

Greetings

I am writing to introduce a promising new project called **Albany HUTS**, which is designed to help address the current growing 'homeless' situation here in Albany. The project will be a transitional shelter using the Conestoga Hut design.

Albany HUTS is a non-profit 501c(3) public benefit corporation, considered as a low-barrier safe-spot community for un-sheltered people with basic needs. There will be simple rules to follow: no drugs, no weapons, no violence, no loud noise and no open flame or candles inside of units.

Only one person will be allowed inside an assigned unit. No electrical or water utilities will be inside the huts. A trash can will be placed outside of each hut, and is emptied weekly. A port-a-potty unit and portable sink will be available. A shower trailer will be available on a weekly basis. Solar-powered motion detector security lights will be installed on the hut. The lot may be enclosed by a temporary fence.

Staff will include an intake secretary and volunteer grounds keepers. Counseling for recovery, mental health and life skills will be available through local services such as Linn County Mental Health and CHANCE. Faith-based guidance and locations will be available through local churches.

Here are some links to see how the Conestoga Huts are being used in other cities.

1. The original Conestoga Huts started in Eugene at Community Supported Shelters (CSS). They began in 2012 and by 2013 were recognized as a Safe Spot Community.

<https://www.communitysupportedshelters.org/> Their website is a trove of valuable information. CSS has 14 separate Hut communities around Eugene and are preparing to start the 15th Hut community soon. Each one has 15 to 20 occupied units, maintained by weekly inspections.

After purchasing the CSS '*How to Build a Hut*' manual, on 8/6/24 I watched a team of CSS volunteers construct two huts in 4 hours. I put 575 photos of that construction build onto my shared Google Drive. Ask me for the link to view them, or view a sample of them on our new website at <https://albanyhuts.org/> . CSS has six refurbished Conestoga Huts ready to deliver to Albany HUTS, once a location is established.

2. There is also a Conestoga Hut program in Hermiston, Oregon. The Stepping Stones Alliance began to build Conestoga Huts in 2022. <https://stepping-stones-alliance.org/> They currently have over 20 huts in service.

3. Another successful Conestoga Hut community is the Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless. <https://www.wwallianceforthehomeless.com/> They started building Conestoga Huts in 2015. They have 37 Huts in that community and have recently added 10 transitional housing units.

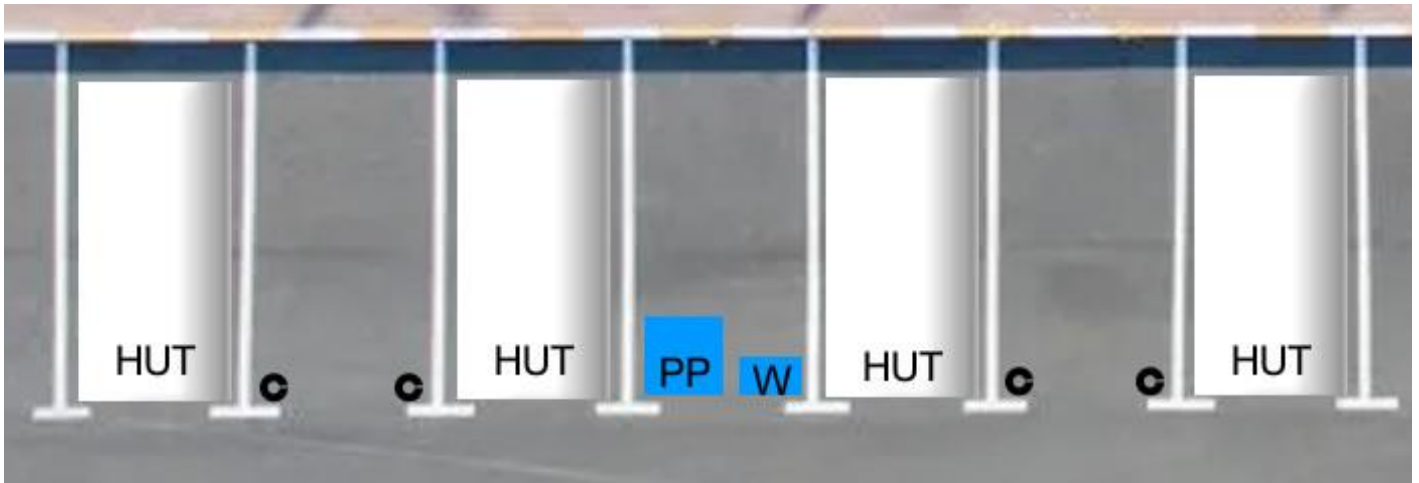
This proposed Albany HUTS project plans to be good stewards of the property owned by another. We will not own the real estate. Everything built will be temporary structures that can easily be dismantled and removed without a trace, given advance notice. Volunteer occupant personnel will maintain the property to be free of rubbish, tall weeds, bicycle parts and shopping carts.

There are many more things to take into consideration for this to become an effective program. If you have grant experience or approaching government and gathering support for projects like this, Albany HUTS is open to any and all ideas, input, criticism, or encouragement. Text Myke at 541-730-3382.

Albany HUTS locations:

The prime locations for the first Albany HUTS would be in parking lots of community churches. Only seven spaces would be used for four Conestoga Huts, four trash cans, one port-a-potty & a wash station. The transitioning occupants would be tasked to keep the entire lot free of rubbish. They would receive on-site counseling and life skills coaching, weekly trash/recycle pickup and hut/site inspection.

Meals and drinking water can be delivered to each porch by caring individuals of the congregations and surrounding community.



Then the King will say to those on His right hand, *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”*

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, “Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?” And the King will answer and say to them, *“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”*

Matthew 25:34-40

We can do better. We are all in this together.