



From the Desk of Our Executive Director

A Year of Growth, Gratitude, and Purpose

As my first year at OHRA approaches, I am deeply moved by what this community continues to build. This community includes the many people who make OHRA a daily success: our generous donors, tireless volunteers, trusted community partners, and our hardworking OHRA staff. Most importantly, however, I've been moved by the guests we serve—each with their own story of struggle, resilience, and hope.

This has been a year of real progress. We opened our new commercial kitchen, allowing us to prepare and share meals for those most vulnerable. We upgraded our Laundry and Shower Trailer to increase capacity for our unhoused neighbors, and we expanded our partnership with the City of Ashland and other local agencies to ensure that our collective efforts remain responsive and coordinated to meet the changing needs of our community.

At the same time, we've been strengthening our foundation—refining systems, increasing staff training, and improving coordination with our partners. We also completed OHRA's three-year strategic plan to guide our growth and keep us focused on what matters most: ensuring every person who walks through our doors is met with respect and meaningful opportunities to increase their options for meeting their basic needs sustainably.

What has inspired me most this year is witnessing the way this community continually comes together. Whether through fundraising events, volunteer service, shared expertise, or heartfelt advocacy, you show up—for OHRA and for your neighbors in crisis. That collective care is the foundation of our work, and it's what keeps us strong in times of uncertainty and change.

Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our partnerships, diversifying our income streams, and strengthening the systems that make OHRA more efficient and effective. Most of all, we will continue responding to our community's greatest needs—one relationship at a time.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community. Your generosity and belief in OHRA make everything we do possible.



Dan Cano

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A Note from Our Board President Cathy Gerbracht

Dear Friends,

OHRA has much to be thankful for this year. Executive Director **Dan Cano**, now completing his first year of leadership, has guided the organization through a period of steady growth and achievement. Over the past ten months, OHRA has celebrated the completion of **Miriam's Café**—including a beautiful new mural and fully operational kitchen—and strengthened our navigation program by adding new **outreach and coordination of the night lawn**, improving support for both our guests and the wider community.



This summer, the Board and senior staff developed a **strategic plan** to guide OHRA through the coming years. The plan includes bold goals such as expanding **housing options** for guests exiting the shelter and creating **new office space** to increase the number of shelter beds. These initiatives depend on maintaining and growing OHRA's financial sustainability.

Like so many of you, I have been a long-time supporter and cheerleader of OHRA, but today I am even more confident that OHRA is an organization worthy of ALL our support. Under Dan's leadership, OHRA continues to be a hub of progress, teamwork, and compassion. The dedication of staff and volunteers is evident every day, and the results speak for themselves—neighbors helping neighbors and a community made stronger through shared effort.

Many supporters have already given generously during a year marked by major cuts to the social safety net. Thank you—your partnership makes this work possible. Whether you give your time, talent or treasure, we so appreciate your assistance. If you haven't yet contributed, please consider making a gift. Your support gives OHRA the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and ensures we remain a vital resource for our community. Please join your neighbors helping other neighbors!



Navigator Highlight: Andy Davis

After 22 years working in the Sheriff's Office, Andy Davis wanted his second career to be about something different—something rooted in hope. Three years ago, he found that at OHRA.

As one of OHRA's **Resource Navigators**, Andy helps people facing homelessness or instability find pathways toward stability and self-sufficiency. His work often includes case

management, connecting guests to rental assistance, and linking them with other community resources—from mental health support to disability claims. But, as Andy says, "It's hard to put it all into one box. We just try to meet the needs of everybody, whatever they are."

Andy's compassion and persistence have changed many lives, including one guest who stands out in his memory. After losing her husband—the person who had managed all their affairs—she was left alone, struggling with cognitive challenges and without a stable place to live. Andy and the OHRA team helped her open a bank account, manage her finances, and apply for supportive housing. It was a long process with many setbacks, but "at the last moment," Andy recalls, "a miracle appeared." She moved into a subsidized apartment with ongoing mental health support—a forever home where she can thrive.

For Andy, the best part of his job is both **the mission and the people** he works alongside. "This is, no exaggeration, the best place I've ever worked," he says. "The culture here is so supportive. The answer is almost never 'no'; it's 'how can we make this work?' That's how we approach each other—and the people we serve. That might be the currency that we deal with here at OHRA- hope and kindness."

Even when outcomes aren't perfect, Andy keeps perspective: "There's suffering here, and there's joy here—you can't have one without the other. But there's a lot more joy than suffering, on big levels and little levels."

Outside of OHRA, Andy enjoys **rockhounding**—hunting for agates, jasper, and petrified wood. "It gets me out into the woods, exploring different areas," he says. "It's like going on a treasure hunt."

Volunteer Highlight: Stephen French

Three years ago, when Stephen French asked fellow parishioners at Trinity Episcopal Church where he could volunteer to make a real impact on homelessness, their answer was immediate: "OHRA—they're on the frontlines." So that's where he went.

Stephen began volunteering with OHRA's Laundry and Shower Trailer, and over the past three years, he's found his greatest joy in the relationships he's

built with guests. “I’ve met so many people here who just have great hearts and are really beautiful people,” he says. “It’s inspiring—and it’s good for me to be around people like that.”

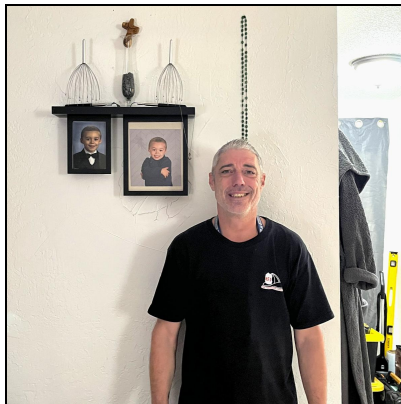
For Stephen, volunteering is a natural expression of faith. “I think our calling is to serve Christ in others,” he shares. He recalls a sermon about a New York lawyer who volunteered at a homeless shelter. When asked why, the lawyer replied, “I can’t think of a better place to meet Jesus.” That message stayed with Stephen and continues to guide his service.



Through his time at OHRA, Stephen has gained a deeper understanding of our shared humanity. “You realize the line between most of us being out on the street ourselves is very thin,” he reflects. “It is so easy when you hear ‘unhoused’ or ‘homeless’ to think that they are people who are either mentally ill or lazy- that’s how they get portrayed a lot, but I meet bright, caring, intelligent people who look out for each other.”

Outside of OHRA, Stephen enjoys the many gifts of retirement—reading, watching basketball, traveling, and studying Chinese, something he never had time to do while teaching it in high school.

We are deeply grateful for Stephen’s compassion, humility, and steady presence. His faith in action is a reminder that service connects us all—and that in serving others, we recognize our shared humanity.



A Hero Finding Hope Again: Andrew’s Story

When Andrew talks about his seven-year-old son, Seamus, his voice softens. “If it wasn’t for him,” he says, “everything I’ve been through would have been a lot harder to bear.”

Andrew is a Navy veteran and single father. Seamus’s mother passed away when the baby was only five months old. Not long after,

Andrew lost his job, his car, and his home—then his own mother, who had been battling cancer. “She and Seamus got three beautiful years together,” he recalls. “My son brought her so much joy.” But when she passed, everything unraveled.

Andrew’s struggles began long before that. Andrew enlisted in the military twice, from 1994-1998 and then again after he helped with the cleanup of the 9/11 attacks. “I only lasted two days on the cleanup,” he admits. “It was just too much. After what I’d already seen in the military, that pushed me over the edge.” He served as a corpsman embedded with the Marines. “I was good at my job, but what I saw...was eventful,” he says quietly. The trauma left invisible wounds—that made rebuilding his life even harder.

When everything fell apart, Andrew spent years in rural Oregon, living in a fifth wheel on borrowed land. “When the county started cracking down on RVs, I didn’t know where to go,” he says. That’s when a friend staying at OHRA’s Family Program reached out—and changed everything.

Andrew came to the motel housing the OHRA family program to help his friend with childcare. Andrew says. “I started helping out with childcare, and then helping around the motel, doing odd jobs. That’s how I met Cal from OHRA—and everything skyrocketed from there.” Within days, Cal helped him move into a room, get new identification, and begin reuniting with his son. Through OHRA, Andrew met community partners who stepped up in powerful ways: *Bob from Veterans Services* helped him access long-overdue benefits, counseling, and parenting classes. *Will from La Clinica* connected him with healthcare and got him signed up for health insurance. Andrew even got reading glasses from *the Lion’s Club* tabling at OHRA.

“Cal and everyone at OHRA is amazing,” Andrew says. “Hugs over Handshakes there! Cal helped me get a job at Harry & David, and now he’s helping me get my contractor’s license again. Every time I walk into OHRA, I see people smiling and helping each other—it’s a real community.”

After years of loss and trauma, Andrew finally sees a future. “I’m hoping to be in permanent housing by New Year’s,” he says. “Change doesn’t happen all at once—it just takes a little movement to get your life going in the right direction.”

Then he smiles: “OHRA is amazing, I really appreciate it.”

A Healing Partnership: OHRA and La Clinica

From the beginning, OHRA and La Clinica have shared a vision—helping people move from crisis to stability by meeting their basic needs with compassion and dignity. Our partnership began when La Clinica parked its Mobile Health Center at the First United Methodist Church of Ashland. What started with simple referrals soon grew into a lasting, collaborative relationship.



During OHRA's 2022 renovation of a former motel into our permanent campus, two hotel rooms were transformed into a medical clinic complete with a lab and full exam room. When La Clinica’s Mobile Health Center tragically burned in 2023, OHRA immediately stepped forward and said, “*We’d like to open up a space for you.*”

Today, La Clinica offers an integrated model of care at the OHRA Center—combining medical, behavioral, and social services to address the whole person. “It makes sense to bring multiple services together in one location. That’s what brings people in,” says Bob Baumann, Field-Based CareTeam Lead of La Clinica.

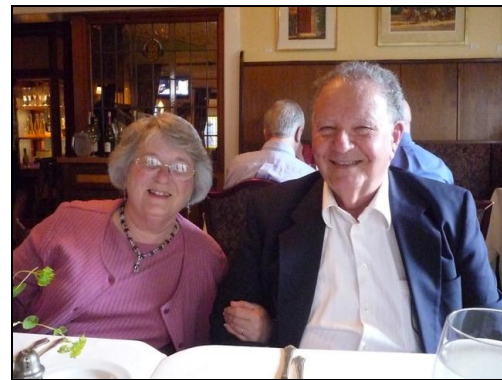
La Clinica and OHRA's collaboration builds trust among OHRA guests, which is vital to support people experiencing trauma. When an OHRA Navigator vouches for La Clinica, "it really bridges the gap," Bob explains. The clinic welcomes anyone in the community—no appointment needed. "We are completely walk-in based, which meets our clients' immediate needs."

Together, OHRA, La Clinica, and our community partners create a safety net of care. As Bob puts it, "To have an organization like OHRA to partner with plays such a big part in this community—and makes a big difference."

Partnerships like this are only possible because of you. Your gifts make it possible for OHRA to open doors, build bridges, and offer the kind of wraparound support that truly changes lives.

Highlights of Hope

A Love That Keeps Giving: The Story of Miriam's Café



Guests, staff, and supporters all love Miriam's Café. It has become the heart of OHRA's Shelter—and, like everything at OHRA, Miriam's Café was made possible by love. In Jewish tradition, caring for others is not only an act of kindness—it is a sacred obligation. The Torah teaches, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Miriam and Stanley Schiffman lived this teaching during their long and joyful marriage.

When Miriam passed away in 2024, Stan honored her memory with a \$200,000 pledge to help create Miriam's Café—a beautiful tribute to a beautiful human being. Stan gave permission to share details of his gift in hopes of inspiring others to support OHRA as well.

Since opening
the OHRA Center
in 2021

1692*

#of households
receiving eviction
prevention services

1368

women

1404

children

918

men

618*

of unhoused
households
newly housed

381

women

219

children

336

men

4,626

+9 Nonbinary, Transgender, Questioning, etc.

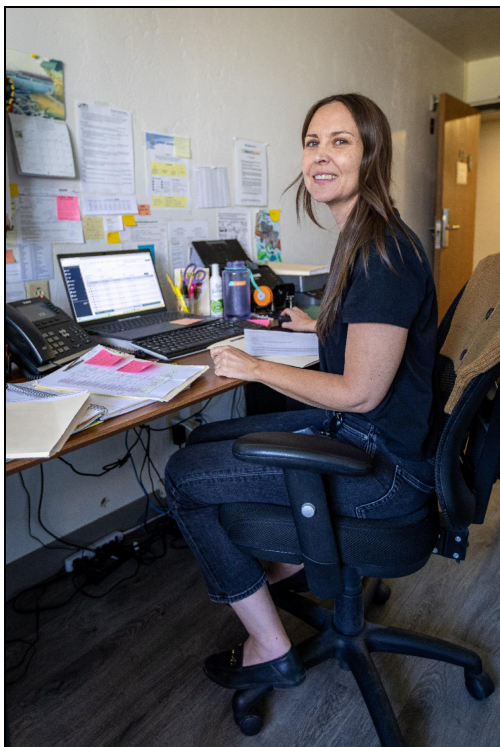
individuals impacted

through September 2025

Those who knew Miriam describe her as a woman of valor who poured her heart into helping others. Through this space, her warmth continues to nourish all who gather here.

Stan and Miriam contributed to OHRA from the earliest days, believing in supporting organizations that make a real difference in people's lives.

Stan, a man of deep Jewish faith and longtime meditator, continues to share his practice by voluntarily teaching mindfulness to OHRA staff whenever he visits Ashland. His and Miriam's shared belief in compassion and community lives on in every meal served and every conversation shared in the café. "They say we die twice. The first time is when the body no longer supports life. The second is when no one tells your stories. May we keep telling."



Resource Navigator Sara, one of the many people making this positive impact possible.

Volunteer News

Winter and Extreme Weather Shelter Volunteers Needed

OHRA is taking on the management of Ashland's Winter and Extreme Weather Shelter this year. Whether you are a returning volunteer or a first timer, we invite you to help our staff run the shelter. Please email alexism@ohrahelpr.org to get started!

Neighborhood Cleanup: Saturday, April 18th, 2026

OHRA is hosting a volunteer neighborhood cleanup event on April 18th, 2026. This event will bring neighbors together to make a positive impact on our shared environment. Stay tuned for more information via these monthly newsletters.



Development Corner

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Notes from Our Development Director

As the year comes to a close, my heart is full of gratitude. OHRA donors have truly stepped up this past year—thank you! Whether you gave a first gift or have been supporting OHRA for years, you are helping us meet people where they are and walk beside them toward stability and hope.

One of the great joys of my first year as Development Director has been getting to know OHRA's incredible community of supporters. We are truly neighbors helping neighbors. Together, we have made steady progress toward our goal of building \$350,000 in reserves by June 30, 2026—and we're already halfway there. Your generosity gives OHRA the flexibility to respond quickly when needs change, to protect our services in the event of funding changes, and to strengthen our ability to secure future grant support.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope you'll consider making an extra gift to OHRA. Unrestricted gifts have the greatest impact, ensuring we can continue to say "yes" to people who need us most. This is also a wonderful time to think about longer-term support—multi-year pledges, gifts through your IRA, or a bequest in your will can make a lasting difference for years to come. From all of us at OHRA—thank you, thank you, thank you. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

Warmly,

Brandy MacDonald



Come Visit Us...Tour the Center!

We love showing people where their support does its magic. Call or [email](#) us anytime to schedule a personal or group tour!

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