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Greetings!

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

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OHRAhelps.org

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

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 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 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.

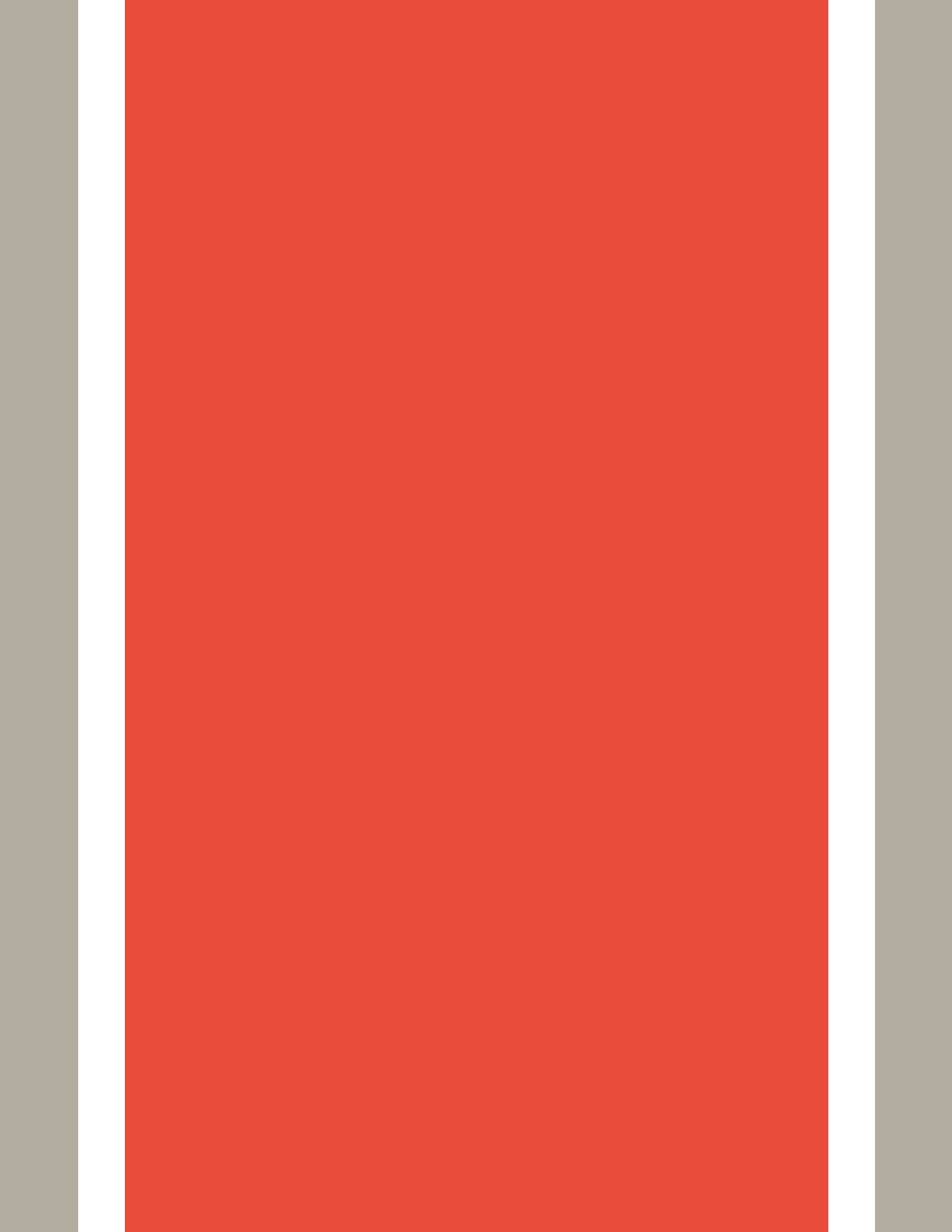
Paige's story is a reminder of what OHRA strives to provide every day, not just housing assistance, but dignity, encouragement, and a path toward long-term stability.

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

- Paige, OHRA guest

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Highlights of Hope

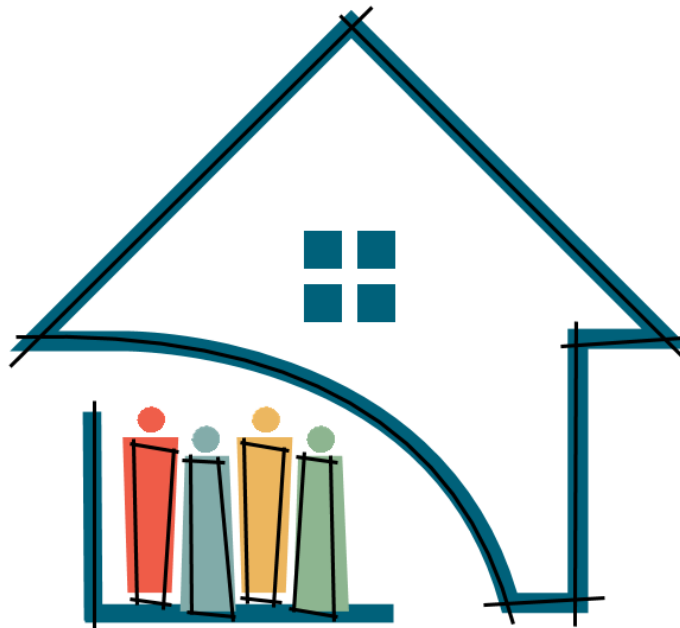


April 2025 -April 2026

People Newly Housed

245

- men 66
- women 99
- kids 73
- non-binary,
transgender,
questioning, other 7



People Receiving Services

2739

- resourcecenter 2331
- sheltered* 408

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



Volunteer Spotlight

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. Side by side, neighbors connected through a shared purpose.

Together, volunteers cleaned sidewalks, parking lots, and bike paths throughout Ashland and by the end of the day, the impact was unmistakable: an entire flatbed 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 partner with us again. Executive chefs Dan and Ben would love to have you join in!



Volunteer Application

Meaning and Collaboration

“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 at JCC”

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.

In spring 2020, JCC stepped in with emergency funding to help OHRA sustain temporary shelter for medically fragile guests. By that fall, the partnership quickly shifted from transactional to transformative. JCC began supporting OHRA’s winter shelter operations, helping offset dramatically increased costs tied to covid safety protocols.

Since November 2024, OHRA has partnered with Jackson Care Connect to deliver housing-related services through the Oregon Health Authority’s health-related social needs (HRSN) program. As an early implementation partner, OHRA received capacity-building funding and now works in close coordination with JCC to align housing and healthcare for shared clients—through weekly collaboration, integrated care planning, and on-site support that helps individuals experiencing homelessness access benefits, maintain coverage, and receive consistent medical and behavioral health care.



Part of the CareOregon Family

This partnership reflects a 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 at the OHRA navigation center, demonstrate how innovation and trust continue to drive this work forward.

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.



Development Corner

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The Power of Community

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

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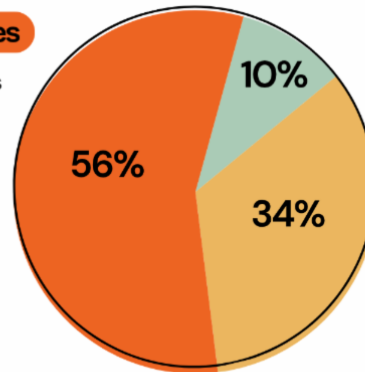
Program Services Provided

4/1/25 - 4/1/26

65,493

Shelter Services

- housing services
- life skills
- meals



Outreach

- loads of laundry LST*
- showers LST
- baggage check facilities

*Laundry/Shower Trailer

Center Services

- emergency food
- housing services
- mail
- utility assistance
- case/care management

Navigator Highlight

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.

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.





The Gift of Beauty

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.

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.

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.



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

Guest Speaker And Lecture



Gregg's Talk

OHRA welcomed community members to two talks by Homelessness is a Housing Problem, author Gregg Colburn. Generously sponsored by Jackson Care Connect and Rogue Valley Metaphysical Library, the talks at SOU were compassionate and informative.

Colburn shared insights from his research from communities just like ours, providing rich dialogue on how to work with those affected by homelessness with dignity and courage. To watch the video of his amazing talk, please head to YouTube, linked above!

Connect with 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!

Learn More About OHRA

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