

SOUTHERN OREGON



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June 4, 2020



[Celia's House](#)
217 S. Modoc Ave.
Medford, OR 97504

Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice

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1618 Ashland St, Ashland, OR 97520

541-488-7805

Hours: Mon - Sun: 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Donations accepted daily until 4:30 p.m.

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Volunteer Spotlight: Garden Team

By Sue Carroll, Volunteer Coordinator

COVID-19 has raged through the world and changed our lives in ways we could not have foreseen. But at Celia's House during this time of uncertainty, one thing that has remained constant is the weekly presence and passion of our volunteer garden team. The plants still grow; the gardeners still come. Every Wednesday morning the botanical gardens on the 2+ acre property thrive from TLC.

Some of the 18-member team are still working, some have their own gardens to tend, and all are busy community-minded people. Why do they keep coming week after week to tend to Celia's House gardens instead of the many other things they could be doing? Conversations with the gardeners revealed themes of joy, service, community and beauty. The joy of each other's company; the satisfaction of making a contribution to a mission they believe in; and the love of being outside, digging in the dirt, being in the colors and beauty of the garden. Their work is vitally important to the well-being of our residents and loved ones, and our staff.



At age 32, Atma Marten is the youngest member of the team. He volunteers in-between his premed studies at SOU, med school applications, and work as a paramedic. "There is a real sense of community on the garden team. Everyone is friendly. I appreciate having a place where I feel like I belong and also feel like I'm making a contribution. And it's great getting outside!"

Dana Rayburn said, "I work full-time in an office. Getting out of the office and into the garden energizes me. Being here on Wednesdays in this beautiful place with incredible people fuels me until Friday evening. And hospice is important to me."

Dana Henderson retired from a 35-year career as a professional landscape contractor in the Napa Valley. John Forsyth invited him to "take a look" at our failing irrigation system two years ago and he has been coming back week after week ever since. "I've got good people to work with," he said with a smile. "The attitudes of the people I work with here are uplifting. It's just hard to feel bad in a garden."



Atma and Dana working to improve and distribute soil for the front garden.

When asked what brings her joy in Celia's House garden Rhonda Refsnider said, "The colors of the flowers and watching things emerge; watching Mother Nature keep things going."

Founding garden team member, leader, and Master Gardener Barb Steely said, "It has been such a joy to work with such knowledgeable, caring people, watching things develop and making it the best we can. It is a pleasure for volunteers to work with Solid Ground and KenCairn Landscaping."

Barb, husband, Mike Steely claimed, "I don't know anything about gardening. Barb asked me to help, so here I am. I'm learning a lot from people who know what they're doing though."

John Forsyth, resident support volunteer and gardener,



"Whether in the house or the garden, being in the ever-changing cycle of life is the most meaningful experience."

Vicky Ashford, the newest member, has been a Master Gardener since 2005. After she downsized from her half acre garden, she was eager to be part of a bountiful garden project again. "Everyone was so friendly and welcoming!"

Kristina, one of the Celia's House CNAs commented that, "All the flowers make the house feel homey when I drive up the driveway."

Everyone is welcome on the garden team! Experience not required. Mike Steely is known for saying, "I can't tell the difference between a weed and a flower, but I get good direction."

COVID Campaign Ends Early **\$53,000 Raised to Replace HUB's Loss** **By Susan Hearn, Executive Director**

We have great news to share! In just over one month, 101 generous donors gave to our COVID Recovery Campaign. These community members' support for Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice and Celia's House replaced the revenue lost from temporarily closing The HUB (Hospice Unique Boutique) during the statewide closure orders.

And more good news! The HUB was able to re-open its doors in mid-May, much earlier than we anticipated, bringing back our donors and shoppers who support our mission. In response, and with deep



Executive Director Susan Hearn shares a smile and good news.

gratitude, our board of directors unanimously voted to end our campaign early - acknowledging that our HUB closure financial need is fully met.

This wonderful success allows our board and staff to return to the vital ongoing fundraising efforts that support our mission to provide compassionate, high quality end-of-life residential care for Southern Oregon families of all income levels, now and for long into the future.

We invite you to join our entire team in celebrating the 101 donors who rushed to our aid, giving thanks to all who shared their gifts with us to overcome the financial impact of The HUB closure.

On behalf of our hospice residents, their families and all who will receive care at Celia's House in the future - we thank you! Click here to watch a quick video thank you message: <https://youtu.be/OVUxCeN8PFo>.

Baking Bread and Building Bridges *By Karen Amarotico, Celia's House Chef*

Like many of you, I've watched the recent tragedies in the news with great sadness. From the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery to Breonna Taylor to George Floyd and too many others, it's become clear that I cannot be silent, and that I wish to encourage others to speak out as well. I believe it is time to advocate for black lives, educate ourselves and others, and most importantly, support and take care of one another.

I've been cooking all of my life. And in times of loss, it's still what I turn to first: making and sharing food with others. It may seem like a small thing. But I truly believe that food can bring us together - and to bake and give away a warm meal for no reason other than the generosity in your heart is actually pretty amazing.



If you'd like to join me, here's one of my favorite recipes for the delicious No Knead Bread from [Sullivan Street Bakery](#) in New York City. Please let me know if you decide to give it a try - and who you'll share it with.

Executive Director's Note:

Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice strongly affirms the dignity of every individual and strives to ensure everyone is treated with compassion, kindness, equity, and respect. Additionally, we take responsibility for advocating for these values on behalf of vulnerable individuals and working within larger social systems to promote positive action.

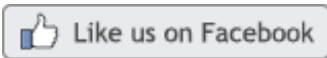
The HUB is Open!



The HUB is officially re-opened for shopping and donations. After being closed for two months due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we are thrilled to welcome everyone back. There are a few changes in order to protect our shoppers, volunteers, donors and staff:

- The store's hours are 10:30 am - 5:00 pm seven days per week.
- We are practicing social distancing of six feet or more while at the HUB
- All customers are required to wear masks (clean cloth loaner masks are available)
- Please use the hand sanitizer located at the entrance before entering the HUB
- Senior discount day is still on Wednesdays
- For furniture donations please email photos to thehub@opendoor.com.

[Click her to Shop for HUB merchandise on eBay](#)



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