



From the Desk of Our Executive Director

This month we wanted to focus on emergency preparedness, which we all know is a hyper-critical concern is the Rogue Valley.

Emergencies are, by nature, unexpected—but at OHRA, we prepare for them every day. I am incredibly proud of our staff's skill and calm professionalism in responding to crises. Whether it's planning fire evacuations, conducting emergency drills, taking trainings in de-escalation, or coordinating with local agencies, our team stands ready. Thankfully, these situations don't arise often—but when they do, at OHRA we understand how critical it is to be prepared.

Our history underscores the importance of this readiness and demonstrates just how vital OHRA is when devastating events hit our community. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, OHRA's Resource Center and navigators became a lifeline for those suddenly out of work, facing housing loss, or unsure how to pay their bills. Then, in 2020, the Alameda Fire ravaged our community. In its aftermath, we served up to 90 people a day at our Resource Center, helping them rebuild their lives during one of our valley's darkest times.

This is why emergency preparedness is woven into our culture: because when disaster strikes—whether global or local—OHRA must be ready to respond; and we are.

Emergency preparedness isn't only about fires or natural disasters—it's also about the ability to pivot, adapt, and respond when circumstances change. Many of you will have heard about the President's recent executive order related to homelessness; while not an immediate emergency, it is a shift that could drastically affect the unhoused community. Just as our staff are trained to remain calm and act decisively in crisis, we bring that same focus to navigating policy and funding changes.

We are closely monitoring changes in federal policy and funding priorities and actively engaging with our community partners to understand the implications. For now, nothing about our mission or approach has changed. We will continue to have a person-centered approach and maintain our low-barrier model of support. As laws and policies evolve, OHRA will navigate them while staying grounded in what we do best: helping people build better lives.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support ensures that OHRA remains a steady, prepared, and compassionate resource for our community—no matter what comes our way.

Warmly,



Dan Cano

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Emergency Preparedness at OHRA

At OHRA, being ready for emergencies is a year-round priority. Our Emergency Response Manuals are posted throughout the OHRA Center, the Air Quality Index is updated daily at the shelter door, and N95 masks are always available.

When the risk of emergencies rises, we step up our efforts to keep guests and staff informed and safe. This year, Lisa, our Director of Operations, led a readiness meeting covering OHRA's evacuation plans, what to pack in a go-bag, and how guests will be transported if evacuation is needed. Flyers with this information are on hand for quick reference.

We are partnering with the City of Ashland to host more on-site emergency response meetings for current guests, staff, and former guests now in stable housing. As our community faces new and evolving threats, OHRA's preparedness will continue to adapt to meet those challenges.

Stay Informed:

- Text **97520** to **888777** for City of Ashland alerts.
- Text **JacksonEvacs** to **888777** for Jackson County evacuation notices.

[Ashland's AQI](#)

Cooling Shelter Activation

With temperatures soaring well above 100 degrees in the last week, the Rogue Valley faced dangerous extreme heat. OHRA was one of four cooling shelters activated in Jackson County to provide relief.

Guests and their pets were welcomed into Miriam's Café—a cool, safe space to rest, rehydrate, and connect with others. Staff and volunteers offered cold drinks, conversation, and a place to simply breathe away from the relentless heat. OHRA was proud to open our doors to anyone in need of a break from the life-threatening temperatures.

To find cooling centers near you, call **211** or visit **211info.org**.



Honoring our Past, Strengthening our Future: Volunteer Gathering

On August 8, OHRA volunteers filled the Center with laughter, creativity, and connection during our Mocktail Sip & Paint event.

We shared stories, learned about new ways to get involved, explored our volunteer software *POINT*, and talked about the bright future of volunteering at OHRA. Together, volunteers

painted a group canvas for Miriam's Café and created their own colorful mountain landscapes to take home. Mocktails were sipped, friendships were deepened, and tours of the Center offered a behind-the-scenes look at the heart of our work.

If you'd like to be part of this vibrant community——click the button below.

We are especially looking for volunteers who can help at the Ashland Dawn-to-Dusk lawn at 1155 E. Main Street, mornings from 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM.

[See OHRA's POINT Profile](#)

Staff Highlight: Keali'ikai Kuehu

If something at OHRA works the way it should, chances are Keali'ikai had a hand in it. As our Maintenance Assistant, he keeps the OHRA Center running smoothly—from repairing guest appliances to ensuring the building is safe, functional, and welcoming for everyone who walks through our doors.

Keali'ikai first joined OHRA two years ago as a shelter staff member, quickly proving himself to be dependable, resourceful, and deeply committed to our mission. Not long after, he stepped into his current maintenance role, where his skills and care for others truly shine. As a member of OHRA's Safety Committee, Keali'ikai plays a vital role in training every new staff member through a thorough "safety walk." He not only points out where to find first aid kits, Narcan, flashlights, emergency exits, and fire drill meeting areas—he also teaches practical, potentially lifesaving skills like how to shut off water, electricity, and other key building systems during an emergency. He also keeps us on track by completing monthly and annual safety inspections.



Born on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Keali'ikai moved to Southern Oregon at the age of seven. These days, you might find him fishing during his lunch

break—his rod always at the ready in the back of his truck. For Keali’ikai, the best part of his job is building relationships with guests and knowing he’s helped solve a problem, whether that’s fixing a leaky faucet or ensuring their environment is safe and comfortable.

Keali’ikai’s dedication, skill, and kindness make OHRA stronger every day—and we’re lucky to have him on our team.

A Partner in Emergency Preparedness - The American Red Cross

OHRA has just received a game-changing gift to strengthen our ability to respond when disaster strikes. Thanks to the American Red Cross and its Community Adaptation Program, we now have **three electric generators** and will soon receive **two solar-powered benches** that double as charging stations for phones and other electronics.

These new tools will help us keep our guests safe and connected in urgent moments. In the event of a major power outage, the generators will ensure the lights stay on, critical equipment continues running, and medical devices remain powered for those who rely on them. The solar benches will not only offer comfortable seating for our Resource Center guests while they wait for services like the Laundry/Shower Trailer — they’ll also provide a reliable spot for anyone to charge their phone or device, maintaining dignity and connection during difficult times.

And the impact goes beyond OHRA’s walls. In the event of a regional catastrophe such as a wildfire or earthquake, these resources will be available to support the entire community. We are deeply grateful to the American Red Cross for helping OHRA be ready — and resilient — for whatever comes our way.



Development Corner

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Your Support Is Vital for OHRA's Preparedness

When a crisis arises—whether for individuals or our entire community—OHRA is ready to respond. This readiness is only possible because of donors like you who give flexible, unrestricted gifts. These contributions allow us to pivot quickly and meet needs as they unfold, whether that means expanding our capacity during extreme weather, hiring additional navigators, or addressing unexpected funding gaps. Your generosity ensures we can adapt in real time and provide stability for those in crisis.

Being prepared isn’t just important for OHRA—it’s important for you. One key part of personal preparedness is estate planning. Estate planning is a vital part of protecting yourself and your family when the unexpected happens. As you create or update your will, please consider including a gift to OHRA. Your legacy can ensure that our community remains strong and compassionate for years to come.

Thank you for making it possible for us to be both steady and flexible in a world that increasingly feels unpredictable. Please reach out if you have questions about planned giving.

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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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