MISSION MOMENTS

WWW.VALLEYMISSION.ORG

August 2025



A Work In Progress

At times, I feel like a broken record when people ask how things are progressing at Valley Mission. "Still waiting on the second sprinkler bid... larger funds are still slow to arrive... unsure if we will have the pantry open by winter or if the warming shelter will be operational..." Admittedly, it can seem as though we are failing, which can be quite disheartening.

However, the truth is that building is always a work in progress. Whether it's a physical structure, a career, a marriage, or a family, everything is constantly evolving, complete with delightful surprises and challenges along the way. If we concentrate solely on the setbacks, that's all we will notice.
Instead, we choose to highlight the countless lives impacted by the best Food Pantry team in the state! Furthermore, the Street Reach team is discovering more individuals to assist, uplift, and serve each week.

While progress may feel slow and laborious, lives are being transformed every single day!



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Understanding The Faces of Pocatello's Homeless

Who are the individuals on the streets of Pocatello? Is it true that all the homeless merely "pass through" our city, consuming vital resources? Are they all simply struggling with addiction, mental health issues, or a combination of both? Recently, one of our Board members heard a remark that encapsulates this misconception: "There aren't homeless people here... it's all fabricated."

These attitudes highlight a grim reality within our community regarding homelessness – many lack a true understanding of the issue. If they do have an opinion, it is often shaped by media portrayals, television, movies, or interpretations of situations observed in other cities. The truth is that homelessness takes various forms and differs from one community to another.

The individuals we see on the streets of Pocatello and Chubbuck are residents of our community. While we do encounter some with alcohol-related challenges, the majority of those living on the streets are neither addicted or grappling with severe mental health issues, although homelessness can undoubtedly lead to psychological struggles. Many of the over 80 individuals we have connected with this year alone are intelligent, eager to change and grow, and seeking a hand up rather than a handout. They find themselves in this situation due to various circumstances, including losing their home, job, facing a financially devastating medical emergency, or experiencing significant relationship challenges. They are real people with genuine problems, earnestly seeking real solutions.

Will Valley Mission be the ultimate solution? Perhaps not, but we will certainly be a part of the solution. It is crucial that we open this building as soon as possible to initiate real change in lives – one person at a time!

Construction Progress



Building Progress: Next Steps

While we wait, there are plenty of little things that will be getting done.

Our construction crew is busy getting the rest of the sidewalk concrete poured out front, allowing us to clean up the exterior and get the planter beds ready for winter.

While we wait on sprinkler stuff, we've had the laundromat door and a window cut in the brick so the crew can get proper measurements and sizing for windows and room heater/AC units.

We are also updating some the parking lot, removing the big planter in the middle and rearranging some parking spaces.

And we're getting ready to launch a new 'fun' way to raise some funds for the sprinkler system. You can check out the Valley Mission website for an update sometime in August.



You've probably come across the saying, "You can't eat an elephant in one bite; you must take it one bite at a time." This is often applied to seemingly insurmountable tasks, like raising $140,000 for fire sprinklers!

However, if I mention that it costs $3,500 per day to complete the work in just 8 weeks, that sounds much more manageable, doesn't it?

Visit www.valleymission.org/give to sponsor a day and witness how quickly we can gather the necessary funds!



Pantry Bites...

- Fresh produce is in abundance right now! If you have extra fruits or vegetables, or know a neighbor who does, please bring them to the food pantry by Wednesday at 11 a.m. Fresh produce is one of the most valuable items we can offer our guests. Please note that we cannot accept processed items like jams, jellies, sauces, or salsa—only whole, fresh fruits and vegetables.
- **We need PROTEIN**! We are always in search of items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, and other protein sources to include in our food boxes. Products with easy-open tops greatly assist our homeless population. Pouches of tuna are a fantastic example of protein we can utilize.
- Explore Food Pantry Opportunities! Turn to the next page to find various ways to get involved!

Food Pantry Bites

Partners In Caring

FLYING S
TITLE & ESCROW

We collect donations from 14 different grocers and convenience stores every week. Each month we will celebrate one of these incredible partners.

Many of our partners give of their time and energy by helping with food prep and distribution. FLYING S TITLE was a HUGE help last month as many of our volunteers were vacationing. Their team brought the energy, muscle and drive to help us get so much work done in a short amount of time. We are truly blessed to have such partnerships in this community!

THANK YOU, FLYING S TITLE!

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

Much of the work that happens for our weekly food pickup happens behind the scenes. That includes not only the Wednesday and Thursday work, but the other duties such as additional food collection, cardboard runs, mechanical issues and more. And that takes some extra time and devotion.

That is the heart of this month's volunteer, Stuart. We celebrate him for his work, his heart, his desire to serve others often, and his passion to love and lead like Jesus. We have been blessed to have him lead this team! We are sad to see him go as he ventures into the world of teaching here in Pocatello. The school district truly is getting a gem in him.

THANK YOU, STUART, for all you have given to this team. Blessings in your new venture!

Food Pantry Opportunities

There are a few ways to serve:

Wednesdays, 8 am - 11:30 am
Food is delivered from our 14 stores as well as from the Idaho Foodbank. Unloading, sorting, organizing and building food boxes takes place on this day.

Thursdays, 10 am to 11 am
Additional food deliveries from some of the same stores. Unloading, sorting and organizing takes place here.

Thursdays, 3:30 to 6 pm
Food is distributed to the community. Most 'jobs' deal with serving the guest as well as carrying boxes to their vehicles.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

ROMANS 12:10