

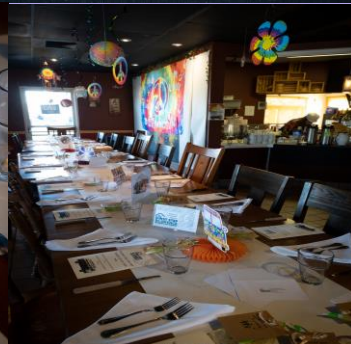


## Solutions for Housing Security

### Summer 2024 Quarterly Newsletter

The First Step Board of Directors and our residents express our sincere gratitude for your support, continued generosity, and partnership as we assist families in moving towards more stable housing

The First Step “Summer of Love” Gala was a HUGE success!! Read all about it in our Board President’s summary on the next page...



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!



**WHEN:** Saturday- August 24, 2024 10:00am- 1:00pm

**WHERE:** 3996 Highway 101 at the Presbyterian Church- The First Step Village is 3 trailers on the property

**WHAT:** We're a bit behind on our yard work at the First Step Village so we're looking for folks with shears, weed-eaters, rakes, shovels, and gloves to help us clean up our resident's village. If you don't have tools just bring yourself- We'll provide a light pizza lunch, so come join us & bring a friend!

**RSVP:** Call or text Sandy at 541-590-2325



## From the Board President

We are so thankful for the turn out for our “Summer of Love” Gala. We had reasonable goals for the evening... thank you for teaching us again that we are thinking too small. With a nearly sold-out venue, we gathered to enjoy great food and to hear from our Resident Services Advocate and one of our recent clients. Christina reminded us again that what we are doing isn't a convenience for a few people or an easy place to wait for housing to open up, but rather a life saver for her family and others leaving abusive situations hoping for a better life. We are proud to be a part of her family's life and amazed at the transformation.

A second take away from our Gala, is that First Step continues to garner strong support in our community. Your attendance and encouragement reinforced that Florence approves of our mission. Our Board of Directors are very committed to the work, and having people call us in the days ahead of the Gala asking for tickets and the enthusiasm at the Gala demonstrated this.

We set a modest financial goal for our first Gala. With your participation, that goal was smashed 3 times over. Your generosity was astonishing, and we are grateful nearly beyond words. The words we do use are words of appreciation, thanks, surprise, and gratitude.

Following our Gala, we are now moving on to future plans. We are short one housing unit in our village at the Presbyterian Church. We are looking to purchase a folding house that will serve our needs and be much more durable than the trailers that we have been using. The folding houses are constructed from 2” foam sandwiched between metal panels, with a small but complete bathroom, two small bedrooms, and a kitchen/living room area. At 400 square feet, they are larger than our current trailers, but not spacious by any stretch of the imagination. We will purchase one when we have the space cleared and a concrete pad poured to receive it. We feel this is the best useable solution that fits into the parameters placed on us through the City's Conditional Use permit. We are looking forward to this housing unit coming on line for another family of Florence. Watch for our announcement and “open house” when it is here and set up ready to go.

On a final note, we have concluded that we will terminate our lease with the Bridges Program on October 1, 2025, and JOYFULLY begin developing our program on the property. The Bridges Program has the next year to find a new home, and we have the time to fully develop our implementation plans so that as they move out, we can move in. Sandy Craft, our Community Development Liaison, is already hard at work looking for grants and other funding sources so that we will be ready to build. We anticipate this next year to be one of growth and excitement, thank you for coming along with us as we continue this important work.

Peace,  
Greg Wood, First Step Board President  
541-991-8208 [Revgwood@Yahoo.com](mailto:Revgwood@Yahoo.com)

## Ways to Give:

**PayPal Donate button on our website:** <http://firststepflorence.org>.

**Mail:** PO Box 1331, Florence, OR 97439

**Donate button on our Facebook page:** [Facebook.com/FirstStepFlorence](https://www.facebook.com/FirstStepFlorence)

**In Kind Donations:** We accept in kind donations such as automobiles and some household items.

**Legacy Gifts:** Real estate, donor advised funds, stocks, personal estates, and IRA gifts. This type of charitable giving can be beneficial at tax time for you and helps us remain viable into the future.

Speak to your financial advisor or tax consultant to learn more about planned giving, or call **Greg Wood at: 541-991-8208**

SEPTEMBER  
FRIDAY THE 13TH  
4:00PM - 6:30PM

FIRST STEP FLORENCE FUNDRAISER  
**Pancake Dinner**

Classic & Blueberry Pancakes \* Eggs \* Bacon \* Sausage  
Orange Juice \* Coffee \* Tea

*3996 Hwy 126 - Presbyterian Community Church*

*Single Ticket \$10*

*Family of four \$25, each extra person \$5*

*Children under 4 years eat FREE!*

