MISSION MOMENTS

WWW.VALLEYMISSION.ORG

November 2025



Navigating Uncertainty During The Shutdown.



We find ourselves in a moment of pause regarding the Government shutdown. While many of us may be okay for the time being, the repercussions could be extensive and harmful, even if they don't affect us directly.

We witness fear and uncertainty in the eyes of many individuals we serve at the Food Pantry on Thursdays. Questions loom: What will tomorrow hold? Will I still have a roof over my head? Will my car still be there? Will I have enough to eat?

The silver lining is that we belong to an incredible community where people come together to support one another and share hope. Here are a few resources currently available for those losing food stamps, facing furloughs, or working without pay:

- Valley Mission has removed the twice-a-month limit for these individuals during the shutdown. An ID or EBT card is needed for the first visit.
- Several restaurants are offering one complimentary meal per day to federal furloughed employees.
- The city is compiling a detailed list of resources available now for federal employees, which will be released the first week of November.

So, what can YOU do to help during this challenging time? We have included a 'Simple Ways to Help' sheet at the end of this newsletter that outlines various ways you can make a positive impact.

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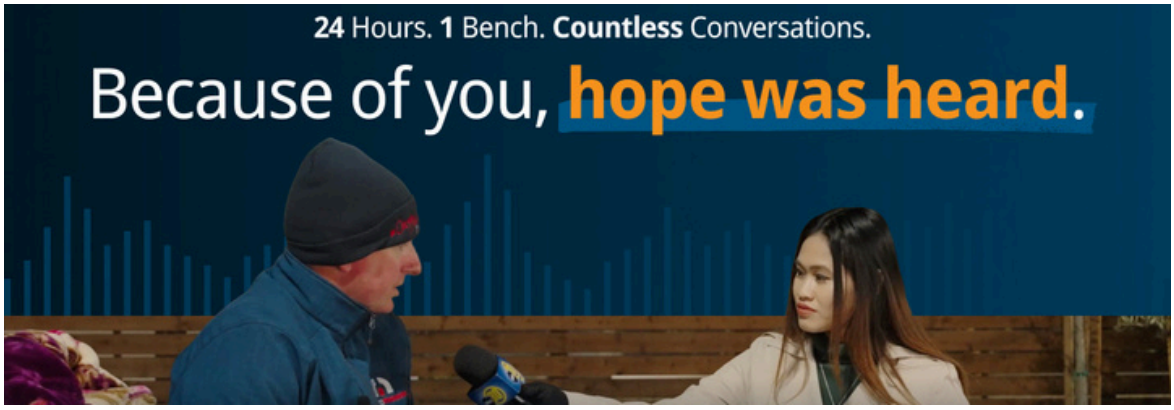
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STREET REACH | VM

Winter is here - and folks are still on the streets. Please pray for answers for a safe place for a warming shelter. We have been at this for a couple of months and have some leads. We will finalize it all very soon and be able to share our plans.



1 Bench. 24 Hours. 28+ Conversations!

What an amazing event we experienced! A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who participated, volunteered, brought food and drinks, provided blankets, and contributed in countless other ways.

We engaged in meaningful conversations with individuals from the streets, those who have transitioned into housing, local agencies dedicated to assisting those in crisis, and many others. We are currently organizing all the video footage from the event and will share it on our Valley Mission homepage and Facebook page.

I want to share a poignant comment from a woman who recently found housing after living in her vehicle for over two years. During our discussion about the intersection of homelessness and mental health, she remarked, *"Until I got off the streets and received proper help, I didn't realize I had a mental health crisis going on..."* When you're struggling to survive on the streets, you're constantly in defense and survival mode, always worrying about what might happen next and where you will sleep at night. It's no surprise that many of our neighbors on the streets face similar struggles and may not recognize their challenges until they receive solid, compassionate support.

Lots of work still to be done. Thank you for supporting the work we are committed to completing in our new facility.



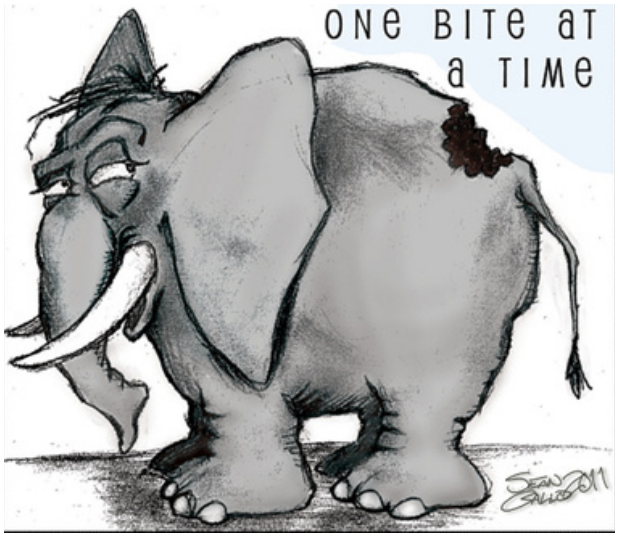
Construction Progress Funding Update

And We're Off!

As I write this letter, our Fire Sprinkler contractor has submitted the drawings for our system and will, with the city's permission, secure an 'early start' permit to begin the installation of the sprinklers!

This was made possible by the generous donations of many folks during the Conversations On A Bench campaign, which raised over $110,000!
This will allow us to get the sprinklers installed and ready in the food pantry area, install electrical in the food pantry area, install HVAC in the food pantry, and get the main gas line installed for the building.

What is needed to finish the food pantry and get it operational? Glad you asked!
We still need to raise $150,000 to get this completed which would be insulation, sheetrock, flooring and final equipment.
If you are looking for a place to give a year-end donation, please consider Valley Mission!



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

ROMANS 12:10



Pantry Bites...

- With the shutdown, many have asked how they can help. Please look at the last 2 pages of this newsletter where we unpack ways to help from providing food, other resources, or donating funds.
- We say this a lot, and mean every word - EVERY BIT HELPS, no matter how big or small!
- SERVICE opportunities for groups, business/work teams looking for community projects. Reach out to us at valleymission.org/getinvolved or email us at office@fbcpoky.com for more information.
- Another service opportunity coming up may be a *Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors*. Please keep an eye out for December's newsletter for more details and plans as they come together.
- As always, you can find volunteer opportunities and times on page 5!

Food Pantry Bites

Partners In Caring

Ridley's FAMILY MARKETS

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.
Ridley's Market on Pocatello Creek has heard that impact loud and clear and continues to step up their donation efforts week after week. From bakery items to deli items, they never cease to amaze and bless us with an abundance of great food

THANK YOU, RIDLEY'S FAMILY MARKET!

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

Every so often, someone enters your life and you feel an instant connection. Their personality resonates with you, the way they listen and engage in conversation brings joy, and the warmth in their smile makes you feel valued.

This month, our volunteer is truly a gift to Valley Mission in countless ways. He brings a sense of calm and happiness whenever he enters the room, quickly making everyone—both volunteers and guests—feel at ease. His gentle nature and laughter are invaluable, especially during our tougher days.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a volunteer like Lloyd, who dedicates both his time and heart to our team and our guests!

THANK YOU, LLOYD,
For Bringing Joy and Laughter
To Our Little Corner of Pocatello!

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.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

ACTS 20:35

Simple Ways to Give

VALLEY MISSION
442 N. Arthur Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83204
208.232.6305

FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry needs are increasing weekly. Average number of families is expected to exceed 210 WEEKLY. Food items that are ost helpful at this time are proteins, cereal and hygiene items.



$20 and up

STREET REACH



Our Street Reach teams go to the homeless in cars, encampments, and more. Items needed here are hand and feet warmers, hats, scarves, blankets, and - as always with the homeless community - SOCKS!

$30 and up

WARMING SHELTER

We have been thrust back into the mix for a warming shelter this year. A building is needed, and we're working on that. We will need sleeping cots, cot covers, blankets and volunteers.



$50 and up

VALLEY MISSION



The complete remodel of the old Metro Gym is well under way. More than $1.5 million raised and spent. Finishing the Food Pantry first will also open space for the warming shelter. Total cost for this portion is $270,000, of which $117,000 has been raised to date.

$500 and up

Food Pantry:

Canned meats
Peanut butter
Cereal, dry or oatmeal
Soup
Spaghettios, canned pasta meals
Chili
Shampoo
Deodorant

Street Reach:

Hats and scarves
Men's & Women's socks
Blankets
Hand warmers
Feet Warmers

Warming Shelter:

Cots
Cot covers
Light blankets
Disposable pillows
Small washable rugs
Misc. battery chargers

Valley Mission:

Install sprinkler system ($88,000)
Install gas line ($25,000)
Insulate Food Pantry area ($11,000)
Drywall Food Pantry area ($29,000)
HVAC Food Pantry area ($24,000)
Finish electrical Food Pantry Area ($35,000)