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Laurelhurst Living

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAURELHURST



Meet Meggan Cole and her daughter Perry and dog Otis

Photo by: Jeff Mendenhall

Your stories.
Your photos.
Your community.



Community

By Rena Satre Meloy

CORNER



**The Strength Of Our Community Begins At Home.
Join Laurelhurst Neighbors In Putting Used
Goods To Good Use At Community Warehouse.**

More often than not, our household goods and furnishings are camouflaged into the fabric of our everyday experience. Our brimming cupboards and our favorite mug, our dining room table and our comfy sofa ...we appreciate these items, yes, but we may not fully recognize the powerful role they play in our well-being, happiness and self-sufficiency.

For a moment, picture your home completely empty: no bed to rest upon, no pots or utensils to make home-cooked meals, no towels to dry off with after a shower, no lamps to light your evenings. For many people in our community, this is their physical existence every day. They are striving to get back on their feet and create solid home foundations for their children, yet they can barely make ends meet. For these families, household furnishings can make a world of difference.

Meet Community Warehouse, your local furniture bank. This nonprofit organization is built on a simple, yet compelling concept: household goods you no longer need could help create a home for someone else in your community. As the only

full-service furniture bank serving Oregon and SW Washington, Community Warehouse collects and redistributes donated furnishings to over 7,000 neighbors in need each year.

Agencies throughout Portland are working tirelessly to provide struggling families with food, warm clothing, safe housing and healthcare. Community Warehouse works in partnership with nearly 200 of these agencies, public schools and faith communities to provide that next critical layer of support – the comfort and dignity of home. With this foundation, people can devote their time and resources to meet other needs such as employment assistance, healthcare or food. Their quality of life is strongly improved and they are more likely to become self-sufficient community members.

In the words of one family who visited the Warehouse, “A place of your own is important, but so are the small things like a decent bed and dishes. Those are the things that make a house a home. When you are broke and starting your life again, those things can make the difference.”

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RELYING ON OUR COMMUNITY

Currently, 50+ families visit the Warehouse each week to receive furniture. We rely solely on donations from our community to meet this need. Laurelhurst is full of donors who have helped keep our shelves full for many years now. Residents Michael and Ruth Hanna are an exceptional example of this neighborhood's giving nature. They are owners of The Mattress Lot, a family-owned small business that values sustainability and respect for community. Year after year, the Hannas donate mattresses to local families on a weekly basis, and they always come to the rescue when we are completely out of twin mattresses.

In the words of Erik Heise, Warehouse Program Director, "If you've never met the Hannas, we can assure you they are some of the most kind-hearted, generous citizens in Portland." Development Director Anna Kurnizki explains, "We are continually humbled by how selflessly this small, family-run business gives...and with such joy. It really is an exceptional partnership, and they are exceptional people." Alongside the Hannas, several regular volunteers who live in the Laurelhurst community give generously of their time and enjoy connecting their neighbors to the Warehouse.



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Pots & Pans
- Silverware, Dishes
- Can Openers
- Toasters
- Alarm Clocks
- Kitchen Tables, Chairs
- Clean Mattresses (especially twins)
- Dressers
- Lamps
- Pillows
- Blankets/Comforters

In this spirit, if you could peek in your cupboards or closets for any extra household goods or furnishings – we will gladly put your used goods to good use! We just ask that they are gently-used and in clean, working condition. Items can be dropped off at either of our Warehouse locations (Portland or Tualatin), or a pick-up can be requested at communitywarehouse.org.

Here at Community Warehouse, we are grateful each day for work that so directly and positively impacts our community – work that is made possible because of generous donors like you and business owners like the Hannas. Thank you! Teamwork, respect, and what it really means to be there for your neighbors – this is what community is all about.

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You can also help in other ways!

1. Donate, Shop and Support at our on-site Estate Store. If you have treasures you no longer treasure (higher value items or antiques), you can donate them to our Estate Store, where they will be sold to support the Warehouse's mission. You can also shop at our Estate Stores anytime! Learn more at estatestore.org.

2. Volunteer. We have fun, flexible, meaningful opportunities in both Warehouse's and our Estate Stores. We'd love to have you join us. Contact Jessica Thompson: Jessica@communitywarehouse.org; 503.891.7400.

3. Spread the Word! Our biggest challenge is letting people know that we exist. If you can tell your next-door neighbor, or perhaps your walking pal, or a co-worker or friend, you would help us tremendously.



- Do you know someone making a difference in
- Laurelhurst? Email submissions and nominations
- to laurelhurstliving@gmail.com.

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