



From the Desk of Our Executive Director

Hello OHRA partners and community members. This month has us reflecting on community, and how it is woven into everything we do.

Our work does not happen in isolation. When someone comes through our doors seeking help, they are welcomed not only by our staff and volunteers, but by an entire network of people and organizations who are committed to walking alongside them.

Today, OHRA partners with more than 100 community organizations—local nonprofits, healthcare providers, faith communities, businesses, and public agencies. Together, we create a web of support that helps people stabilize their lives and take the next steps forward.

One of the things that makes our community remarkable is how these partners respond with generosity and collaboration. Whether it's a medical provider offering care, a church coordinating meals, or a local business stepping up with support or supplies, the message is clear: *you are not alone*.

This spirit of partnership is mirrored inside OHRA as well. In every corner of our campus, I see respect and kindness flowing naturally between our guests, staff, board members, and supporters. It shows up in a Navigator listening carefully to someone's story. It's in a board member lending their expertise behind the scenes. It's in the donors and volunteers who show up, time and again, to remind our guests that their lives matter. And it's in our guests themselves, who extend encouragement to one another as they navigate life's challenges.

This is what authentic community looks like—people connected not by circumstance, but by mutual care, dignity, and the belief that every person deserves the chance to thrive.

I am so proud of the way OHRA is a place where respect is the common language, kindness is the daily practice, and community is the foundation. Thank you for being part of this work. Whether through your time, your resources, or your voice, you are helping to weave a stronger, more compassionate community for everyone.

With gratitude,



Dan Cano

Dan Cano, Executive Director

(541) 631-2235 ext. 303

danc@ohrahelps.org

OHRAhelps.org

Keep in Touch - Follow Our Social Media!

OHRA has a variety of social media pages that you can follow to see weekly updates about our operations and news! We post videos of our resources, share quotes from our guests, and keep donors up to date about our impact.

Our social media pages include: Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, and LinkedIn!

To go to our social media pages, you can click the icons below!



Guest Quote, In a Veteran's Own Words:

"The resources I have received through OHRA have been life-changing! From living opportunities to licensing, medical, food, laundry, and help for vets like myself. Cal has been instrumental, not just a case worker, but a friend. Debra, Andy, Will, and the entire staff have been very helpful in my success. Everyone has been kind, and a pleasure to have gotten to know. Thank you all!" - Andrew

OHRA Hosts Chamber Greeters!

On Friday, September 12th, OHRA hosted the Ashland Chamber Greeters at the OHRA Center. Dan gave updates on OHRA's facility and programs, and shared about our mission. It was a wonderful opportunity to keep the community informed about how OHRA helps.



Staff Highlight: Martha

Often called the "angel of OHRA," Martha is the first person guests see when they walk through the doors of our Resource Center. She greets them with warmth, asks what they need, and gets to work coordinating services. Whether it's a Navigation appointment, a bus pass, or connecting



them with partner resources, Martha says, *"There is always something that we can help with."*

Martha began her time with OHRA at our old Resource Center on Siskiyou Blvd. Though the space was small, she loved the sense of teamwork and the inspiration of helping people. She remembers the move to The OHRA Center's current location as a special time of everyone pitching in—loading up cars and vans together to bring the work into its new home.

In her role, Martha handles everything from scheduling help with utilities, deposits, and rent to connecting people with job searches, housing lists, or résumé updates. She also provides bus passes, Goodwill vouchers, and appointments with Navigators. Her goal is always to find a way forward, even if that means directing guests to trusted partner organizations when OHRA's resources are limited.

Over the years, Martha has helped countless people move from crisis to stability. She shares in the hugs, the tears, and the victories when someone finds housing or stability again. *"It is the most beautiful inspiration anyone could feel—that you've done something good for somebody,"* she says. The joy she finds in her work keeps her inspired every day. *"It...makes me feel so good to come to work every day. Our team is amazing...we help each other, we solve problems."*

Outside of OHRA, Martha cares for her parents, helping with everything from medications to grocery shopping, and cherishes time with her four children and ten grandchildren.

Volunteer Highlight: Beth Stark

Since October 2024, Beth has been a steady presence at OHRA, quietly working behind the scenes, keeping our guests connected by sorting their mail. For her, volunteering at OHRA is not just about giving time—it's about being part of a community built on kindness, respect, and hope.

"What I love most is watching how Deborah and Martha work with people," Beth shares. "They're gentle and kind, but also firm when they need to be. They treat everyone with patience and dignity, even when they're answering the same questions again and again. It's inspiring."

That sense of compassion is what makes volunteering at OHRA so meaningful for her. "Knowing that I can play even a small role in helping people find support brings me joy," she says. "It feels like being part of something bigger." Beth's perspective is shaped in part by her unique upbringing. She was raised on a homestead in Alaska, where self-reliance and community were essential for daily life. That experience instilled in her a deep respect for resilience and



the power of neighbors helping neighbors—values she now sees reflected in OHRA's mission.

What strikes her most about OHRA is the atmosphere. "Walking through the campus, it feels quiet, peaceful, and welcoming," Beth reflects. "It's like joining a family."

For Beth, that sense of belonging and purpose is what keeps her coming back. Volunteering at OHRA allows her to connect with people in meaningful ways and to be part of a larger effort to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to find stability and dignity.



Development Corner

Brandy MacDonald
brandym@ohrahelps.org
541-631-2235 ext 316



OHRA was founded by a small group of neighbors who believed that when a community comes together, lasting change is possible. That same spirit continues to guide us today. Every step forward—from keeping a family in safe housing to helping someone on the streets with a basic task, like getting a shower, or seeing a medical provider—happens because of the generosity and commitment of people like you.

OHRA is more than a resource center and a shelter, we are a community, and you are a part of this community. Donors, volunteers, partners, and local leaders all play a vital role in building solutions for those experiencing homelessness or facing a housing crisis. Together, you make the difference between despair and hope.

At OHRA, we don't just serve individuals—we stand alongside them, shoulder to shoulder, with the full strength of our community behind us. And we care about you, too. Your voice matters, and we would love to hear what inspires you to give, serve, and stand with OHRA.

Would you take two minutes to share your thoughts in this short survey? Your insight will help shape the future we're building—together.

[Take Survey Here](#)



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