaping.

Just months ago, the space outside our center was a weedy, neglected patch of ground. It didn't reflect the care, dignity, and sense of belonging we work to offer every day. Today, that same space has been transformed into something vibrant and welcoming. A space that speaks to everyone who comes up to OHRA and says, 'You matter here.'

What makes this transformation especially meaningful is how it came together. It's a true reflection of our community at its best. A cross section of giving that, piece by piece, created something none of us could have accomplished alone.

A generous gift of \$20,000 from Barry and Kathryn Thalden laid the foundation, covering the bulk of materials and professional labor. That gift turned possibility into action. Another gift from Eileen Piker funded the landscape design itself, ensuring that the space



would not only be functional, but thoughtful, sustainable, and beautiful for years to come, as well as drought and fire resistant.



Laura Buckley, Jen MacCracken, Diane de Ryss, Eileen Piker

Together, these contributions have done more than improve a piece of the OHRA grounds. They've added beauty to the neighborhood, created a more welcoming environment for our guests, and brought a renewed sense of pride to everyone connected to OHRA. As the Thalden's say, "Everyone needs beauty in their life." If you haven't been by recently, we invite you to come see it for yourself. Walk the space, take in the changes, and know that what you're seeing is the result of a community coming together with shared purpose.

This is what your support makes possible.

DEVELOPMENT CORNER



This year, our community has shown what's possible when generosity meets need. Because of



you, OHRA has expanded services, strengthened partnerships, and continued moving people from crisis to stability—every single day.

As we look ahead, our fundraising goal is clear—sustaining and growing this impact through diverse income streams, and most importantly, with reliable, unrestricted support. Flexible funding allows us to respond in real time and pivot when needs shift.

Whether that's preventing an eviction, helping someone secure employment, or ensuring our Resource Center remains a place of dignity and welcome. This spring, I invite you to be part of that momentum. A gift to OHRA today is an investment in stability, dignity, and lasting change for our neighbors. Thank you for being part of this work.

Warmly,
Brandy MacDonald,
Development Director

And then came the steady, essential work that often goes unseen—volunteers (led by board member Diane de Ryss) showing up rain or shine, pulling weeds, tending soil, and nurturing this young landscape as it takes hold. In these early stages especially, that care makes all the difference. It's a reminder that transformation isn't just about big moments, it's about ongoing commitment.



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When neighbors support neighbors, hope grows — and your year-end gift helps that hope reach even further. Here are a few ways you can give today.



Become a Monthly Donor

Even \$5/month provides powerful and predictable support OHRA can count on.



Use a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Put unallocated DAF resources to work now and make a meaningful impact.



Leave a Legacy

Include OHRA in your will or trust to ensure your impact continues for generations.

