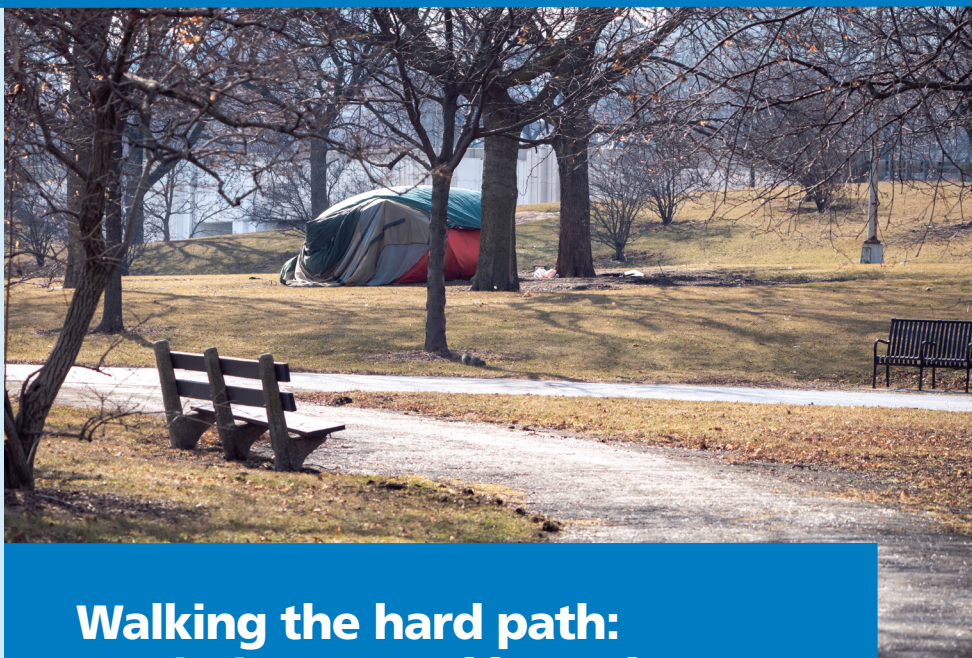


Connections

Cozy season savings start now

As summer comes to an end, cold weather will be here before you know it. Now is a great time to think about lowering heating energy costs by upgrading to a high-efficiency direct-vent gas fireplace. Avista customers can get **up to \$250** cash back from Energy Trust of Oregon on qualifying models.

Visit energytrust.org/fireplace to see available models and incentives.



Walking the hard path: A mission to end homelessness

Kimetha Stallings isn't afraid to get her boots muddy. As executive director of Onward Roseburg, she spends her days doing outreach—stepping into parks, camps, and, in one case, even a roadside ditch—to connect with people experiencing homelessness and guide them toward permanent housing.

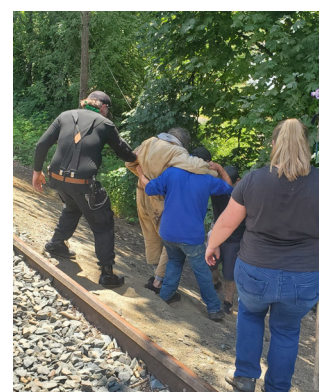
Her drive comes from lived experience. Stallings was once addicted and unhoused herself, until she found support through Umpqua Community College. "I owe it all to Umpqua," she said. "If it wasn't for them, I don't know what would have happened." She later earned her degree at Portland State and launched Onward Roseburg in 2020.

The organization—recently awarded funding from the Avista Foundation—takes a focused approach: "I don't support homelessness—I support housing," Stallings said. "Tents and tarps aren't the answer. We donate clothes and medical supplies like bandages and antibiotics—but our goal is housing."

Onward's outreach work is key. It's how Stallings found a man in a ditch near the train tracks, in pain and unable to move. "We only found him because we'd built trust," she said. He was able to get medical care, because someone showed up.

At its peak, Onward helped forty people secure housing in one year. But with funding low and Section 8 housing stalled, progress is harder to come by. Despite obstacles, Stallings remains steadfast. "It takes a certain type of person to work in a homeless camp, to advocate for someone at the ER or DMV," she said. "That's how I help—I walk alongside them."

Visit facebook.com/Onward.Roseburg or call (541) 236-2089 to learn more.





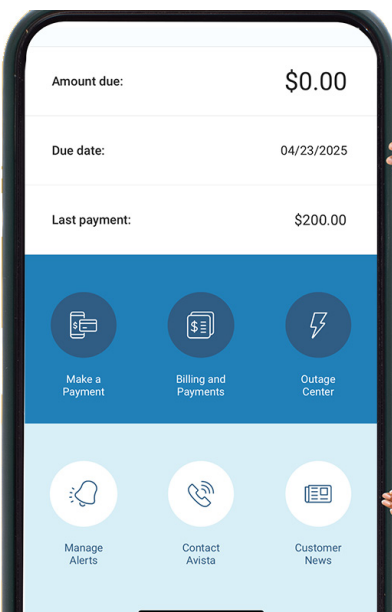
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