

# Piloting Change

## Joel's Journey: From Crisis to Independence

In our Housing Program, we stay close to our clients even after they find housing, making sure they get the care they need to remain independent and stably housed. We connect with our clients through regular visits. One day, we visited Joel, whom we had helped find a home in 2019. Joel was in so much pain he could barely answer the door. If we hadn't checked on him, we wouldn't have known his health was in trouble. We were able to get Joel to the hospital for much needed medical care.

After leaving the hospital, Joel faced tough challenges. He needed a hip replacement and surgery on his arm, but the wait for both would be several months. Joel's hip pain made everyday tasks, like housekeeping, nearly impossible and he became dependent on pain pills to get through each day. The NWPP team scheduled doctor's appointments, drove Joel to appointments, worked with doctors, and supported Joel every step of the way. After a nine month wait, Joel finally had his surgeries. But after recovering from surgery, Joel had a second challenge: going through treatment for his dependence on pain medication.

Joel made incredible progress and is now able to stand on his own and walk with support. He's enjoying shopping and taking care of his home on his own, and reconnecting with friends. NWPP made sure Joel got the care he needed to recover, to regain his independence, and to keep his housing.

Navigating the medical system can be really tough, and Joel's story is, unfortunately, not unusual. For people with language barriers or without services like those from NWPP, accessing medical care can be even more challenging. And as we've shared before, poor health can negatively impact housing stability: being unable to do even basic housekeeping on a regular basis can be a risk factor for eviction. Joel's journey from struggling alone and needing help, to being able to live inde-



*Joel proudly standing on his own again after a painful period in his life.*

pendently shows just how crucial it is to have someone on your side.

One way we help clients like Joel is through our Emergency Fund. This fund covers expenses that other sources often overlook, like laundry, prescription co-pays, IDs, and transportation assistance. These resources are crucial for our clients' success, and to assist those in crisis, like Joel. All the funds in our Emergency Fund come from supporters like you.

We have renamed our Emergency Fund the "Bobby Weinstock Client Assistance Fund", honoring our late colleague who believed in building strong relationships with our clients. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to contribute to the Bobby Weinstock Client Assistance Fund to be a part of success stories like Joel's. We can't do this work alone. Supporters like YOU make a real difference. Thank you so much!



From the  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Laura Golino de Lovato

It's the end of another year for NWPP and time for me to share a few reflections of what we've accomplished this past year, and to look forward to the next year. Of course, I'm referring to our fiscal year – the 12-month accounting period and our operating year that runs from July 1–June 30. Our budget, goals, fundraising, and other activities are all framed by this 12-month period. So it seems like the perfect time to share an update.

This past year we retired the Walk-A-Thon after its 44-year run and created the “Housing Seniors Hootenanny”. And it was a Hoot! Thank you to those of you who were able to join us at the event on May 5th at Oaks Park. See pages 4-6 for photos and more info! And for those of you who couldn't make it – not to worry! We will be having our 2nd Annual Hootenanny on **Sunday, May 7th**. I want to give a very special shout out to those of you who've been stalwart supporters of the Walk-A-Thon (some of you for almost the entire 44 years!). Thank you so much for your ongoing commitment to and support of NWPP. Your individual contributions, no matter what amount, are critical to all that NWPP does. We truly couldn't do our work with YOU!

The Hootenanny was a response to the many changes in our world, especially the changes in the recent years:

COVID, rising rents, the increase of the number of older adults becoming homeless, and a disengagement from what it means to collectively work together as a community to address these big and complex issues. The Hootenanny not only presents an important opportunity to raise much needed funds for our Emergency Fund, newly renamed the **Bobby Weinstock Client Assistance Fund**, it also provides a way for the NWPP community to gather, engage, and celebrate the incredible support we receive to help our clients from so many businesses, individuals and organizations, *and through that shared appreciation celebrate our collective success.* **THANK YOU ALL!**

The past fiscal year provided opportunities for NWPP to pilot a new approach to connecting our clients to in-home services like housekeeping and grocery shopping. Read more about the caregiving crisis on page 7. And we've been working to make access to health care services easier for our clients. After getting into housing from homelessness, care and health services are the highest service needs our clients have. We responded to more requests for assistance from older adults throughout Multnomah County who are getting priced out of their apartments. In our nearly 55 year history, we've never seen such a big increase in need.

As NWPP looks ahead to the coming year, we're planning to take more action to address and respond to the growing number of older adults who are living on less than \$26,000 a year. For us, no issue is more complex and larger in scope than housing instability among seniors, especially those born between 1955 and 1964. The population of homeless older adults is the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in Multnomah County. Almost 25% of homeless people in the county are over the age of 55.

This coming year we'll be focusing on: expanding our Permanent Supportive Housing Program, a program that helps older adults exiting homelessness to move into housing that includes a wide range of support services and ongoing case management; increasing our own pool of rent assistance funds to help more seniors stay in their homes as we help them find more affordable housing; and continuing to advocate for more funding to support and retain our amazing staff; for easy access to health care services for our clients; and engaging you and the broader community in education opportunities about older adult homelessness, housing, and services.

Please join us in working to meet our mission of offering opportunities for a life of dignity and hope to very low income seniors in Multnomah County. Plan to raise funds for and attend next year's Hootenanny, become a monthly donor, or make a donation in memory of Bobby Weinstock that will help **KEEP SENIORS HOUSED!**

Onward!

*Laura*

## Honoring partnerships that enhance our work

# Northwest Pilot Project 2024 Impact Awards

*Our annual Impact Awards celebrate the extraordinary people and partners whose contributions have been critical to the work of our agency for the past year. NWPP is fortunate to have a multitude of supporters without whom it would not be possible for us to fulfill our mission. Meet this year's honorees here and let them inspire you!*



*Shawn DeCarlo, Director, Community Impact at CareOregon.*

Supporting vulnerable community members throughout Oregon, CareOregon's Community Giving grant program awarded NWPP with a transformational grant to support our eviction prevention work.

### AGENCY IMPACT AWARD

*Recognizes a significant contribution that provided a transformative opportunity for NWPP.*

### CARE OREGON

For more than 25 years, CareOregon has served Oregonians who qualify for Medicaid by providing health insurance and much more. CareOregon works hand-in-hand with service providers like NWPP through shared programs, technical assistance, and financial support. Committed to supporting vulnerable community members throughout Oregon, CareOregon's Community Giving grant program awarded NWPP with a transformational grant to support our eviction prevention work.



### PROGRAM IMPACT AWARD

*Recognizes a significant contribution to our housing services and program.*

### GARRETT WRIGHT LEGAL AID SERVICES OF OREGON

Garrett Wright has been a Supervising Attorney for the housing practice at Legal Aid Services of Oregon since January 2021. He has been invaluable in helping the NWPP staff advocate quickly and effectively on issues of landlord tenant law impacting our clients. Garrett has a helpful suggestion every time we call or email. He consistently offers insight, guidance, and resource ideas. Garrett's responsiveness and legal knowledge has been a game changer in the lives of our clients.



*Sharon Singh Community Life Manager at Terwilliger Plaza*

has raised over \$200K for NWPP!! And as volunteer fundraisers, Terwilliger residents continue to be the most successful fundraising team for NWPP. The hallmark of Terwilliger Plaza residents is their continued, consistent support for the work NWPP does to house very vulnerable and very low-income older adults. The commitment to NWPP from the people who make Terwilliger Plaza their home is the thread that fixes the holes in the safety net system.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

*Acknowledges the engagement of volunteers in supporting our clients and services.*

### TERWILLIGER PLAZA RESIDENTS & TERWILLIGER PLAZA

#### "Living Forward"

For the past 20 years The residents of Terwilliger Plaza have been cornerstone supporters of Northwest Pilot Project. Over that time, Terwilliger





Our First Housing Seniors

# Hootenanny

We were blown away by the success of NWPP's first Housing Seniors Hootenanny! Held on May 5th at Oaks Park, this event wasn't just another fundraiser—it was a celebration honoring our incredible supporters, donors, their families and friends and all the seniors we serve.

Transforming from our iconic Walk-A-Thon, the Hootenanny brought a whole new level of excitement and community spirit. The virtual fundraiser shattered expectation by raising an astounding **\$137,000!**

We shared a meal, presented impact awards to our partners, cheered our top fundraisers, and basked in the glow of NWPP's profound impact on our community. It was a day filled with laughter, gratitude, family friendly activities and the unmistakable spirit of giving back, despite the rain!

**Thank you** for making the Housing Seniors Hootenanny a resounding success! Together, we're building brighter futures for the seniors we serve.





**Top individual fundraiser:  
Dale Latham  
raising \$17,550!**

Dale has been a wonderful supporter of NWPP for years. Not only does he wow us with his fundraising, but Dale served for many years on our Board of Directors and helped out Santa at our Client Holiday Luncheons. Dale has a passion for the work we do and we are grateful to him.



**Top team fundraiser: Terwilliger Plaza raising \$16,903**

Terwilliger's Plaza comes in on top in the team category once again. We are humbled by the generosity of the team and their donors. Thank you for all your support year after year.



**Terri Moore** won a raffle drawing for those who raised over \$500.



**Congratulations to our \$500 Airbnb Raffle winner, Ann Middleton!**

# Thank You

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## Partner Sponsors:



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AARP  
Multnomah County  
Commissioner Jesse Beason  
Classic Pianos





# Thank you

to everyone who fundraised for NWPP!

Wow! A huge thank you to everyone who rallied behind NWPP at our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Housing Seniors Hootenanny! Your incredible efforts in fundraising are making a monumental impact on the lives of seniors in Multnomah County. With unwavering support, you've helped us deliver vital services to those in need. Every dollar raised, thanks to you, is a direct lifeline for low-income and homeless seniors.

A.C. Caldwell  
 Alan DeLaTorre  
 Alexis Hultine  
 Ann Middleton  
 Arwen Vanderfield  
 Brenna Crocker  
 Carmen Schleiger  
 Carol Cabbage  
 Carol Maresch  
 Carolyn Savage  
 Courtney McKinnon  
 Cynthia Parker  
 Cynthia McMurdo  
 Dale Latham  
 David Parker  
 Ethelyn Pankratz  
 Heidi Chimuku  
 Jan Okuhara  
 Janet Hitti  
 Jeanne Randall-Bodman  
 Joanie Lunsford  
 JoAnn Herrigel  
 Joe Gillock  
 Julia Doty

Kai Jones-Childs  
 Karen Day  
 Kate Suhadolnik  
 Kathy Anderson  
 Katy Danforth Staley  
 Larken Vanderfield  
 Laura Golino de Lovato  
 Linda Goodman  
 Marisa Espinoza  
 Marjorie Wazeka  
 Mary Crocker  
 Mary Ann Miller  
 Melissa Arnold  
 Peter Rux  
 Rachel Peach  
 Ruth Schuld (memorial)  
 Roger Bond  
 Sara Kremer  
 Stephanie Roberts  
 Susan Emmons  
 Terri Moore  
 Thea Ostroy  
 Vicki Schmall



# Caregiving Crisis: Navigating Independence and Support for Older Adults

As those of us who are aging know, even a minor disability can get in the way of doing the basics tasks around our homes, whether it's changing a light bulb, doing basic housekeeping, or dealing with technology.

As the number of older adults coming to NWPP for assistance increases, we are seeing an increasing number of them at-risk of eviction due to poor housekeeping. And poor housekeeping isn't just about the rental lease rules; it can have negative consequences on health, too, including increased risk of falls, infection, social isolation, and eventually might lead to homelessness. While many of our clients are eligible for ongoing in-home care covered by Medicaid, they are unable to find or keep care providers within the 30-day window – not enough time – allowed by Multnomah County Aging, Disability, and Veterans' Services (ADVSD). But why?

According to the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and other researchers – as well as the many families trying to secure care services for their loved ones – “The U.S. is facing a shortage of caregivers, in child care and elder care, in nurseries, schools, hospitals and homes. This is not just an issue for working parents or the companies that employ them—it's becoming a national crisis.” There is a severe shortage of available workers to fill caregiver roles, and it is a very hard job. The work doesn't pay well, is

physically demanding, can be isolating and does not present a pathway for career growth.

Research shows that older adults with experiences of homelessness are two times more likely to have cognitive impairments and are 2.5–10 times more likely to have difficulty with self-care. Individuals who have recently found housing after long periods of homelessness may struggle with physical limitations, cognitive impairments, behavioral ability, or skills to maintain housekeeping. In extreme cases it can result in hoarding disorder.

“The U.S. is facing a shortage of caregivers...it's becoming a national crisis”

After nearly 54 years of working with renters and older adults who are low-income older adults, we know that aging in place in rental housing presents multiple challenges, primarily an increase in disability and with it the loss of the ability to live independently. When a tenant's decline in health and/or cognitive ability leads to a decline in independence some landlords see this as a threat to the safety and welfare of other tenants. Tenants in subsidized housing must often meet unit inspection standards in order to avoid an eviction notice.

Basic support services such as housekeeping, hoarding disorder intervention, shopping services, transportation, meal delivery and prepa-

ration, etc, allow older adults to live full, independent lives. These services are also much more cost effective than becoming homeless and seeking housing again, or moving to a nursing home.

With the population of older adults (people aged 55 and older) experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County increasing annually, the situation is dire. These households need additional support in their homes to address challenges caused by physical and mental impairments in order to remain successful once placed in housing. This population may be at risk of negative housing outcomes such as returns to homelessness from permanent housing.

NWPP recently created a strategy to expand caregiving connections for our clients through a new pilot to test private pay caregiving. Thanks to funding from CareOregon, Oregon Community Foundation, and Multnomah County's Aging, Disability, and Veterans Department (ADVSD), NWPP is testing a new service models that enhance in-home care for older adults who need ongoing assistance with activities of daily living to maintain housing stability.

By providing housekeeping support, client outreach, transportation support, and connecting clients to critically needed resources we can continue to support our clients to live independently.



**NORTHWEST  
PILOT PROJECT**

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## Dr. Alan DeLaTorre Joins NWPP as Community Relations Specialist



*Dr. Alan DeLaTorre*

**W**e are thrilled to share that Dr. Alan DeLaTorre has joined NWPP’s team as our Community Relations Specialist.

Alan has had a long career at PSU as a researcher and instructor, and leading the Age-Friendly City program at the City of Portland. He has worked on multiple projects focused on the welfare of older adults and the intersections of housing development, city planning, and age-friendly communities all of which support the important work NWPP is doing. Alan will work closely with NWPP Executive

Director to enhance NWPP’s relationship with governments and housing services, and will lead special projects.

“For almost 20 years I’ve learned from and worked with NWPP leaders and I’m excited to join the team!” Alan shared. “I feel prepared to support the organization and the community needs based on my training as a self-described ‘urban gerontologist’, my experiences with local and state policy and programs, and my passion for both older adults and housing.”