

SEPTEMBER 2023

# MISSION MINUTE

## Record Numbers

Over the last several months the food pantry has seen record numbers. Most weeks we serve over 200 guests. Of those 200 guests, an average of 20 will be first time guests, 40% use our service twice per month and the rest utilize us weekly.

In addition to receiving much needed food our guests also develop relationships with our staff and volunteers. Within the safety of these relationships we have the opportunity to hear the challenges of some of our guests. In addition to providing a listening ear and spiritual support we also work to connect our guests with other local agencies that can help meet their felt needs.

Many of our guests have connected to the Pocatello free clinic and VA. They have also had the opportunity to learn about nutritional support from the Eat Smart Idaho.

The gifts that you give to Valley Mission, whether through financial donation or giving of your time, directly impacts and transforms the lives of people in our community. This creates a healthier community for us all to enjoy. THANK YOU!



## This issue:


Record Numbers
PAGE 01

Policy And Training
PAGE 02

Volunteer Spotlight
PAGE 03

Guest Highlight
PAGE 03

Current Needs
PAGE 03



## Policy and Training

The topic of policy and training holds less glamor than the structure of a building. With physical structures we see and feel outcomes in a way that is highly satisfying. However, a public building can be fraught with issues upon opening if the structure of the buildings use is not established in policies and procedures. Over the last several months we have assembled a policy committee from our board of directors that is establishing how we can best utilize the physical blessings we are receiving to reach the most people safely and effectively.




Our policies help us to develop procedures to run our facilities. As these procedures take form we are actively developing training. These trainings include ensuring physical safety of our staff, volunteers and guests. They also give our volunteers and staff skills like de-escalation, disease identification and appropriate relationship development with guests.

We are striving to be able to reopen our warming shelter this winter. In order for this to happen we are looking for qualified volunteers to help us run those 20-30 brutally cold nights to get folks off the street. Without the less glamorous work of policy writing, we would not be able to safely open our facilities to those that need our support.

"God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked and shown love by caring for others.

HEBREWS 6:10





## Volunteer Spotlight

We have been blessed to partner with Ida for several years now, and the fun never stops! She is full of energy and joy as she helps us get product prepared each week for our amazing guests. She is an amazing cook as well, and often shares her talent with us by bringing biscotti or other baked treats now and then (keep it up, please!)
Ida also has a great heart that cares about people, and it is seen every time she steps on the floor and helps us get things ready. She is also someone we can count on to step in and lead in just about any area. We are so proud to celebrate her as the volunteer of the month!




## Guest Highlight

Bethany is a working mom in a household of 7, mostly kids. Like most kids she feels like hers are bottomless pits. She has been blessed by the offering of food from the pantry each week and looks forward to finding new recipes to try at home on the recipe tower at Valley Mission. She also is grateful for the occasional offering of gluten free items. She was really glad to see the corn flour and wanted to remind other guest to get that when you can. "You can make corn tortillas, the recipe is on the tower, and use them as tostadas, chips, whatever."

She said many times how much she appreciates the selection and the service that this pantry offers to so many. Working full-time has it's challenges, but knowing she can find food here to help create simple meals really puts her mind at ease.

## Current Needs:

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the summer we need extra volunteers on Wednesdays and Thursdays to fill in for some of our regular volunteers who will be traveling. If you have any free time this summer we will definitely appreciate your help. Go to www.valleymission.org/getinvolved to complete the application.

### FINANCIAL NEEDS:

The question most often asked is 'How much will this project cost?' Construction cost is $2,077,375. Our costs fluctuate based on market costs and price trends. The current phase we are in comes in at $844,750and includes all infrastructure costs and food pantry build costs. EVERY dollar matters.
"God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked and shown love by caring for others.

