



Preparing Together for What's Ahead

- A Note From Dan Cano, Executive Director

Hello community members and OHRA supporters,

As many of you know, this is a tough year for our state budget. Reductions in federal funding are coinciding with a growing need for public services. This was evident to me while visiting the state capital in May. Every meeting with legislators revolved around how to downsize programs without throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Some unfortunate results were significant cuts to homeless prevention services that reduced funding by 74%. This shift means that, across the state, many households who previously would have received help to stay housed may no longer have access to that support. This, painfully, will have a direct impact on Ashland and the Rogue Valley as a whole.

These prevention services—like emergency rent assistance, tenant advocacy, and housing navigation—are some of the most effective tools we have to reduce homelessness before it begins. At OHRA, we've seen firsthand how timely support can help someone weather a crisis and avoid losing their home. That's why we're focused now more than ever on sustaining these types of services in our community, even as statewide resources shrink.

We're responding in several ways. We're continuing to grow our **unrestricted reserves** so that we can remain responsive to urgent needs. At the same time, we're expanding our **search for new funding sources**, including private foundation support, business partnerships, and collaborations with local organizations that share our mission. By broadening our base, we're working to ensure OHRA remains a strong, stable resource for those in crisis—no matter what's happening at the state level.

If you contributed to our spring appeal, thank you. Your generosity gives us the stability we need to navigate change and continue helping people move from crisis to stability. If you're looking for other ways to stay involved, we invite you to become a monthly donor, sign up to volunteer, or simply help spread the word about OHRA's work to others in your community.

With your continued partnership, we'll keep moving forward—together.



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Together, We Say Yes!

Thanks to you, our spring appeal was a wonderful success! We are overflowing with gratitude and love for our incredible donors — you make our work possible. Your generosity reminds us that donors aren't just supporters, you *are* our community.

Your gifts are vital. They allow us to respond quickly to people in crisis, keep programs running smoothly, and meet urgent needs that no grant or contract covers. Your support gives us the flexibility to say “yes” when it matters most.

We also know that community is more than dollars. Many of you volunteer your time, donate in-kind items like backpacks, tents, and sleeping bags, or simply help spread the word about our mission. Every one of these actions strengthens our ability to serve.

On behalf of everyone who benefits from your kindness — thank you for being such an important part of our Community!

[Donate Now](#)

Volunteer Highlight - Alex Reid

Alex Reid grew up knowing the importance of volunteering. When she left for college, her parents advised: *“Study hard, take a PE class every semester, and find a volunteer job.”* She did just that—working at a school for the blind during college. Later, she worked for over a decade as the director of a retired senior volunteer program center which later evolved into an all-age volunteer program, where she



connected seniors and teens through grant-funded programs and learned firsthand how much all ages have to offer each other.

After retiring, Alex revitalized the food bank at the UCC church where her husband ministered, turning it into a hub where neighbors could share their stories and get support.

Together with Patty Shonover, Alex chaired the church's Local Social Justice Committee and discovered Laundry Love—a program that provides free laundry services to people in need. The two started a chapter at Henry's Laundromat in Talent. When COVID hit and they lost their location, OHRA stepped in, offering the Laundry Shower Trailer (LST) and support.

Today, Laundry Love continues serving OHRA guests with clean clothes and coffee every Tuesday and Thursday.

"Our volunteers always tell me they receive more than they give," Alex says—a reminder of the profound impact of serving others.

[Apply to Volunteer](#)

From Guest to Guide: Debra's Journey with OHRA

In 2019, Debra walked into OHRA with her two children, seeking a path out of chronic homelessness. Today, she's the welcoming face at OHRA's front desk, helping others find the support they need.

Debra's story began in 2011, when addiction left her and her children homeless. At first, they couch-surfed and rented rooms, but as her substance abuse disorder worsened, those options disappeared. It was her teenage son who told her about OHRA, and the first person she met was Tina (pictured left), who helped her find housing options. Even though her initial voucher expired before she could use it, it gave her hope.



Determined to change, Debra got clean while still living on the street. In late 2019, she secured stable housing with help from the Maslow Project and Oregon Housing Authority.

After moving to Ashland in 2021, Debra worked a few jobs before applying at OHRA, where she was hired as Shelter Staff on the spot. Later, after recovering from a heart attack, she was invited to take on the Front Desk Receptionist role—a perfect fit.

"The support here is incredible," she says. *"Both when I was homeless and now as a staff member, OHRA has been here for me."*

Debra now manages the shelter waitlist, schedules appointments, serves meals, and greets every guest with kindness and understanding. *"I've been there,"* she says. *"I know what it is."*

OHRA is proud to have Debra on our team, turning her lived experience into compassion and guidance for others.

Building and Maintaining Community

Community has always been essential to human survival and well-being—from our earliest days in tribes and villages to today's civic organizations like the Elks and Rotary. Being part of a community connects us to others and brings meaning and satisfaction to our lives.

Yet too often, that sense of connection is lost in the busyness of modern life. Building community requires intention and a willingness to invest time and care in others. But when we do, everyone's lives—including our own—are enriched.

At OHRA, we believe community is one of our greatest assets—one that grows stronger with every act of kindness and every moment of service. If you're ready to help strengthen our community, we invite you to join us as a volunteer.

If you are interested in learning more about how to become or re-engage as an OHRA Volunteer, we invite you to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Event on August 7th from 2-4 PM at The OHRA Center. Please RSVP below to help us plan.

[RSVP Here](#)

Staff Highlight - Alexis Moser

Alexis is OHRA's Development and Communications Assistant, who is taking on the volunteer coordinating role at OHRA. She has worked at OHRA since January after moving back to Oregon from Minneapolis, MN.

Her role involves curating newsletters, donor correspondence, database management, social media management, and now building up OHRA's volunteering program.



Alexis has her Bachelor's in Family and Human Services from the University of Oregon and her Master's in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from Arizona State University. In her short career in the nonprofit sector, she has been in resource development, program coordination, and a teacher for an after-school program.

Alexis's favorite part about OHRA is the positive impact it has on our community. She loves that her job doesn't just benefit her life, but the lives of those around her.

Outside of work, Alexis lives with her husband, Oliver, and two cats, Luka and Frida. She loves crafting, gardening, canoeing, reading, and hanging out with

friends.



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