



Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

Moving to End and Prevent Homelessness In Marion and Polk Counties



Collaborative Committee update (page 3)

The Alliance is excited to welcome Brenda Newey as the new Co-Chair of the Collaborative Committee.

Carson Commons ribbon cutting (page 3)

A multi-family affordable housing development in Dallas, Oregon.

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Newly opened Monmouth adult shelter fills a critical gap in Polk County offering safe, supportive shelter for adults.

Dear Alliance Partners:

As we begin Fiscal year 25/26, it is only fitting to pause and reflect on the incredible accomplishments that have been made throughout our Continuum of Care.

In FY 24/25 the Homeless Alliance provided \$22,826,660 in pass-through funds to our partner organizations in Marion and Polk Counties. In 2024, the Mid-Willamette Valley Continuum of Care served an estimated 13,359 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes:

- 492 entries into Permanent Housing (including Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing)
- 133 entries into Transitional Housing
- 4,797 entries into Supportive Services Only (SSO) programs, including Day Shelter and Homelessness Prevention

These figures are based on entries recorded in our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and may not capture the full extent of services delivered, as some households may access multiple services or go unrecorded.

Whenever I have a chance to explain what the Alliance does, I tell people that the power of this organization lies not only with the incredible staff, but with the members. The Alliance is comprised of members who represent health care, homeless services, elected officials, people with lived experience, the school district and other critical components of our continuum of care. The members of our Board have real decision-making power in our communities and are out there making a difference every day. I am proud to be part of a true alliance of agencies who all come together for one common purpose: to bring safety and security to those at risk of becoming, or who are currently, experiencing homelessness.

Last year was such an incredible success, we met all of our housing and sheltering goals, but I know that was just the beginning. This work will continue and FY25/26 will be our best year yet.

Misty Bolger,
MWVHA Executive Director



“This is more than a plan - it’s our shared commitment to a community where everyone has access to housing support and dignity”
-Alliance leadership

Board Approves 5-Year Strategic Plan

MWVHA released its 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, laying out an ambitious roadmap to end and prevent homelessness in Marion and Polk counties. Developed with extensive community input, the plan focuses on four key goals: improving data, strengthening services, maximizing resources and increasing regional collaboration. The plan emphasizes action. It expands housing options, investing in prevention and creates more space for partners and people with lived experience to lead solutions.

To learn more about the Strategic Plan, click [here](#).



Credit, BDA Architecture & Planning P.C.

Carson Commons Ribbon Cutting

- Wednesday, August 27, 2025
- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- 373 E. Ellendale Ave, Dallas
- Off-site parking at Walmart south lot
- Guided tours after the program

Carson Commons: A New Beginning for Young Adults

Carson Commons will be open to residents, on September 2, 2025. The housing development includes 20 apartments: 19 one-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit. Nine units will be filled through referrals from the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) for young adults moving from supervised youth housing, aging out of foster care, or who have experienced homelessness, with most having ties to Polk County. The remaining units are available to individuals earning below 60% of the area median income.

Polk CDC will connect all residents to resources based on individual needs. MWVCAA will provide case management and rent assistance for referred young adults, supporting self-sufficiency through employment, education, and healthcare connections.

"Polk CDC knows that partnerships lead to successful outcomes. We are honored to partner with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency who supported the building of Carson Commons and will provide services to many residents. This development was made possible with funding from Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Health Authority, and additional support from the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program, Citizen's Bank, Energy Trust of Oregon, Oregon MEP, and Pacific Power's Blue Sky."

Carson Commons is named in honor of Letitia Carson, the first Black woman to legally own land in Oregon—a pioneer whose perseverance continues to inspire.

The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance is pleased to welcome Brenda Newey as the new private sector Co-Chair of the Collaborative Committee. Brenda brings over 17 years of experience with Union Gospel Mission, where she serves in multiple roles at Simonka Place, including Employment Case Manager, Resource Coordinator, and HMIS Administrator. Her deep commitment to service and hands-on expertise will be a valuable asset to the committee's work moving forward.

Brenda joins Christine Sommer, Housing Services Administration Manager at Marion County Housing Authority, who continues as the public sector Co-Chair. Together, they will guide the Collaborative Committee in supporting the CoC Board, uplifting lived experience and strengthening system performance across Marion and Polk counties.

Please join us in welcoming Brenda and thanking Sarah for their commitment to this work.

Collaborative Committee Update



We also extend our sincere thanks to Sarah White of Sheltering Silverton, who recently completed over a year of service as Co-Chair. Her dedication, insight, and leadership have been deeply appreciated.

Building Trust Through Transparency

The Alliance is committed to transparency, accountability and public participation. To ensure full compliance with Oregon's Public Meeting Law (ORS 192.610–192.690), we've implemented a series of structured practices and safeguards designed to promote open governance.

Public Notices for All Meeting Types

All regular, special, and executive session meetings of the Alliance's Board and committees are publicly noticed in accordance with ORS 192.640. Agendas are posted to the Alliance's website, added to the Alliance's Google and Outlook calendars and distributed via email to committee members, interested parties, and media contacts. Each notice includes meeting dates, times, locations or virtual links and clear agendas that guide public expectations.

Built-in Quality Controls, Staff Training & Ongoing Review

A centralized tracking system ensures all steps meet statutory requirements. This system includes checklists, internal timelines, and quality controls to verify that meeting notices are posted by the deadline required for each meeting type. Alliance staff also receive ongoing training in public meeting law, and standard operating procedures are reviewed regularly to adapt to changes in best practices or legal interpretations. These proactive measures are designed not only to comply with the law but to foster public trust in the Alliance's decision-making.

Through transparency and open deliberation, the Alliance remains a trusted steward of public resources and collaborative leader in addressing homelessness.

The Monmouth shelter is more than a building—it's a place of hope, dignity, and new beginnings



Church at the Park is thrilled to announce the opening of the Monmouth shelter for unhoused adults. After more than two years of dedication and community partnership, the first guest moved in on June 23.

Our first guest, Debra, describes the shelter as “a place that feels like home.” After experiencing homelessness, she connected with local outreach services and was referred to the Monmouth shelter. Now, with support from her case manager and peer support, Debra is working toward completing her bachelor's degree in psychology and hopes to become a foster parent in the future.

The shelter provides a safe, supportive, and sanitary space for 20 adults to work on housing, employment, and personal goals. Staff are on site 24/7, including Case Managers and Peer Supports, who partner with guests to remove barriers and build pathways to stability. Key partners include Polk County Family & Community Outreach, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance and Polk County PATHS.



To find out more information about Church @ The Park, click [here](#)