

**GIVE A LITTLE FOUNDATION
SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER**



**SPECIAL COVID EDITION
SHELTERING**

With so many of us now familiar with sheltering in place, we'd like to share a few thoughts with you about the word "shelter" itself.

What does it mean, as in this Irish proverb, if shelter is seen not in terms of places (buildings, homes, and other physical structures), but rather refers to what we as people can offer to each other?

How can we individually and collectively be shelters for one another, providing safety and protection, especially now when the threat—a virus—is so elusive and widespread?

We know that many of you are already finding answers in daily acts of kindness and caring—from checking in on friends and neighbors to wearing masks and observing social distancing to supporting small businesses in ways that you consider safe.



Then there is the inspiration provided by all of you in our Give a Little community who show a genuine commitment to “sheltering” those you probably do not know and likely will never meet.

We are immensely grateful to our many supporters as well as to our longstanding and more recent donors, including those who have sent unsolicited gifts in the past few months earmarked specifically for COVID assistance.

We also wish to express sincere appreciation for a generous grant from the McMinnville Area Community Foundation in early May.

Finally, we’re delighted to welcome three new Business/Professional Partners: the McCabe Chapel United Methodist Church, artist Cindy Stinson-Chennell, and Rough Cut Soap Co. in Carlton. [Please see our website](#) for details and a complete list of our partners.

We've provided some examples below of the kinds of special assistance you are helping to make possible through your compassion and generosity during the COVID crisis.

We think you will be gratified to see how much we are actually able to accomplish together.

**Shelter poster above created by Maija Kellner-Rode of [Maija Rebecca Hand Drawn](#) in Portland, OR. [On instagram: @majarebeccahanddrawn](#)*



NEW HANDWASHING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

In late April/early May, we partnered with YCAP (Yamhill Community Action Partnership) and six local communities to provide outdoor handwashing stations—a need also identified by Yamhill County Public Health—at eight locations in Yamhill County: McMinnville (3 stations), Newberg, Carlton, Amity, Sheridan, and Willamina. The purpose is to help slow the spread of coronavirus among unsheltered populations.

At each site, churches and community groups have assumed responsibility for maintaining their station—keeping it clean and sanitized and replenishing soap and paper towels on an ongoing basis. These partners have reported that the stations are getting heavy use. Five of them are placed at meal or food sites.

Needless to say, this initiative is a powerful reminder that the people in our county with no reliable or safe physical shelter have difficulty accessing clean water, especially during times when public places such as community centers and libraries are closed.



ADDITIONAL COVID RELIEF

We have been able to provide essential additional funding to the following community partners during these past months of the pandemic:

- Meals on Wheels—grants to each of the three Meals on Wheels programs in Yamhill County. Because many of the recipients of Meals on Wheels have been unable to shop for important items (toilet paper, soap, shampoo, etc.), we paid for the purchase of these essentials, while volunteer drivers took on the additional responsibility of delivering them along with the meals.

- St. Barnabas Soup Kitchen—a grant to help fund take-out boxed meals while the facility itself was closed (and, in part, to cover the shortfall from a cancelled fundraiser).
- McMinnville Cooperative Ministries (COOP)— a grant to help fund pick-up Saturday breakfasts throughout June and July.
- Chemeketa College Student Relief Fund—a grant for food gift cards to help students who have lost their part-time jobs or are otherwise in financial straits because of the pandemic.
- First Baptist Church, McMinnville—a grant for the church’s special emergency Fellowship Fund.
- McMinnville High School—a grant allowing 56 graduating seniors whose families were experiencing financial hardship—possibly exacerbated by COVID—to pay outstanding lunch charges, special class fees, and other miscellaneous charges. With their accounts cleared, they can now start their post-high school lives unencumbered with school debt. Our appreciation for carrying out this initiative goes to Tracy Brandt in Student Accounts. We also thank Nichelle Greene, Homeless Liaison, and principal Amy Fast, who writes: *Thank you so incredibly much for your generous donation to McMinnville High School.... We are so grateful you are part of our village!*

While no one really knows what the months ahead will bring, we are doing our best to prepare for what may be a large increase in the need for the types of emergency and essential funding we provide.

A FINAL NOTE ON
SHELTERING

It's a challenge for all of us when our own sheltering still requires degrees of self-isolation and our efforts to act as shelters for others may preclude interactions in person and physical touch.

As you care for your physical health in the coming months, please also care for your spirits, giving yourself permission to be sad or distressed at times, and finding ways, however small, to bring cheer and comfort to yourself.

All of us at Give a Little want you to know how much it means to us that you're part of our community. Let's hold together in our commitment to living in the shelter of each other.

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