

## KALEIDOSCOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES

*Dear Friend,*

The following is a recap of what Kaleidoscope Community Services has been up to for the last two months. This report is just the tip of the iceberg so to speak, it would take a novel to communicate all the stories we've experienced even in just two months!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Commons

**Morning Bible Study:** Each morning (Mon.-Fri.) at 5:30AM volunteers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Discipleship show up at the Commons to turn on the lights and make the coffee. At 6:00AM they open the doors for between 12 and 20 grateful people eager to get warm. Along with a 30-45 minute Bible study and prayer time, volunteers provide toaster waffles, microwave sausage and a sack lunch. This morning time ministry ends between 7:30AM- 8:00AM. It's so hard to ask our guests to leave! This group plans on beginning Saturday morning ministry in March.

**Afternoon Ministry:** The Commons is open Mon.-Fri. from 1:00PM until 5:00PM to guests. During this time guests can get help with connecting to community services, read a book, engage in music and art projects, and get warm. Although we can't do 'prepare-and-serve' meals, we do provide simple snacks, coffee and other hot drinks. Between 20 and 40 guests use the Commons each day during the week in the afternoons.

**Celebrate Recovery:** Celebrate Recovery meetings take place on Monday and Thursday nights. Volunteers that run these meetings also host a Wednesday night Bible study. There are around 50 people who benefit from this ministry each week.

**Sunday Ministry:** Two groups use the Commons on Sundays. One group is a church plant that meets in the morning, and the other group is a Bible study for homeless persons. Currently 20 or so people benefit from these ministries.

**Other Ministries:** We have one family group that uses the Commons on Tuesday nights, and week have a number of other groups that use the Commons monthly, bi-monthly, or periodically.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** Family Support Services (Heritage Health Mental Health Services) recently hired another Peer Support Specialist specifically for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Commons. This person's job will be to assist homeless community members who are affected by mental health issues. This person, Jim Lawson, will be working out of the Commons 30 hours per week.

**Future Offerings:** In March we will start a weekly support group called 'Core Gifts' in partnership with Family Support Services. In addition, starting in March the Heritage Health Mobile Medical Unit will return to the Commons for weekly visits.

**Impact:** Currently we estimate that over 200 people use the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Commons each week. In addition the Commons is home base for over 30 volunteers representing a number of different

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churches. All these folks benefit from the Commons in practical and spiritual ways. All of the ministries who use the Commons would not be able to minister without access to the space made available to them at little or no cost.

### **Mobile Assist Vehicle**

Our mobile unit has been in weekly operation in October of 2015. Each Tuesday we take the MAV out to east Sherman with the Heritage Health Mobile Medical Unit. Volunteers provide snacks, coffee, homemade soup, clothes, boots, socks, and other gear. Guests are engaged in caring conversations while they're waiting to be seen on the medical unit. During the rest of the week the MAV is parked at a local RV park where it is a temporary 'home' to a homeless couple.

### **Housing**

Currently KCS is helping 7 persons with housing. We have two people in a mobile home, three people in a house, and two people in the MAV at a local RV park. KCS volunteers continue to explore different avenues for housing the homeless.

### **Kaleidoscope Community Services- Misc.**

Kitchen Remodel: KCS is starting to raise funds to put in a commercial kitchen, an additional bathroom with a shower, and an approved washer/dryer hook up. Once completed this remodel will give the 2SC the capacity to legally prepare and serve food, legally offer shower and laundry services, and increase our guest capacity to 99 persons (up from our current capacity of 49). KCS will need to raise between 35K on the low side up to 50K on the high side.

### **Practical Resources**

KCS continues to provide practical resources for our local homeless community. KCS has rented motel rooms, purchased and distributed sleeping bags, tents, socks, and winter boots.

KCS is facilitating the development of a resource map for homeless individuals in our community. In partnership with Discovery Maps, this resource map will show the location of all crucial services in the CDA/ Post Falls area. In addition to being distributed among our homeless community members, we will put these maps in the hands of counselors, churches, public safety officers, and any other agency that helps those of meager means. This map will cost about \$ 1.00 for each copy and we plan on an initial run of 2500 copies. Some of these resources will come from KCS and some will come from our collaborative partners.

### **Future Focus**

KCS desires to continue to develop the 2SC as a Christ Centered Community meeting place where people can be for free, find help in connecting to community services, get food, a shower, and their mail, and where they can build relationships with Christian mentors.

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KCS desires to be a catalyst to solve difficult community problems that affect the homeless. The most obvious problem is housing, but there are other problems that need to be voiced and discussed regarding employment, job retraining, life-skill development, recovery, detox, and public opinion.

KCS desires to be a catalyst for the development of a faith-based shelter and resource center that is operational every night throughout the year. Against popular opinion that believes that such a center would not be helpful or sustainable, volunteers with KCS are convinced that a shelter/resource center is crucial for our community for the following reasons: 1. Homeless persons need a stable place available every night while they are preparing or waiting for permanent housing; 2. Homeless persons need an active resource center where they can access supportive services every day. Whether it's connecting to a resource, attending a support meeting, participating in therapeutic activities, or volunteering their time, our homeless friends need something that can fill their day with healthy, productive activity; and 3. The Church (at large) in our community needs a project that we can do together- a collaborative ministry where resources can be pooled and where volunteers can be deployed. KCS will continue to advocate for such an initiative.

**Words** cannot express our gratitude to all of you for your support, encouragement, and prayers. We so appreciate all that you do for Kaleidoscope Community Services and for what you do for those we serve. What an honor it is to partner with all of you in our Lord's Kingdom work.

Please feel free to call or email at any time to get more information or to hear inspirational accounts of how God is moving through the ministry of KCS.

Grace and Peace,

Gar Mickelson, Executive Director- Kaleidoscope Community Services

[gar.mickelson@kaleidoscopecs.org](mailto:gar.mickelson@kaleidoscopecs.org) 208.699.2250