

Dear Friends of Rahab's Sisters, Radical hospitality has been the mission of Rahab's Sisters for more than 15 years. We are a community that welcomes some of the most vulnerable among us. And we do that with joy, love, and a recognition of our shared humanity and the value of every life. Recently a new group in the neighborhood has begun targeting our guests and clients of the Multnomah County syringe exchange program. I have been deeply saddened to see women who already endure violence, exclusion and poverty have to walk past jeering men who take photos as they come to us for food, supplies and community. And by perpetuating fear and myths in the media, this group makes the streets even more unsafe for our guests who have nowhere else to go. I am grateful to the neighbors who have reached out in support and to all who recognize that shutting the door in the face of suffering and pushing vulnerable and marginalized human beings further into the shadows solves no problems and diminishes us all. At Rahab's Sisters, we choose to stand with love over anger, with welcome over exclusion, and with relationship over fear. Every Friday I am awed by the strength and resilience of our guests, and I am inspired to be equally strong in our continued pursuit of our mission and a city where everyone is welcome. If you are also inspired to act, I encourage you to be a voice for compassion and reason in our community. Call or email Mayor Wheeler's office (see below) to share your concern about women being harassed and photographed while seeking food and services. Urge him to focus on real solutions to complex problems, and not simply try to sweep them out of sight. Call for support - not shame - for women experiencing the trauma and violence that come with being unhoused. Thank you for supporting our community of women who come seeking connection and caring. At Rahab's, we will continue to stand with our Sisters and to be a place of safety in the dark night.

Peace, Anneliese