



NEWS RELEASE

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Sandra Mears, Executive Director
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New Executive Director Joins Bethlehem Inn Team

Sandra Mears has been hired as the new Executive Director for the Bethlehem Inn. She brings over 14 years of community building and nonprofit experience from King County to this position. Sandra began her new position on April 2, 2007. Liz Hitt will work with Sandra over the next three months to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and to assist with the shelter relocation plans.

“We conducted a national search for our new Executive Director for the Inn. We are thrilled to have Sandra join the Inn team,” said Jen Rusk, Board President of the Bethlehem Inn. “Her background and professional experience will be a wonderful asset to our board, staff and community.”

Sandra’s professional background includes extensive experience working with individuals from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds through community-based agencies, businesses, and government entities. She recently served as a Loaned Executive with United Way of King County for their fall workplace giving campaign. She has held executive level positions with Puget Sound Alliance for Community Technology and the Salvation Army’s NW Division. Her academic and career interests are aimed at finding solutions to social problems affecting population groups at the neighborhood, community, regional, and national level. To this end,

she holds an undergraduate degree with a concentration in sociology from Antioch University and an executive masters in not for profit leadership from Seattle University.

According to Sandra, “I look forward to forging alliances and partnerships that will allow us to leverage resources to support the growth and sustainability of Bethlehem Inn in service to the Central Oregon community.”

The Bethlehem Inn is the primary provider of emergency services to the homeless in the Central Oregon region. The mission of the Bethlehem Inn is to break the cycle of homelessness in Central Oregon through the provision of beds, meals, drug testing, case management, transportation, accountability-based programming, educational opportunity and employment assistance. The Bethlehem Inn provides emergency, instant access to housing, food and focused case management for its clients.

The Inn offers two types of emergency housing. The Next Steps program focuses on operating a main shelter facility with two dorms (52 beds) for single men and one dorm (20) beds for single women. The Families First Program focuses on services for homeless families and offers separate housing, through six apartments, for the children and their families. Last year, the Inn provided housing for up to 72 single adults and 6 families per night, served 78,480 meals and had the assistance of 3,700 volunteers.

As a largely volunteer-driven organization with a small professional staff, the Inn relies on its solid base of local volunteers and donors to help with meals and operational support. Call 322-8768 or visit www.bethleheminn.org for more information or to make a donation.