

A Note from Jasmine Gordovez, Client Services Coordinator

Hi wonderful volunteers!

I wanted to share a little bit about the process of how I bring families into the Warehouse. All families that I bring into the Warehouse go through an intake process. Sometimes they find us via a referring partner like 211 or the Tigard Tualatin Family Resource Center, or sometimes I will do an intake process with them to make sure that they do have a need. My intake process is pretty easy. I want to reduce potential barriers that a family has to go through to make an appointment. Other than demographic information and number in the household that I use for CW data collection, I ask them to explain a little bit about their situation and why they are reaching out to Community Warehouse. Asking people to quantify their income level or their level of government assistance is a dehumanizing and traumatizing experience. Families in need are asked these questions all the time and it gets very tiring. **Part of the mission of Community Warehouse is dignity: to help those in need without the guilt or shame that may come with asking for help.**

Families who reach out to me call for a variety of reasons. Often they make a little too much money to qualify for a social service agency but are still in need. Most of these situations come from families who experienced no-cause evictions and had to sell/leave their home furnishings to have money for the deposit/rent for a new apartment. The parents of these families often still have full-time jobs but an eviction, especially a no-cause eviction, isn't something that they can plan for or afford. Families scramble to pack up their homes, find new housing, and figure out how to pay for rent and deposits. This takes monetary resources away from a family's savings, time off of work, and often families have to sell items that they have in order to make up for what they are losing. It leaves families with no resources left to furnish their homes.

It is important to realize that homelessness and an individual's needs take many different forms. The word "homeless" literally means without a home. This doesn't mean that a family must be sleeping on the street or in a shelter to be homeless. This also doesn't mean that a family shouldn't have things that we might assume people in need can't afford. Many of our client families are escaping domestic violence, dealing with medical issues, or recovering from a natural disaster like a house fire, and might not fit the stereotype that our society puts on people in need. **At Community Warehouse, we are here to help ANYONE who needs support to furnish their home, without judgement or discrimination.**

Here are some articles that speak more about the housing and homeless crisis in Oregon and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any more questions or concerns. My door is always open to you. Huge thanks for all you do for our neighbors in need through Community Warehouse!

Please listen to these testimonies:

http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/10/portland_renters_and_landlords.html

<http://koin.com/2017/10/25/a-clearer-picture-of-whos-homeless-in-multnomah-county/>

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/facebook-employee-is-homeless-lives-out-of-car>

YES to all of this article: <https://everydayfeminism.com/2016/02/poor-people-having-nice-things/>