

Corvallis Men's Shelter

C  **VID-19**

Newsletter



Advocate
Contribute
Volunteer

CVID-19

EDITORS NOTE:

This newsletter attempts to provide a (current) snapshot of community partners who work tirelessly to meet the health, safety, and comfort needs of our homeless neighbors, during the COVID 19 crisis. The Corvallis Men's Shelter, Room at the Inn (Women's Shelter), Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, and Stone Soup are the focus of this publication.

It is difficult to have answers or make claims of certainty while shifting policies, performance standards, and elements of the crisis shift continuously. Instead, it is better to ask questions and work together to devise solutions that are sustainable, resourced predictably, and meet mandates for preventing the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic. On the last pages of this publication you will be invited to engage with a series of questions that have emerged from observations and conversations with key actors and those on the 'front line.' Your input, contributions, and connections are much needed and most appreciated.



Men's Shelter COVID 19 Update:

The Corvallis Men's Shelter has discontinued overnight service and has shifted its schedule and offerings to meet the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Shelter operates daily as a Health and Hygiene station providing showers, laundry, drinks and hot meals to homeless individuals. Shelter staff practice and

model appropriate standards for hand-washing, sanitizing (surfaces), and maintaining a

safe social distance. Hours will be:

Monday – Friday

1:00 – 6:30 pm

Saturday

1:00 – 6:00 pm

Sunday

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Hours may be adjusted based on demand and available staffing.

Porta-johns and hand washing stations are available during open hours. Light snacks are available on a grab-and-go basis. The Shelter staff is providing services but volunteers may be recruited later. **Volunteers** are needed at partner agency including:

Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center, Stone Soup, Room at the Inn Women's Shelter, and Corvallis Housing First (SORT team). Donations of food, supplies and money are much needed. Details of how to help, where to SignUp, or contribute will be provided as facts become clear. Please continue to follow developments on Shelter Facebook page and take time to see what efforts are underway to safeguard our homeless neighbors and the good people that serve their needs.

The Health and Hygiene Station is practicing, reinforcing, and modeling appropriate COVID 19 measures. Staff members handle pens, paper and hard surfaced items, practice social distancing and wear masks and gloves. **Editors note:** Traditionally referred to as the Men's Shelter, In response to COVID 19 pandemic services will be available to any person.



At the check-in desk men and women can sign-up for a shower, get a some laundry done, and grab a healthy snack.



Staff, Guests, and volunteers must visit the Sanitization Station before entering.



A hand-washing station and Porta-john are available 24 hours a day in front of the Shelter.



Since the Shelter was scheduled to close for the season we are closely monitoring and restocking supplies. Staff member Sean (left top & bottom) Kimb (above), Marguerite, from Corvallis Housing First, (below) & friend of the Shelter Paul (below) pitching in.



Always help someone.

You might be the only one
that does.



How can the public help?

The Corvallis Men's Shelter has always relied on and been grateful for the astounding generosity of time, energy, and resources the community has provided. Your past actions (on behalf of the Shelter) have helped make it an efficient and hospitable community where people come together to support its homeless population. Our capacity to flex to new and unexpected challenges that arise from the COVID 19 will depend on community support. Currently, we're relying on our employees to staff the Health and Hygiene Shelter operations. Our budget is designed to support

operations, salaries and supplies until March 31st, so your donations can help keep us operating through this difficult time. Donations of cash can be processed by using the DONATE TO button on the Shelter's Facebook page. Checks can be sent by mail – (not dropped off) at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis (UUFC) 2945 NW Circle Corvallis - 541-752-5218. The UUFC serves as the fiscal agent for the Shelter.

Material donations of supplies to support our operations - snacks, paper towels and napkins, lunch bags, bottled water and juice, and hygiene supplies can be dropped off at the Shelter during business hours. As always, donations of socks, underwear, and seasonally appropriate clothing are appreciated.

Wish List

- ✓ Large tarps (12 X 12)
- ✓ Rope to anchor tarps
- ✓ Flashlights & batteries
- ✓ Lighters and matches

Persons sheltering in tents have a specific wish list to share with supporters and friends. Items can be dropped at the Shelter during 'open' hours or at the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center where they will be distributed. Remember to follow COVID 19 travel regulations and plan your dropoff while you are out on critical errands.

COVID 19 safeguards - for donation dropoffs:

- Schedule a drop-off location and time.
- Wash and sanitize your hands.
- Wear protective mask and gloves.
- Keep a safe distance from others.
- Sanitize hard surfaces before sharing contents.



How many things can you identify that are wrong in this picture?

The Corvallis Men's Shelter made the news.

Men's shelter opens health, hygiene station

Corvallis Gazette-Times Mar 20, 2020 Updated Mar 20, 2020



The Corvallis men's cold weather homeless shelter has closed ... and has reopened as a health and hygiene station to help battle the coronavirus outbreak.

The shelter at 221 SE Chapman Place closed early this season – it usually stays open through March 31. Volunteer coordinator Mike Jager said that so many volunteers “expressed regret that they could not visit, help and stay connected with our guests.”

So the idea of the health and hygiene station came together. The station, which opened Friday, will provide showers, laundry and light snacks Monday through



TAP the button to visit the Times Gazette



Corvallis Housing First



The Men's Shelter is working with community partners: Room at the Inn - Women's Shelter, Stone Soup, Corvallis Housing First (and SORT), and the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center, to best ensure the safety and health of our homeless neighbors. In the pages that follow you will find information about what is happening, and how you can help.



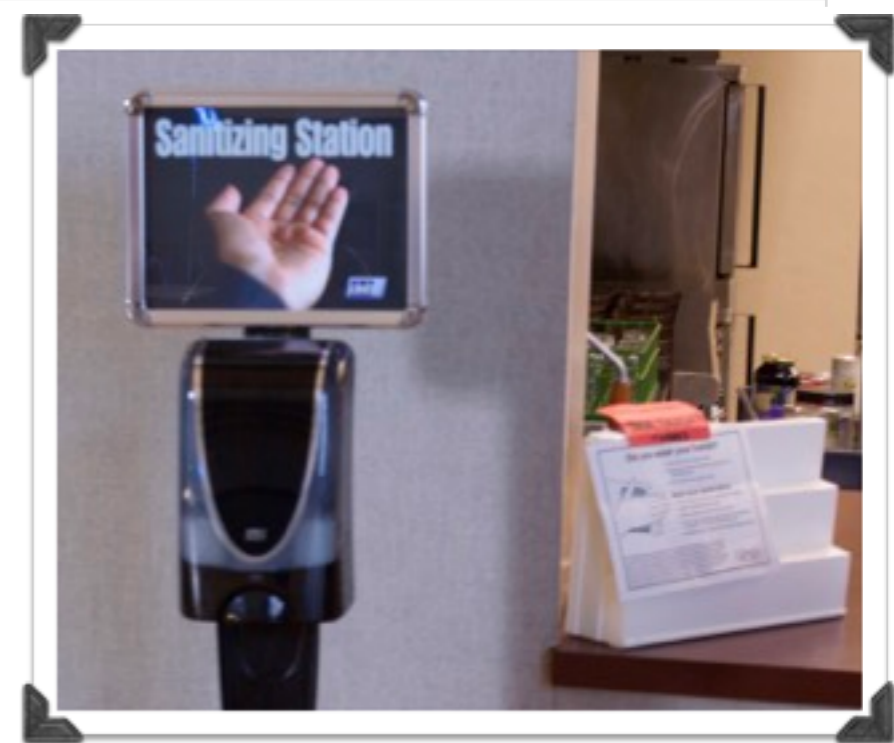
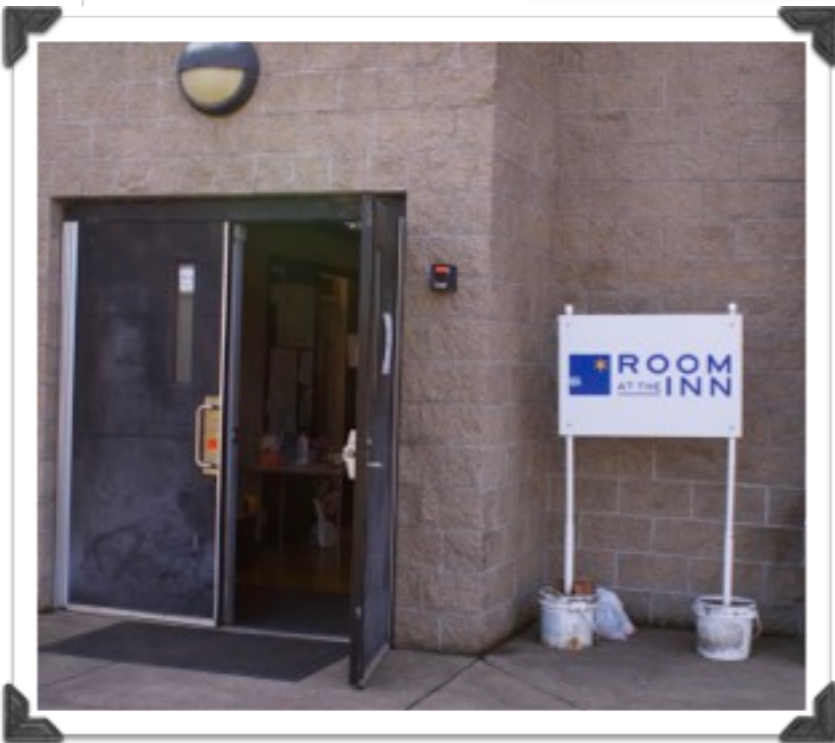
Room at the Inn Women's Shelter, hosted by First United Methodist Church, is located at 12th & Jackson in Corvallis, has increased its services, effective immediately. The shelter is now open to women 18 and older (no children or pets) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will remain open through May 31. Capacity has increased to 25 guests; this was achieved by moving beds into the main gym. Guests will be provided three meals a day. Shelter staff hours have increased, and guidelines have changed to protect volunteers.

Volunteer requirements: **Volunteers** must be under 60 with no chronic health issues. All volunteers must practice appropriate social distancing (physical, actually) with anyone outside of their own household members. Be flexible! None of us have done this before, so we constantly try to keep up with best practices! To volunteer go to: signupgenius.com/go/70a084aa5ac29a6fe3-full1

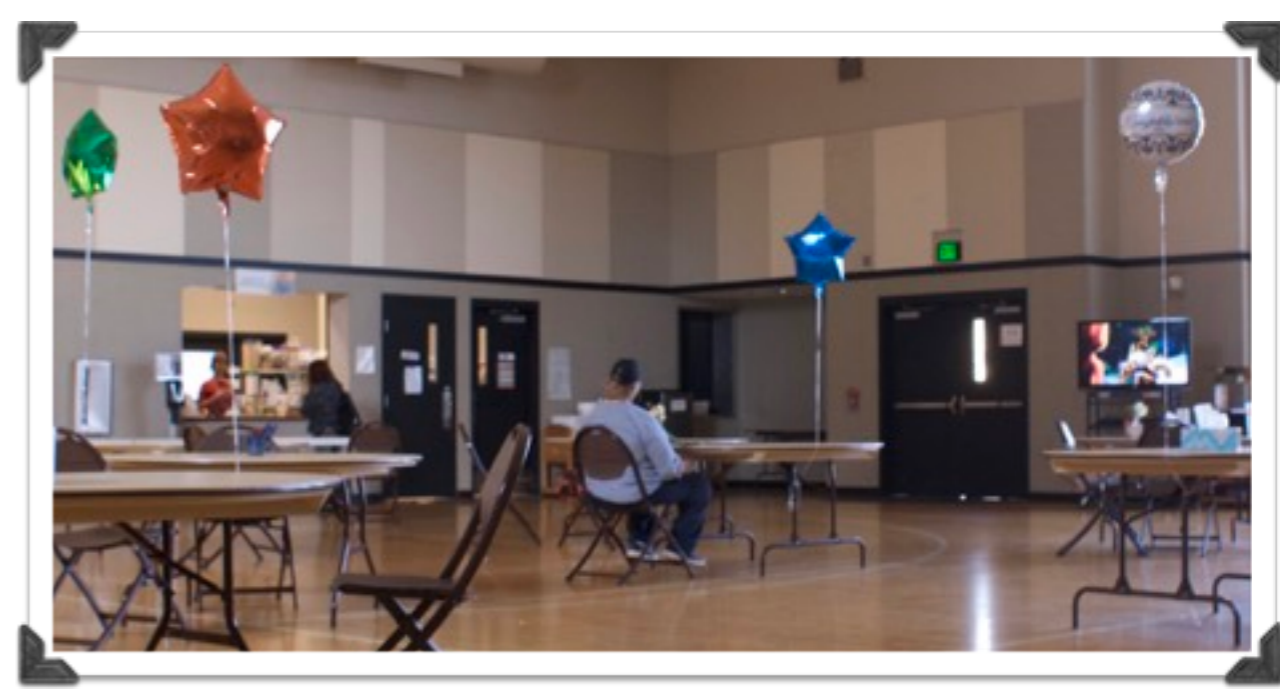
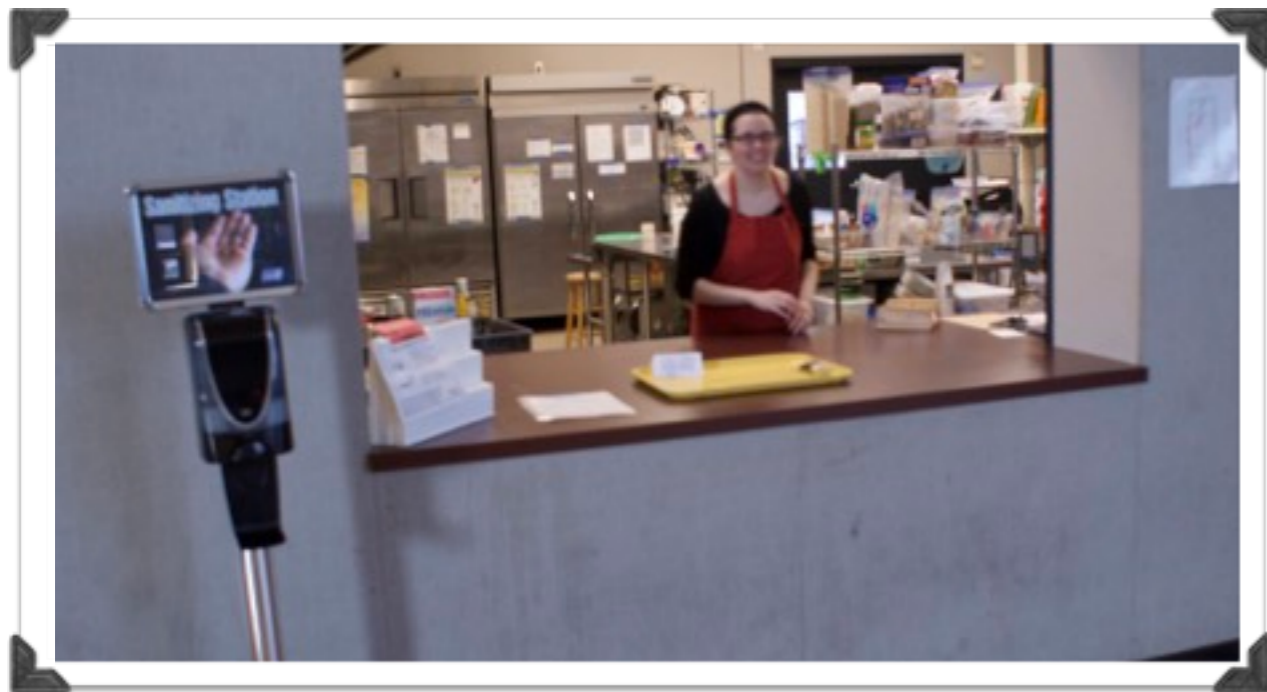
- Two volunteers (men and women) will work 6:15-11:00 P.M. to check in guests, visit, and supervise
- People to bring snacks for evening and breakfast
- One volunteer (women 18 and over) to sleep overnight 11:00 am - 7:00 pm in the shelter.
This person backs up the paid night staff person and helps with morning duties.

For more information about Room at The Inn, please contact our shelter manager, Nohe Kahalewai, PHONE (541-231-2020) or Sara (541-231-6772). Donations of savory snacks are requested, including crackers, crackers with cheese, chips and small packages of nuts.

WEBSITE: old.corvallisfumc.org/content/room-inn-womens-shelter



Staff and volunteers at the Women's Shelter maintain a cheerful and colorful space. Sanitizing, hand washing, and safe distancing are part of the daily routine (practices).





Stone Soup Corvallis Inc A nonprofit, all-volunteer program provides a full hot meal to-go each day to any person in need. Food service has moved to take-out.

St Mary's Parish Center 501 NW 25th St First Christian Church 602 SW Madison

Monday	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Tuesday	5:30 – 6:30 pm
Wednesday	11:30 – 12:30	Saturday	10:00 -11:00 am
Thursday	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Sunday	5:30 – 6:30 pm
Friday	11:30 am– 12:30 pm		

Volunteers will work outside with sanitizing, hand washing stations & social distancing. Food preparation has been contracted offsite, so three volunteers are used inside shuttling meals for distribution and preparing drinks. Volunteers over 60 years of age are asked to Opt-Out of duty on-site - but encouraged to help (from home) with accounting or marketing tasks. Contact: email stonesouphelp@gmail.com PHONE: 541-752-6634 (personal phone, please use only for volunteers who are cancelling shifts)

Expenses have stretched the budget as we can no longer accept donations of food or produce, and are unable to cook meals while maintaining safe social distancing. Therefore we are fortunate to partner with Valley Catering to provide hot meals. You can help: please donate at our website stonesoupcorvallis.org or mail check to: Stone Soup Corvallis, Inc., PO Box 2381, Corvallis, OR 97339 Email stonesouphelp@gmail.com PHONE: 541-752-6634



Saturday, Stone Soup, at the First Christian Church served grab and go meals to hungry people out enjoying the sun. Hand washing and safe distancing were practiced by all involved.





Corvallis Housing First SORT Street Outreach Team

Corvallis Housing First is a small but growing organization dedicated to providing support and housing to individuals experiencing homelessness in Corvallis. We currently operate three facilities that provide housing and support, and also work with local agencies and shelters to provide outreach and case management services. Following the philosophy

of Housing First, we work to provide low-barrier, behavior-based housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety or treatment participation requirements. Our mission is to provide solutions for ending homelessness and achieving self-sufficiency. PHONE 541-230-1297

In partnership with the **SORT** team, **CHF** staff conduct outreach to people on the street and camping every Friday from 9-11am. We welcome volunteers to join us and provide training. **Volunteers** should be able to walk at least a mile with a 10-lb backpack. During the COVID crisis Volunteers are needed to will help to build, place and maintain hand-cleaning stations to ensure access for proper and safe hygiene practices. People with tools and skill to design and construct hand-washing stations are needed. Training: Volunteers will receive on-the-job skills training and be accompanied by a SORT team leader while in the field. We also ask that volunteers complete Adult Mental Health First Aid training offered through Samaritan Health Services (<https://www.samhealth.org/health-services/classes-and-events/m/e/mental-health-first-aid>) and Trauma-Informed Care offered by the Benton County Health Department (Contact Kelly Locey for more information). Every effort will be made to practice, model and teach safe hygiene techniques including hand-washing and sanitizing.

Contact: Chris Christopher.r.gray@co.benton.or.us PHONE: (541-740-0405)



Back before social distancing was a must, SORT team members share healthy snacks inside the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center.

Below volunteers partner with the **SORT** team and **CHF** staff to conduct outreach to people on the street and camping. During the COVID 19 pandemic is vital to maintain contact with and monitor the status of our homeless neighbors. SORT goes out every Friday from 9-11am.





The mission of the **Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center** (CDDC) is to respond to the significant needs of individuals, especially those who are experiencing homelessness, low income, mental health or dual diagnosis issues by providing dignified personal assistance and advocacy. CDDC has moved operations outside and is following safe guidelines for hand washing, sanitizing, and social distancing. Volunteers have stepped up to fill spots in the calendar but back-up volunteers are needed. Please phone Aleita for details. (541) 740-3235
WEBSITE: corvallisddc.org/home **CDDC** 530 SW 4th Street Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Hours will be: 9 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday
(Summer hours 9 am to noon, June, July and August)

As a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit, the CDDC depends on contributions from people like you. The generosity of our volunteers and donors makes it possible for us to keep our programs going from month to month. We operate on a shoestring budget that covers our building space, one part-time paid staff member, background checks for our HELP workers, and transportation and office expenses. Your generous donation of time or money is always welcome and greatly appreciated. Donate to <http://corvallisddc.org/donate>



Staff and volunteers at the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center monitor the hand washing station and serve hot drinks and grab and go snacks. Sanitizing and safe distancing are practiced by all.



Many communities in the nation have converted conventions centers, sports stadiums, and public gymnasiums into indoor shelters for their homeless population. Some rent motel rooms, fairgrounds or place college dormitories into service. Can Corvallis?

Doing so can achieve the following objectives:

- Provide safe, dry & warm, quarters for our most at-risk population to shelter in place
- Provides sanitizing and hygiene facilities to promote community-wide safe practices for social distancing, hand-washing, and surface sanitization.
- Centralizes information sharing, staffing, and community resources and support
- Grounds health monitoring, screening and maintenance practices within the homeless community – (an otherwise itinerant and disconnected population)

COVID 19 Q & A

So many questions are worth asking, it is difficult to (know where to) begin.

Especially challenging will be to discover how to pull together a community that has been separated by a virus.

COVID 19 Recovery Fund

Every community member stands to benefit from the COVID 19 Recovery Fund. \$50 million in federal aid will help shape the post-COVID recovery (estimate based on Corvallis 2010 census). To qualify citizens will need to follow proper procedures and submit necessary forms to receive their share of the pie. Some in the community will need help to achieve that goal. With support, one half million dollars in direct aid will go to our neighbors most in need. Homeless adults can / will receive \$1,200 each, and homeless children will get \$500 each.

Is it possible to recruit, train, and support a network / team of tax experts?

(Especially challenging will be the prospect of social distancing and working with banking and government agencies that are closed to the public). **Who can help:**

- Tax, business, and financial advisers
- OSU, LBCC business and math students and faculty
- HR and accounting professionals
- Church and social organization treasurers
- Other: _____ open to suggestions.

The COVID 19 crisis has stretched budgets for government, health, nonprofit, social, faith, and service organizations. Local businesses; restaurants, caterers, motels, (other), their owners, and their employees are at risk of financial setbacks. Literally, trillions of dollars are being generated and requisitioned in response to the COVID 19 crisis. Many community members who will benefit from the COVID 19 Recovery Fund will “*not need*” their share of the federal aid (money). Is it possible for them to donate funds to support the Corallis community and COVID 19 mitigation efforts? Can other fundraising tools and events be created?





Corvallis Men's Shelter

@CorvallisMensShelter

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TAP the icon (right) to visit the Corvallis Men's Shelter Facebook Page and to keep up with the latest developments.



Watch for a **DONATE TO** button on Facebook that will allow you to financially support Shelter COVID 19 efforts. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis operates as fiscal agent for the Men's Shelter.