



PRESS RELEASE

Press Contact: Bridget Jackson, Next Step Communications
(Communications Consultant for WeShine Initiative, Inc.)

Phone: (562) 587-9032

Email: bridget@nextstepcommunications.net

www.weshinepdx.org

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WeShine's Avalon Village Property Burglarized During Final Phase of Construction

Organization asks for community support to help replace stolen items

PORTLAND, Ore. - [WeShine Initiative, Inc.](http://www.weshinepdx.org), a developer and operator of neighborhood-based micro-villages that provide safe, transitional shelter for underserved, unsheltered adults, recently experienced an unfortunate setback to the opening of [Avalon Village](#), its second micro-village community.

About a week ago, thieves broke into the Village, located at **2539 SE 19th Ave (19th and Division)** and stole thousands of dollars worth of items needed to furnish the shelter community's pods. The stolen items included portable air conditioning units, a TV for the group meeting room, printers for the business office, lamps, and bedding. Surveillance video obtained by the nonprofit yielded little information to accurately identify the burglars, and with less than a month to go before the organization is set to welcome unsheltered Portlanders to the village, WeShine is humbly turning to the community for assistance to help replace the stolen goods.

"We are working hard to recover from the losses we incurred as a result of the thefts," said Krysten Hall, Deputy Director of WeShine. "When we found out that the property had been burglarized, we were relieved to see that the buildings were not also vandalized, but once we took an inventory of the total losses, it was really discouraging to discover that even the bedding we purchased for our community's villagers was stolen," she said.

Hall believes that the thefts, which were carried out sometime during the July 4th extended weekend, resulted in about \$10,000 in lost inventory to the Village. Despite the frustration of having to find additional resources to replace the items, WeShine has not been deterred from completing construction for Avalon Village to open on schedule, which is expected to take place on August 5th.

“This is a critical time for us as we are nearing the grand opening of Avalon Village,” Hall said. We are grateful for the community support that we have received at our recent Welcome Day last month, and so we are hopeful that those who wish to help us remain on track for our August opening will consider making donations that will help us furnish the pods,” she added.

Contributions to WeShine are tax-deductible, and can be made online at www.weshinepdx.org.

The incident has been reported to the Portland Police Bureau, and WeShine encourages any of their surrounding neighbors who have saved security camera recordings from July 6th and 7th to contact Krysten Hall at krysten@weshinepdx.org to share additional information.

About WeShine Initiative, Inc.

WeShine Initiative, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation formed in 2021 by a grassroots group of neighbors from Northeast and Southeast Portland working together to help find neighborhood based, better solutions for people experiencing houselessness.

Our goal is to site transitional micro-villages in participating neighborhoods, with start-up and operational funding from the Joint Office of Homeless Services as well as other grants and donations.

WeShine stands for **Welcoming, Empowering, Safe Habitation Initiative with Neighborhood Engagement**, and is a 501(c)(3) designated public charity.

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