

OCTOBER 2023

MISSION MINUTE

7 Ways to Help The Homeless

1. BE PREPARED
Anticipate the opportunities you may have to engage with homeless people, to be “salt and light”, and to share God’s love whenever you can.

2. PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO MONEY
Too often well-intended gifts are converted to drugs or alcohol. Instead of giving spare change, consider bringing carry-out from a restaurant and sharing it with them. Depending on the person’s expressed needs, you can also offer gloves, socks, tissues, a granola bar, bottled water and the like.
Remember also that Salvation Army offers lunch daily. If they need a safe place to stay they can go to Aid for Friends.

3. COMPASSION AND RESPECT FROM SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF THEIR LIFE
Taking time to talk to a homeless person in a friendly, respectful manner can give them a sense of civility and dignity. And besides being just neighborly, it gives the person a weapon to fight the isolation, depression and paranoia that many homeless people face.

4. RECOGNIZE THAT HOMELESS PEOPLE (AND THEIR PROBLEMS) ARE NOT ALL THE SAME
Each person living on the streets got there a different way, but all of them are hurting. The person you meet may be a battered woman, an addicted veteran, mentally ill, lacking job skills...the list goes on.

5. PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED
Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose fuel despair in homeless people’s lives. God can use your prayers to bring many of the broken to Himself. Ask God what He would have you do in each situation.

6. TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY
Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose fuel despair in homeless people. It is a fact that some living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent and stay in areas where other people can see you. Please don’t take unnecessary chances.

7. SUPPORT VALLEY MISSION
Supporting Valley Mission is the best way to care for the homeless. Valley Mission is actively working to bring a unified effort between organizations in our community to better address the needs of those hurting on our streets. We are supported by caring individuals, churches, businesses and groups who, like you, see the value of sharing their resources with those who are less fortunate.

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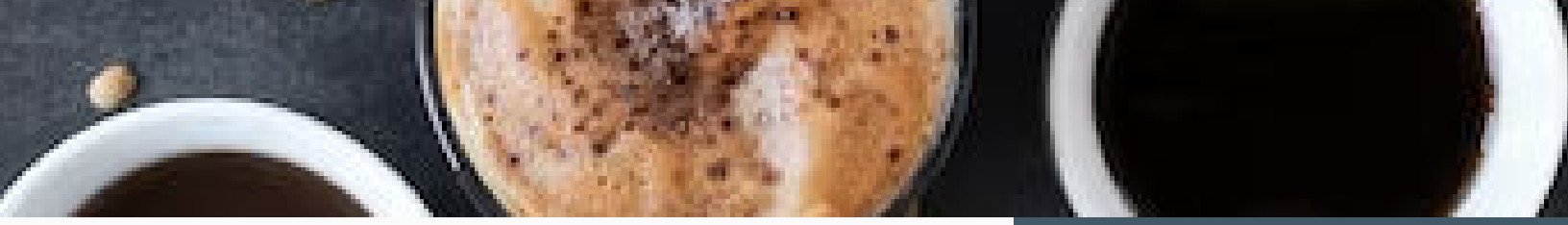
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Warming Shelter Update

With freezing nights fast approaching, Valley Mission has been hard at work finding ways to bring people in out of the cold. Warming Shelter is the simplest shelter option that we can provide our neighbors. Unfortunately due to construction at our new facility, Valley Mission will NOT be able to operate our Warming Shelter, but will be referring people to other shelters in the area.

Warming shelter provides just provides a safe warm environment for people to come in out of the cold. Guests are provided with warm drinks and light snacks. They are given a blanket to wait out the night.



Here's how to support the other local shelters this winter.

- Pray for the safety of guests.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for volunteers and leaders.
- Pray that the God of the Bible would make Himself real to these guests.

"Greater Love has no man than this: to lay down ones life for his friend."

JOHN 15:13





Volunteer Spotlight

Bill and Kathy O'brien have been long time volunteers of Valley Mission. As time has gone on they have become part of the stable backbone of what we do. The O'Brien's are humble leaders in whatever they take on and are able to step up when needed. As staff, we know that we can confidently trust them to engage new volunteers and teach them the ropes. We also know that our guest feel loved and encouraged by them every week. We thank them for all that they pour into this ministry!



Donor Highlight

We would like to recognize and thank Idaho Community Foundation for their incredible support for Valley Mission. We recently received another grant for $10,000, which puts their overall commitment at just under $50,000. We re so grateful for organization who understand our mission and our heart. These organizations help to ensure our success.

THANK YOU Idaho Community Foundation!

Current Needs

- BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR. FOR $25 A MONTH YOU WILL SUPPORT THE LIFESAVING WORK OF VALLEY MISSION.
- GIVE TO OUR BUILDING FUND. DONATE A CINDER BLOCK FOR $5000
- FURNISH A BEDROOM FOR $1000
- SUPPORT THE LAUNDRY MAT FOR $100

WARMING SHELTER RUN COSTS:

- PROVIDE FOOD, SHELTER, AND CASE MANAGEMENT TO 1 PERSON = $51.69

Your donation goes toward more than just a bed for our homeless neighbors to sleep in, and a warm meal for them to eat, but also includes case management, job search help, and the priceless potential of finding new life through an encounter with Christ.

ALL FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

