## ASHLAND HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS MAY SURPRISE YOU

Here are a few highlights from our first ever Intake Interviews of 57 Ashland Homeless Shelter guests, conducted this past winter over 6 evenings at the shelters by one of our volunteers, a psychologist, after being urged by Dale, one of our more experienced guests, to illustrate the value of collecting data for informational purposes.

When asked IF they moved to Ashland because of the services here, every homeless person interviewed said: "NO". Likewise, 75% said they became homeless in Oregon, (98% of these local).

The following data illustrates the severity of the Ashland homeless crisis for our un-housed guests:

- 54% are disabled
- The average length of time being homeless is 46.6 months
- The average age is 44.2. The youngest is 23. The oldest is 72.
- 28% are considered "chronically homeless" (at least 4 years)
- 25% are female
- 17.5% are veterans

Many people believe that the homeless should be most interested in getting a job or finding a house. To guests, it's much more immediate like, "what's for dinner?" In the freezing cold of winter nights, the biggest challenge, they tell us is: "getting and staying warm."

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