

MISSION MOMENTS

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Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge

"We are very grateful for all you do for us. We try to get help from different places but sometimes we can't make it on time and people leave for the day. When you come out with folks from other (partner) agencies, we feel like we can get something done and we really appreciate that. We also feel like at least there's someone looking out for us and checking in on us."

THAT is why we do Street Reach. Not for the recognition or exposure. People experiencing homelessness need to know that they matter, that someone DOES care about them. For people experiencing poverty, the Food Pantry serves 200 households EVERY WEEK, distributing between 5,000 and 8,000 pounds of food in the same period. And this season, the Warming Shelter will provide a warm, safe place for our neighbors to get out of the cold and get a good night sleep.

This Christmas, support our most vulnerable neighbors:
Individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
By contributing to our Avenues for Hope campaign from December 10-31,
you multiply your impact with matching gifts and cash prizes!

With your help, and that of our generous community, in 2026 we plan to:

- Open the Food Pantry in it's new location, ready to serve more than 200 households every Thursday, as well as provide a separate time of service for our senior and physcially challenged guests.
- Complete fundraising for Phase 2 - emergency shelter, kitchen/dining, medical, and office space.
- Expand the Street Reach Team and leadership, and begin fundraising for Phase 3 - Transformational Living Program.

We know this new year will bring some new opportunities. We are looking forward to the challenge!

STREET REACH | VM



(This Is Not a Picture of Any Homeless Encampment in Our Community!)

The Valley Mission Street Reach teams are active every week, engaging with the community, providing resources, and encouraging follow-up with appointments, among other initiatives. There is a significant need in our valley.

It's easy for any of us to take a step back and say things like, "Just get a job… You're just lazy… You're a drain on our community." Sadly, our neighbors have heard these comments—and worse.

But who appointed us as judge and jury? Whenever I conduct a training session, one of my first statements is, "For those of us in the room who have NEVER made a poor decision, please raise your hand. Raise it high for everyone to see!" We all know the outcome: not a single hand is raised. In fact, it often elicits a chuckle from the audience. Why is that? Because we've all been in similar situations; we've all made mistakes.

So, what sets us apart from those living on the streets? While this question is complex, here are a few points we often take for granted:

1. Most of us had a supportive upbringing that taught us how to make informed and educated choices. Many also had families willing to guide us through the process.
2. Most of us benefited from a support network that helped keep us on track.
3. Most of us are not, or were not, battling an addiction that could strip everything away from us.

Every individual we encounter on the streets lacks these crucial elements and much more. When we establish a connection, we build trust, allowing us to provide guidance, direct them to genuine help, and celebrate their progress on this journey.

Valley Mission Street Reach is set to expand in 2026, introducing more teams and additional days for connection. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Karl at karl@valleymission.org.



Special Warming Shelter Update

Warming Shelter Info

We are thrilled to share that we have joined forces with Housing Alliance Community Partnerships to establish a warming shelter in the former Convergys building at 805 N Main, set to open by mid-December. This is a significant victory for our community!

Following our initial two training sessions, we now have 31 dedicated individuals ready to staff the shelter. Another training session is scheduled for December 22nd at 6:30 PM at First Baptist Church, located at 408 N. Arthur Avenue. Training is mandatory for ALL volunteers and generally lasts about 90 minutes.

Since this initiative falls outside our budget plan, we need to raise approximately $13,000 to launch and sustain the program. Our primary expenses will go toward paid security and utility costs for the facility. So far, we have acquired cots, covers, and additional supplies, enabling us to set up 30+ cots initially. We are actively seeking support from various groups, foundations, and individuals to cover these costs and will continue until we reach our funding goal.

As of now, we have already raised just under $7,000 toward our total expenses! What an AMAZING community! Many essential items for the shelter are either on-site or in transit, giving us ample time to set up, conduct a walkthrough, and familiarize ourselves with the process.

How Can ***YOU*** Contribute to This Effort?

- AFTER you've been through training, volunteer for a shift: There are three shifts available:
  - 6:45 PM – 11:00 PM
  - 10:45 PM – 3:00 AM
  - 2:45 AM – 7:00 AM
- Donate a blanket or pillow, or both.
- Provide a hot meal (from a restaurant or store—no home-cooked items) for one evening.
- Pray daily for the safety and rest of our neighbors and volunteers.

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

ROMANS 12:10



Construction Update & Pantry Bites...

Construction:

The sprinkler system is being installed and the HVAC system for the pantry is getting under way this month. We are very excited to see all of this taking place.

The electricians will be in soon to run lines to each room in the pantry later this month. The main lines are already in place, which will help speed up the rest of the installation.

Pantry Bites:

- Last month we saw record numbers due to the shutdown. However, thanks to an amazing community, *we never ran out of food or volunteers.* THANK YOU!
- The Food Pantry will be CLOSED the week of Christmas and open only on Wednesday, December 31st. Closed Jan 1st.
- As always, you can find volunteer opportunities and times on page 5!

Food Pantry Bites

Partners In Caring

Smith's

As we work with local markets to collect donated food, we take the opportunity to share the impact that each store makes for our pantry guests.

Smith's in Chubbuck has been an amazing partner with us from the very beginning. From bakery items and to meat ad deli items, they never cease to amaze and bless us with an abundance of great food. The crew there is such a joy to work with and they are always ready and willing to provide food and other items to serve our amazing guests.

THANK YOU, SMITH'S!



Whenever the chance arises, I take the opportunity to 'brag' about the amazing volunteers at Valley Mission. While we honor one individual each month, the reality is that every single one of these remarkable people deserves a moment in the limelight.
In December, we aim to celebrate ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS who dedicate their time each week. Many of these extraordinary individuals serve diligently on both Wednesdays and Thursdays.
This group truly represents the best team I have ever had the pleasure of working alongside, without a doubt!

THANK YOU ALL for bringing your hearts, hands, and strength, along with your caring spirit to Valley Mission. You bring smiles to everyone's faces!

THANK YOU ALL!

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.

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

PROVERBS 11:25