



503-443-6084

11130 SW Greenburg Rd. Tigard, OR, 97223

[www.gncnw.org](http://www.gncnw.org)

The GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER calls on the Legislature to make significant investments in housing and homelessness prevention through SB 1530.

The Good Neighbor Center (GNC) is an emergency family shelter in Tigard, Oregon which houses nine families (54 adults and children) in nine bedrooms. The shelter has been in operation since 1999 and last year housed 55 families (190 individuals) for 6-8 weeks each. Families receive shelter, food and some prepared meals, and access to childcare which allows them to seek housing and secure/continue employment. Most families move directly from the Good Neighbor Center into housing in the community.

Primary financial support comes from a Washington County Safety Levy, funding from the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) and donations. GNC has not received one-time funds from OHCS in either the 2019-2021 or 2021-2022 bienniums. The dramatic increase in the cost of staffing a 24 hour/7day/week shelter coupled with an almost \$100,000 reduction in SHAP funding and the loss of the ability to hold fundraising events during the pandemic years resulted in a perfect storm. GNC ran a significant deficit last year and anticipates a somewhat smaller, but still significant deficit this year, effectively draining all of GNC's reserves. Without additional funding, the shelter will need to close by late spring.

With only one year-round emergency shelter for every three individuals experiencing homelessness in Oregon, the need for stable, ongoing funding cannot be overstated. Such funding would allow providers to concentrate more on delivering crucial services and less on financial survival. While increasing the supply of low and moderate income housing is a long term solution, it does nothing to help the immediate problem of homelessness. The Good Neighbor Center is continuously full, as are most other shelters in our community.

The request for \$65 million for existing shelters is a necessary step towards assuring that the current shelter network continues. I urge you to consider this with the seriousness and urgency that it deserves, recognizing that it is not just a financial decision, but a moral imperative.

Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of Oregon.

Karen Hill  
Interim Executive Director  
Good Neighbor Center