

**PORTLAND
STREET
MEDICINE**

January 2019

We'd love to know how you learned about [redacted]. Have you attended any of our events? If so, which one(s)? Have you applied before? If so, in what year(s)?

Portland Street Medicine is an emerging nonprofit so we have not applied for funding from [redacted] before now. We learned about the important work [redacted] is doing in our community and about your Nonprofit Partner program through contacts with previous applicants and Nonprofit Partners. As a relative newbie to the nonprofit scene here in Portland (we incorporated in January 2018), we are inspired by your mission to inspire charitable habits amongst younger folks. As an organization that aims to bring healthcare to our community's most vulnerable and forgotten, we know that it takes many dedicated and compassionate individuals coupled with innovative, cross-sector collaborations to bring resources to this critically needed work. It also takes energy, enthusiasm, tenacity, and hope, which [redacted] has in abundance from what we can tell. We want to partner with you to leverage that energy in bringing healthcare to the homeless.

Hit us with your elevator pitch! What makes your nonprofit unique? What services do you offer? Who do you serve?

We hope we are going to the 18th floor because we have a lot to share with you!

We imagine you are well aware of the homeless crisis in our community. To recap briefly for you here:

- Nationally, Oregon has the 4th highest rate of homelessness and the 2nd highest rate of families without shelters.
- The most recent *Point In Time* count tells us there are about 4000 people homeless on any given night in Portland.
- The homeless population in Portland is growing older, more disabled, and is on the streets for longer periods.
- Homeless people suffer a disproportionate burden of illness and premature death. The average life expectancy of a homeless person is a shockingly low 47 years.

Our coalition of volunteer medical providers, social workers, care managers, and lay people was organized to address the enormous health disparities of people experiencing homelessness. We are an unconventional volunteer clinical team, aiming to extend dignity and humanity to those we treat. Our clinic is the streets.

The clinical care we deliver tends to be fairly straightforward. We start by announcing ourselves as "Portland Street Medicine" when approaching an individual or camp. Our outreach teams are easily identified by the Portland Street Medicine logo on their jackets and the stethoscopes around their necks. They are generally greeted warmly, and with relief. We carry backpacks filled with basic medical supplies and medications. In another bag we carry needed comfort supplies, including period packs assembled and donated by Project Period (one of our partners). Much of our time is spent treating cuts, sprains, wounds, and minor conditions. We also help manage chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. We triage conditions requiring immediate treatment and connect patients to same-day services or emergency care.

We not only serve our patients, but also medical providers by offering them a unique opportunity to serve and to give, with empathy and humility. In offering basic service to those in need, providers rediscover the satisfaction and fulfillment of caring. It turns out this is a powerful antidote to the pervasive professional burnout experienced by so many healthcare providers today.

If you'd like to ride the elevator down with us, we also want you to know that though we are a newly organized nonprofit, we have already achieved several significant milestones toward our goal of building a strong, sustainable organization and deepening our impact:

- 1) We successfully met criteria to be designated a Federally Qualified Free Health Clinic.
- 2) We have also successfully met criteria to be a qualified provider by Multnomah County.
- 3) We are awaiting news from the IRS about our 501(c)(3) status, which we filed for in January 2018. In the meantime, we have partnered with Charitable Fund Partnership, which is serving as our fiscal sponsor.
- 4) We have partnered with [REDACTED], an innovative cross-sector partnership to bring resources to the homeless crisis in our community. We have leveraged their relationships with business and philanthropic leaders to bring in major gifts from venture philanthropists interested in helping us build capacity, as well as funding to purchase and outfit our medical van.
- 5) We have secured in-kind donations of specially equipped bicycles for our volunteer teams, medical supplies, and comfort supplies – indicating to us strong and growing community support for our efforts.

Since we have probably run out of elevator time, we invite you to learn more about our activities, our goals, and our team at www.portlandstreetmedicine.org.

*How do your 2019 goals align with the **Level** mission and our approach to philanthropy?*

We believe that to build a strong and caring community we have to lift everybody up and our best hope for addressing the homeless crisis in Portland involves bold ideas, true partnerships across sectors and service systems, and opportunities to engage the community in the work. Like you, we believe in providing opportunities for people to meaningfully contribute to building a stronger, more caring community.

[REDACTED] thinks outside the box and so do we.

As a new organization, and as an organization offering a radical approach to healthcare delivery for our community's most vulnerable, we are not limiting ourselves to traditional ways of scaling our work and building a community of support for those efforts. We are open to strategic partnerships of all kinds as long as the collaboration is in service to advancing healthcare for the homeless. We see ourselves as a volunteer-driven effort with a "can do" spirit and mindfully invite others to join this work because they too want to meaningfully make

a difference, they too see healthcare as a basic human right, and they too want to break down barriers to accessing care.

We believe this call to action and our approach to healthcare delivery resonates with a new generation of advocates who are rethinking traditional philanthropy and inspiring and empowering young women to be leaders in the movement to build a stronger, more caring community. We share your values of inclusivity, finding a place for everyone to contribute, and practicing volunteerism and philanthropy with gratitude. We think that together we can do a lot of good. We do very serious work, and take our work very seriously, but we are joyous people at heart. We think in addition to doing a lot of good by partnering with [REDACTED], we can also have some fun along the way.

Our most successful partnerships are those that feel like just that, a partnership! How do you envision connecting us with your supporters (social media, email promotion, etc.)? Are you able to provide volunteer support at our event(s)? How might you support our mutual donor relations?

As a volunteer-led effort ourselves, we fully understand the value of engaging multi-talented volunteers to get the work done. We have been successful in recruiting a diverse volunteer base of medical providers, social workers, care managers, and lay people – all of whom are invested in our efforts to improve health outcomes for people who are homeless as well as our efforts to build a strong, sustainable organization. We currently have about 70 volunteers who we draw on for a broad range of support, including: delivering care by serving on an outreach team, helping us get the word out about our work by managing social media platforms and distributing our eNews, conducting drives to replenish our stocks of medical and comfort supplies, preparing grant applications and donor solicitations, and serving on coalitions that address homelessness.

We are confident that we can recruit enthusiastic volunteers to provide support at [REDACTED] events and for other joint efforts. We will support mutual donor relations through our social media platforms, where we update our stakeholders about events and happenings, and regularly thank them for their support; our monthly eNews, which features longer reads about events and happenings and specific calls to action; and our personal and professional networks. We partner with individual practitioners and healthcare systems, who have proven to be a strong and growing source of financial and in-kind support for our work. We also partner with Oregon Harbor of Hope, which has agreed to promote our partnership across their communications platforms and networks. We imagine that through these efforts, both Portland Street Medicine and [REDACTED] will increase exposure of our missions and goals, build our brands, and expand support for our shared goal of building a stronger, more caring community.

Over the years we've learned that although direct service is important to us, it's not always easy given that [REDACTED] is a volunteer job in itself. What non-traditional volunteer opportunities might you have? Whether it's direct service on evenings and weekends or other things that we can do on our own (stuffing envelopes,

research support, etc.). We want to make a hands-on connection with your mission.

We welcome opportunities to deepen our partnership by offering volunteer opportunities, while at the same time recognize that the demands on [REDACTED] members is already pretty great. We welcome an opportunity to design custom volunteer opportunities with you. For now, we have these ideas for nonclinical volunteer roles and opportunities for [REDACTED] members:

- 1) Host a drive for comfort supplies (socks, toiletries, toilet paper, Period Packs, etc.)
- 2) Host a party to assemble Comfort Kits and Period Packs.
- 3) Host a drive for basic medical supplies.
- 4) Prepare a guest column for a Portland Street Medicine eNews edition.
- 5) Host a salon series open to [REDACTED] members and guests where we discuss the joint challenges of homelessness and healthcare access and what we, as a community, can do about it.
- 6) Help us staff our info booth at community health fairs and distribute information about our work.

If there are [REDACTED] members who are clinicians, we welcome them to join our volunteer medical teams and look forward to talking more with you about what that commitment entails.

What is your annual operating budget? How would an unrestricted gift from [REDACTED] make an impact for you in 2020?

Our operating budget for 2019 is \$268,826. A significant portion of our current operating budget is in-kind support (volunteer clinicians and donated equipment and medical supplies), which is not uncommon for a nonprofit start-up and given the nature of our volunteer-driven work. While our strategy is to remain lean and largely volunteer-based, our plan is to build organizational capacity for part-time paid staff and contract support for fund development so that our clinical volunteers can focus on the delivery of healthcare. An unrestricted gift from [REDACTED] would be an incredible investment to us and help us advance our capacity building goals significantly and help us scale our efforts. Your support would specifically be used to support a part-time salaried administrator; part-time salaried care coordinator to recruit, train, and support our growing base of volunteer clinicians; gear and supplies for our medical teams that we can't get donated; and operational expenses such as IT systems.

Given the crisis of homelessness in our community, we believe the time has come to address health disparities experienced by homeless people using a tested model with demonstrable success. While street medicine is a radical idea, it's not a new one. We are building upon successful models and practices used in other cities, and building our service model with input from and in partnership with the homeless service delivery system.

We hope [REDACTED] will be inspired to join us and look forward to talking more about a potential partnership.