

HOUSING HAPPENINGS

Join us in making a meaningful impact on our community by supporting First Step Florence in our mission to provide continued programming and more housing units for housing insecure families. The June 28th Luau GALA is your opportunity to contribute to this vital cause while enjoying an unforgettable evening. By purchasing your ticket, you're not only securing a night of fun and celebration but also helping to bring stability and hope to families in need. Together, we can make a difference—one home at a time. Get your tickets now and be part of a brighter future for our community!

Tickets at:

<https://givebutter.com/OuNwnj>

Deadline for buying tickets: June 14



**FIRST STEP
FLORENCE**
Transitional Housing for Families

LUAU GALA
"KOKUA OHANA!!"
SUPPORT COMMUNITY!
Saturday June 28, 2025
From 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center
88416 1st Avenue, Florence OR 97439



Use QR Code– Tickets are \$75 & Tables at a discount
OR: Tickets at <https://live.givebutter.com/c/OuNwnj>
<http://firststepflorence.org> OR Checks: PO Box 1331, 97439
Call Sandy Craft with questions 541-590-2325

HYAK
BANNER BANK
THREE RIVERS CASINO RESORT



First Step participated in its first Rhody Days Parade May 18th, 2025.

“Rhodies on the River” was a fantastic way to share upcoming Luau Gala information as well as take part in an amazing community event! THANK YOU Mermaid Luna for your incredible support and participation!

Board President Insights

During a recent visit to the grocery store, I encountered a former participant of the First Step program who was visibly excited to share a picture of her new car. This moment served as a poignant reminder of the positive impact First Step has on individual lives. Shortly thereafter, I noticed another former program participant selecting their preferred cereal from the shelf. A brief exchange of eye contact and a nod was sufficient to acknowledge our shared experiences before we continued on our respective paths.

As we expand our outreach to more families in Florence, such encounters are becoming increasingly common. It is rewarding to witness families realizing their potential. This transformation is not a matter of luck; it requires dedication and a commitment to seizing the opportunities we provide. While we offer initial support, guidance, and resources; it is

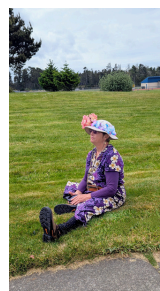
ultimately the families who must do the work to turn their aspirations into reality. I am grateful for your continued support of the First Step program. And I know that you have unknowingly met several of our current or former participants - they reflect the diverse community of Florence – well functioning individuals who are enthusiastic about the new chapters in their lives.

It is a sobering reality that many more families are in need of similar opportunities to advance and improve their circumstances. We currently have families on our waitlist, families who, in the near future, could be joyfully purchasing new vehicles or navigating the grocery store with purpose. We remain steadfast in our commitment to assist these families and are actively working towards the development of six new housing units on our property north of town. We are awaiting responses regarding several substantial grant applications we have submitted, and in the meantime, we are progressing with our plans to ensure we are prepared to start construction as soon as funding is secured.

Greg.



May 3rd between it's first and second family; FSF Board & Staff hosted a **Pop-Up Open House** at the foldable to share a bit of how it has been furnished.





Thank you Milt & Pam Tanora for sharing your tugboat with FSF for the Rhody Parade! Thank you Mermaid Luna for gracing the FSF Float! Thanks go to Rick McMinn for utilizing his trailer maneuvering expertise as we shuffled housing units. Huge shout out to Shipping Solutions for another gift basket raffle donation to First Step!



From the desk of Community Development. . .



Sandy Craft, our Community Development Liaison, has steadfastly applied for grants from many sources since spring of 2024. This spring we received good news that the FSF program will be funded by numerous sources, including the Ford Family Foundation,

Western Lane Community Foundation, the Marie Lamfrom Foundation, and the Oregon Community Foundation.

The funds received from these grant makers will allow us to meet our operational expenses for the rest of the year, continue to provide direct services to our families, pay the utility bills, pay our staff, and basically stay afloat. Sandy will work diligently to continue to raise funds needed to expand the program by purchasing more housing units and develop the FSF property North of Fred Meyer.

If you are not able to attend our annual Gala fundraiser, please consider helping grow the site development/building fund with a special donation at this time (envelope enclosed).

There are lots of ways to help!



Dear Friends and Supporters -

We are excited to share inspiring updates from our transitional housing program. First Step participants continue to demonstrate resilience and determination on their journey toward stability and independence.

Earlier this month, a participant successfully completed the program! Through hard work and dedication, they have secured permanent housing and are taking confident steps toward a brighter future. Another participant is actively working through the program requirements and making steady progress. Their perseverance and commitment are outstanding and bringing them positive results. We've also welcomed a new family into the program.

Just like families, the First Step program is constantly juggling the coming and growing and going of participants. We are committed to providing the support and resources to help them each feel safe and move along their path to stability.

Thank you for your continued support of the First Step program and the families we serve. Together, we are making meaningful difference in our community.

- Melanie, Participant Advocate



Current Board Members

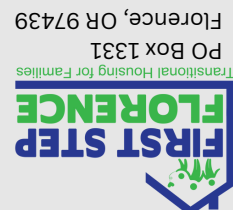
Greg Wood, President
Paul Pearson, Vice President
Rebecca McMinn, Secretary
Donna Gregg, Treasurer
Ivy Medow, Member
Norma Wood, Member
Linda Yoder, Member

Join us for the Luau Gala in June!



Ticket Sales Deadline June 14

Luau GALA June 28th 6-9pm



FSF is very excited to share that the Board has entered into conversation with Architects Without Borders (AWB-Oregon). Their Steering Committee will be supporting and working with us on our project design and execution as we develop the property along Hwy 101, owned currently by First Step. <https://www.awboregon.org/mission>

For General Information about First Step contact:

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sandy@firststepflorence.org 541.590.2325

To make referrals contact:

Melanie Moreno, Participant Advocate
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541.999.6861

To make donations:

www.florencefirststep.org

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and on instagram @ fsfhousing