MISSION MOMENTS

WWW.VALLEYMISSION.ORG

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RAMP - Off to a Great Start!

In June, we proudly launched the revamped RAMP service—Reach Access Mobile Partnership.
On the third Wednesday of each month, Valley Mission brings together several partner agencies in one location to provide essential services and resources to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Our partners include the Free Clinic, the Crisis Center, Aid for Friends, VA Services, Dr. Nan (our traveling veterinarian), the Rock Church offering clothing, and many more. We are also grateful to JIMMY JOHN'S for generously providing lunch for our guests; they truly are amazing! Additionally, we had a few talented stylists available to offer haircuts, trims, and more. We successfully served 22 of our neighbors, marking a wonderful beginning!
A heartfelt THANK YOU to all our partners who made this possible.



In This Issue

Numbers are Up! - Page 2

Candid Building Update - Page 3

Food Pantry Bites and Partners in Caring - Page 4

Volunteer Spotlight- Page 5

STREET REACH | VM

Numbers Are Up!

As our Street Reach teams venture out each week, we are encountering more neighbors in various circumstances on our streets. Some have set up camp by the river, forming their own community; many newcomers are residing in vehicles parked around town; Fish and Game has reached out for our assistance with families in the Mink Creek area; and there are always a few individuals spending time in the alcove at Valley Mission during the day.

> Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deeds.
>
> Proverbs 19:17

National Context

We are not alone in witnessing a rise in the number of people living on the streets. Across the nation, the average increase in homelessness stands at approximately 12%. This is in addition to a 15% rise in homelessness in 2024. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are doing so for the first time, and the number of families facing homelessness is also growing.

Community Initiative

Valley Mission will collaborate with other agencies and community leaders to launch a campaign aimed at educating our valley about this pressing issue. The more we comprehend the situation affecting us, the better equipped we will be to draft a plan that provides real, tangible support for all those affected.



Construction Progress

Current Funding Situation: A Candid Update

While I don't want to be a 'Debbie Downer,' I must share that our financial situation is quite tight at the moment. Although our funding streams are in the works, there hasn't been any recent progress on grants and other requests.

- This delay largely stems from the financial uncertainties affecting many of our foundations and supporters.
- There are numerous unknowns, leading to a lot of 'wait and see' responses, which we completely understand!

Rest assured, our services will NOT be impacted by this slowdown. The only aspect facing delays will be construction as we await additional funds for the next phase. However, we have some good news: *we are nearing completion on our bids for the sprinklers!*



We continue to gather the necessary bids for the sprinkler system.
Please pray that both bids will come in sooner than later. We have one in now, but this second one is taking more time than we anticipated.



Food Pantry Bites

Pantry Bites...

- Gardens are starting to produce good food right now. If you have extra, or know a neighbor who has extra, please bring them to the food pantry on Wednesday before 11 am. Fresh produce is one of the best items we can provide for our guests. We cannot take any items that have been processed, such as jams, jelly, sauces, salsa, etc. Only fresh, whole fruits and vegetables.
- PROTEIN! We are always looking for items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, and other protein items to add to our food boxes. And if the product has a easy open top on it, that helps our homeless population a ton. Pouches of tuna are another great example of protein that we can use.
- Check out the Food Pantry Opportunities on the next page for ways to get involved!

Partners In Caring

Fred Meyer®

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

Our local Fred Meyer store has really stepped up their efforts in supporting our mission to feed our community. The team in the warehouse is always looking for items to donate that will help feed our families. In addition to the food, they have also been very helpful in supplying boxes that are needed for our weekly food box distribution.

THANK YOU, FRED MEYER!

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

You probably know someone like our volunteer of the month. The man that seems to know how to engage perfect strangers in such a way that makes them feel like they just connected with a long lost relative. They effortlessly tear down defenses and make you feel like you are the most important person in the room. And when it comes to kids, he's the grandpa figure the little ones seem to flock to.
That sums up Carey. Watching him engage with our guests, especially when kids are involved, is truly a sight to behold. His heart of genuine care, his desire to bless them - it all comes out in how he serves. Carey is truly an inspiration for all of us.

THANK YOU, CAREY, for your kind and caring heart toward all of our guests!

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