

MISSION MINUTE

February 2024

Honoring God: Valuing People

Did You Know

We live in a very generous community with people who care and look out for one another. Given this generosity it can be hard to imagine that people are hurting on our streets.

Sometimes we fall into the stereotypes of poverty or homelessness. We can quickly believe that every hurting person is going to look or behave a certain way. We fall into the thinking that a homeless person can only look like the person holding a sign on the street corner. We believe that people in poverty are unbathed and/or lazy.

One role Valley Mission plays in our community is to further conversations around these topics and bring awareness that we interact with the hurting and broken daily.

In Eastern Idaho, we have 1200 people experiencing homelessness, 65% of those are in Pocatello city limits. These numbers can be hard to believe when they don't line up with our preconceived ideas.

As you go about your week, challenge yourself to look in the eyes on the people you encounter and really see if they are okay. Take time to simple say hello and ask how their day is going. Invest a little bit of your time to break the isolation that many people in our community feel. A little time and genuine concern can change the direction of someones life.

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Street Reach Launched!

We had an amazing month getting to know our un-sheltered neighbours through Street Reach. Street Reach is our newest program and gives us the opportunity to make connections with the populations that we hope to serve further when our building is up and running.

During Street Reach we go out as a team and get to know people living on the streets of Pocatello. We are able to provide them with basic necessities like dry socks, non-perishable food and human kindness. It is our goal that these interactions will help individuals connect with services that can bring them off of the streets and help them reengage with society.



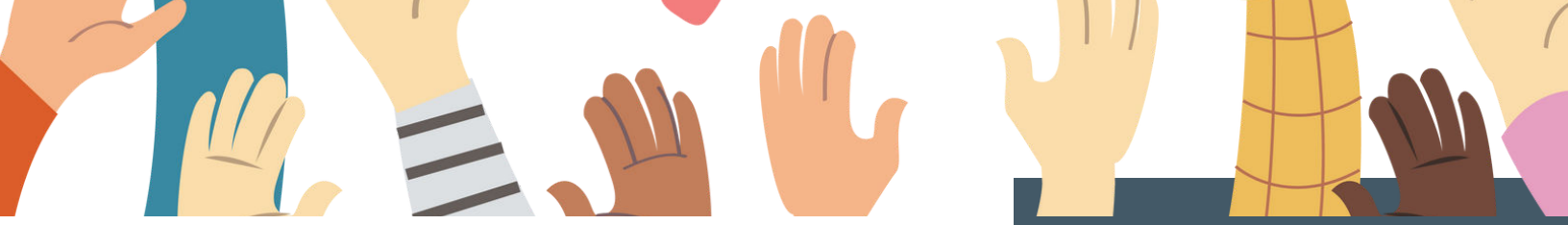
This month Street Reach located a dozen different encampments and engaged with 3 unique individuals. As we stay consistent with our engagement we know that we will build the trust needed to begin working with more individuals.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we launch this new ministry and get to know this previously unreached population.

"I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see? I will make a pathway through the wilderness."

ISAIAH 43:19





Volunteer Spotlight

We are thrilled to introduce you all to Hugh and Elynda. Hugh and Elynda serve in our food pantry both Wednesdays and Thursdays. They are a light to everyone around them. They pour encouragement into not just our guests but also their fellow volunteers. They are quick to pull new volunteers into the fold and teach them the ropes. With great patience and unwavering joy they change the atmosphere of our pantry for the better and we are thankful for their service to us.



Building Update

The building is UNDER CONSTRUCTION! Finally! It's been a long, often frustrating road to get to this point. But along the way we grew in some good ways, tested our patience in others, and made new connections with different folks we may have missed had we pushed our schedule.

The first focus is on Phase 1, which is all the electrical, plumbing, structural, etc. and the completion of the Food Pantry area. The goal is to get the pantry open by this year, which will allow us to open up the warming shelter in the fall. As you can see, lots of moving parts - all very exciting that move us closer to our goal of providing a new place of hope for our community!

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even when we were dead in our sins, He gave us life when He Raised Christ form the Dead.

EPHESIANS 2:4-5

