

**From:** Lisa Foster <[lfosterk@gmail.com](mailto:lfosterk@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** Carolyn Eagan <[ceagan@bendoregon.gov](mailto:ceagan@bendoregon.gov)>; Katherine Montgomery <[kmontgomery@bendoregon.gov](mailto:kmontgomery@bendoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Caring for our neighbors

Dear Carolyn,

A member of our community froze to death last week. This is unacceptable in a community that has so much, and where the cost of living is so high. We need longterm housing solutions that include our neighbors who are currently living on the streets. Research has shown that the [Housing First](#) model leads to greater success and in many cases, [saves the city money](#) that it would otherwise spend on emergency services, shelters, legal expenses, or jail time. Once folks are housed, they can deal with any other issues they might have including mental health, job searching, etc.

In the meantime, Bend is in desperate need of a winter shelter that protects our most vulnerable. No location will be perfect, and NIMBYism is unacceptable when lives are at stake. The old Possibilities Thrift Store is a great centralized location that will allow residents in the warming shelter to obtain other services and work toward longterm solutions. Please support this new warming shelter to avoid further casualties in our community. Funding for social services is another important piece of this puzzle and could lead to a huge improvement in neighborhood acceptance and opinions/attitudes towards those who are houseless. Assistance with daily storage for belongings, access to hygiene stations/public bathrooms, garbage disposal, and healthcare services will help these folks get back on their feet.

Thank you so much for funding the warming shelter this season. I hope this is just the start of great things to come.

I appreciate all you do for the City of Bend!

Best,  
Lisa Foster  
97702

**From:** Ruth Crawmer <[bendchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:bendchildcare@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** Carolyn Eagan <[ceagan@bendoregon.gov](mailto:ceagan@bendoregon.gov)>; Katherine Montgomery <[kmontgomery@bendoregon.gov](mailto:kmontgomery@bendoregon.gov)>; CouncilAll <[councilall@bendoregon.gov](mailto:councilall@bendoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Homeless in Bend

Carolyn, Kathy and Bend City Council,

Homelessness in our sweet City of Bend is a heartache for our family and our extended family at our Preschool. We have direct connections to those in crisis and our hearts literally ache wanting to be part of the solution for our City inhabitants who are spending the nights in the cars, sleeping in Drake Park with just a sleeping bag and living in trailers behind Lowes.

One family's story is an old one. The children are now grown adults. This family used the Bethlehem Inn and we used our Christmas money to help this family set up a place. This family of 7 was homeless and had five children. The mom had two of her own and was fostering her sisters children. Her sister had recently gone to prison and the three children were living with R in a homeless shelter. Neighborhood Impact helped to secure their first, last and deposit but they had no food, no furniture and no way to get the utilities on. We stood in the gap and helped get the mom on her feet. We gave her a job teaching. She is deaf. Through these skills she is now employed at Washington School for the Deaf. Her children are functioning adults with jobs. But they were homeless in Bend about 15 years ago.

Second family is currently Homeless in Bend. The main caretaker of the family S, is 45. She cares for her mom (72) and her son (16) with some special needs. She has been couchsurfing after helping mom leave an abuse situation. They fled in the night fearing for their lives. The Dad works a government job and they fear he will find them once they start receiving government benefits. So they live out of their car. A few families have taken them in for 30 days. Living in a trailer on someone's property, crashing in the living room and now at the First Presbyterian Church in a tent most nights if they make it in time. Before the Church, they were sleeping in the limited clothing they had in their car, hoping their car doesn't get repossessed with everything they own inside of it. Until the Church was set up, they were in light jackets, old shoes, without showers, without heat. Talking with S, she doesn't feel safe being in the system knowing the abuser could return to take them captive. She prefers freezing with her family to returning to the abuse.

Recently we found a situation with a local non-profit program that helps people out of homelessness, but she would have to get a job and register with benefits. This would possibly trigger a location for the family putting them at risk. S can not leave her mother who is in a delicate state and her special needs son alone while she works. The son is being homeschooled and grandmother can't do that. She is left in a situation with no way out. S has no opportunity to get out of homelessness. No place to seek shelter and no hope.

As a City, we need to have some options. Perhaps allowing a piece of land to be tax free and people in our city can donate trailers. A plumber could set up a plumbing system so the trailers could have the proper set up for waste disposal. City of Bend could donate the water for the property. Someone trustworthy (from the homeless community could be set up as the

landlord). Their job is to organize the community for trash clean up daily, and a daily well check on each of the residents. There is a percentage of homeless who have cars, so being out into the county is a way to allow more space to grow the community without upsetting a full neighborhood, businesses and town.

While it is easy to ignore those who are struggling and can't find a way out, perhaps in Bend we can help these people find a home. Find a way to live and care for THEIR community. Showing the love of Bend to those who love others daily when they literally only have their shirt on their own back.

Please help us find a way for those who are homeless in Bend.

Ruth & Russ Crawmer  
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**From:** [ldreamdown@gmail.com](mailto:ldreamdown@gmail.com) <[ldreamdown@gmail.com](mailto:ldreamdown@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:43 PM

**To:** CouncilAll <[councilall@bendoregon.gov](mailto:councilall@bendoregon.gov)>; Carolyn Eagan <[ceagan@bendoregon.gov](mailto:ceagan@bendoregon.gov)>; Katherine Montgomery <[kmontgomery@bendoregon.gov](mailto:kmontgomery@bendoregon.gov)>

**Subject:**

Hello,

I am a resident of Bend. I am writing to support the warming shelter (Old Possibilities Thrift Store).

This year has been unprecedented in its traumatic impact for many of our fellow citizens. We've seen a homeless disabled man literally die from exposure to freezing temperatures. Others have been unable to access basic services that all human beings deserve.

The warming shelter provides a necessary support to our most vulnerable community members. I ask you support this endeavor this year and to provide a more permanent solution in the following years.

Please provide social service funding, at the warming shelter, to help people connect with resources as well.

In addition to assistance with housing, medical and dental needs, our homeless neighbors need storage for belongings, access to hygiene stations/public bathrooms, and garbage disposal. If more resources and funds were directed to all, we would expect to see a huge improvement in neighborhood acceptance and opinions/attitudes towards these vulnerable houseless people.

Thank you so much for funding the warming shelter this winter! Please continue to support these efforts so all may be safe and well.

Thank you for your service to the community!

Ginny