

Welcoming, Empowering,  
Safe Habitation Initiative with  
Neighborhood Engagement



WeShine

WeShinePDX.org

<https://www.weshinepdx.org>

A non-profit organization under  
the fiscal sponsorship of the  
Northeast Coalition of  
Neighborhoods



## Homeless Outdoor Camping Explodes Beyond Public Agencies' Ability to Cope

- The need for stable shelter and services for the homeless has never been greater.
- Neighborhoods, businesses, developers, and faith-based organizations have an important role to play in providing transitional shelter until there is sufficient affordable permanent housing for all people to live in.

## *The WeShine Vision*

Create and operate small-scale villages embedded in neighborhoods throughout Portland,

- With built-in support services to link guests to social, health and housing transition services,
- With community support from neighbors and faith communities wrapped around each village,
- Focused on serving the most vulnerable and under-served populations of unsheltered people.



**A Conestoga Hut From  
Community Support Solutions in  
Eugene, OR**

# Why Small-Scale Villages Make Sense



Kenton Women's Village, Portland, OR

- Private sector needs to be part of the solution
- Public sector cannot fix alone nor are there enough pieces of suitable public land or in enough diverse neighborhoods
- A fair share approach to locating shelters on private land in diverse neighborhoods means all can contribute and share the burden of solving this crisis
- Small-scale settings are less triggering and more personal
- Micro-villages can fit almost anywhere, are easier to manage and more acceptable to neighborhoods





Site Plan Veterans' Village in Clackamas, OR

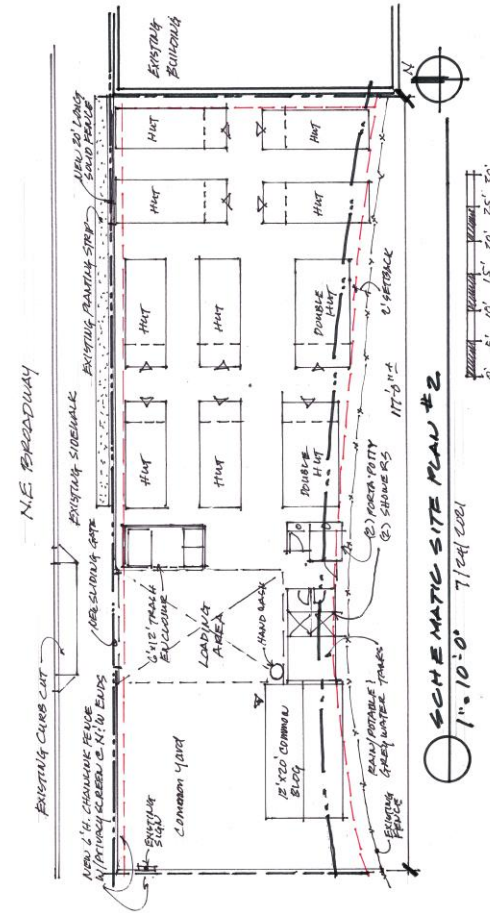
**Seeking locations across the city to  
avoid overwhelming any area**

## What is a **WeShine** Micro-village?

- A 10-12 person “alternative shelter” location on public or privately-owned property with sleeping pods and shared community facilities:
- Basic hygiene and sanitation services
- Community structure for cooking, eating, and meetings
- Dedicated staff and volunteer support

# What Else Does a **WeShine** Micro-village Include?

- Fencing for privacy and security
- Shower unit and hand-washing station
- electricity for light, heat, and to charge devices
- Gray water recycling if feasible
- Bicycle parking
- Container gardens and plantings



Rough Site Plan 33<sup>rd</sup> and NE Broadway

# What transitional and supportive services does a **WeShine** Micro-village offer?



Volunteer services such as communal meals, laundry, recreational and social activities

Opportunities for villagers to be engaged with neighbors to improve the community

Peer and Navigation staff to link villagers to housing, social, and health services

A Village Council to address community issues and sustain Good Neighbor Agreement

What Kind of Locations  
is **WeShine** Looking  
For?



Right to Dream Too, Portland, OR

- Parking lot or undeveloped lot within a Portland residential neighborhood
- 6,000 SF or more
- Zoned for commercial, multi-family residential or employment preferred
- Located near public transit and retail/commercial resources
- Access to electricity, sewer, and water on site is preferred



## Consider Becoming a *WeShine* Micro-village Sponsor



### *WeShine* will :

- Organize and coordinate volunteers to build the infrastructure for the micro-village
- Provide supportive services to help villagers transition to permanent housing
- Provide a lease payment and liability insurance to the sponsor
- Develop a Good Neighbor Agreement with neighbors and the property owner that each guest will sign before moving in
- Coordinate community volunteers to support each micro-village with services, meals, and social events

# Who pays for the *WeShine* micro-villages & services



Agape Village, Portland, OR

- We are seeking local government funding and supplemental grants
- *WeShine* will also hold fund-raising activities and events,
- Donations to the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods on behalf of *WeShine* are welcome while we await federal tax-exempt status.

# Who's behind *WeShine*?



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Executive Director **Janet McManus**, LMSW with 40+ years of experience in program and housing development for special needs populations. She is also on the Board of the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association.

Board members are:

**Dave Weaver**, IT professional; resides in the Kerns neighborhood; on Kerns NA Board and SE Uplift board;

**DJ Heffernan**, land use and planning professional, resides in the Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood;

**Andrew Kualuua**, RN, Addiction treatment specialist, with lived experience;

**JoAnn Herrigel**, retired planner and analyst, resides in the Laurelhurst neighborhood;

**Jenn Coon**, Peer Support Specialist at Blanchet House; resides in the Buckman neighborhood

**Randolph Carter**, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training professional; resident of Sullivan's Gulch

**Chris Tanner**, retired nursing researcher and educator and neighborhood activist; resident of Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood.