Organizers for “Opportunity Village Eugene” (OVE) announced the formation of a new 501c3 non-profit for the purpose of establishing a community village that will provide opportunities to those who currently are without housing to work with other community members to transition away from the streets into a lifestyle that is more sustainable and self-fulfilling. The newly selected President of the OVE Board, Dan Bryant, stated in the announcement of the new Board, “We are eager to work with the Eugene City Council to establish a new, cost-effective model for alternative housing based on best practices of a number of other communities. The dramatic rise in homelessness coupled with severe cuts in social services has created a crisis in our community that we must address with new, creative solutions,” continued Bryant. “We believe there is a will and a way to do that with this model.”

Opportunity Village Eugene is asking the City Council to create a 3 to 6 month pilot program for a self-governing village for approximately 30 adults with oversight by OVE. Using concepts of micro-housing, they have developed a model that can fit on less than one acre of land. First priority would be given to local families currently on waiting lists for other shelter programs. All participants in OVE would be required to agree to a drug, alcohol and violence free policy. Residents will participate in building their own structures using recycled materials whenever possible and following a “Village Building Guide” that will ensure safety, affordability, energy efficiency and community identity.

The new OVE Board included the following community members:

**President: Dan Bryant**, Senior Minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Eugene, since 1991. Bryant is a past president of the City Club of Eugene and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. He has served on the boards for United Way of Lane County, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon and the local chapter of the ACLU.

**Treasurer: Cary Thompson** is currently President of Helios Resource Network. He is also on the board of the Lane County Food Policy Council and the Neighborhood Leadership Council Committee on Sustainability. He has founded several businesses in Eugene including New Frontier Market, Red Barn Grocery, and Greater Goods.

**Secretary: Michael Carrigan** is currently a community organizer with Community Alliance of Lane County’s peace and shelter rights programs. He served as executive director of Oregon PeaceWorks for eight years. He’s on the steering committee of the Lane County chapter of Oregon League of Conservation Voters.
Robert Bolman has done green building for 18 years. He is now an environmental writer, activist, educator and founding director of Maitreya EcoVillage in Eugene, Oregon.

Lorne Bostwick is Senior Pastor and Central Presbyterian Church. He has been involved with the Interfaith Winter Family Shelter, is on the Board of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Registered Agent of Presbyterian Collegiate Ministries LLC, and is President of the Westminster Foundation.

Andrew Heben is an associate planner with the Urban Collaborative. He completed his urban planning thesis at the University of Cincinnati on organized tent cities, has visited close to a dozen examples throughout the country, and has written for Planning and Communities magazine on the subject.

Jean Stacey is a former long range planning consultant to museums and science centers and partner in an exhibition design and build firm. She has visited and been mentored by activist/residents of self-managed tent and tiny house villages, both sanctioned and unsanctioned, throughout the northwest.

More information on OVE and its proposal to the City of Eugene can be found at www.opportunityvillageeugene.org. Local attorney David Atkins with Nonprofit Support Services is assisting the organization in the formation of its Board. Article of Incorporation were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State on September 28, 2012.