Homelessness adversely impacts everyone that experiences it. It is particularly traumatizing to youth, women, disabled people, older people and people of color’s life. It can disrupt their relationships, risk their health, and expose them to violence. In Portland in 2015, 374 children under the age of 18 were identified as homeless, nearly all were experiencing homelessness with their families. That is a 24% increase since 2013. Between 2013-2015, the number of adult women experiencing homelessness grew by half of these women have been victim of domestic violence and 67% reported having a disability.

As Portland Parks and the Green Loop returns to Downtown and to the Inner Eastside, we want to acknowledge each of these Shelters and centers that have worked to positively impact the lives of people in Portland experiencing houselessness. These individual shelters and centers have provided temporary beds, showers, housing, counseling for mental health, and a fresh new start to thousands of Portlanders across our City. They are our front-line helpers that volunteer to engage with people looking for help. They engage so that some of Portland’s most vulnerable people will not have to be left out from society nor feel forgotten. We must continue to work to end homelessness. Let's celebrate these organizations already doing the good work!