



Happy New Year!

I hope this finds everyone doing well and staying warm!

The month of December was again busy but sprinkled with successes throughout the month. With the steady number of people we saw our peer supports stayed busy as usual with housing concerns, resource connections, and groups. The increase in people had brought the challenge of helping them understand we are committed to doing groups and helping them find resources, a challenge met and overcome by our peer supports skills in relationship building and the ability to meet people where they are in life. Once our new clients were able to understand what we do and why we had a greater buy in to groups and the use of resources. I am greatly proud of this success because the clients we work with are not the easiest group and it shows the compassion, skills, and tenacity of our peer supports to ensure that each person is made to feel included and able to have their needs addressed. Alton, Celi, Tina, and Sarah are an amazing team to work with and without them our program would not exist or be as successful as it is.

Another success, and again, with the generosity of some of our friends and community members, we were able to have a Christmas dinner for our clients including Turkey, ham, stuffing, cranberries, and pies. Everyone was excited and enjoyed playing BINGO with Bishop Vetter sharing in laughter and lively banter. We counted it a great success as we fed 68 people for lunch that day!

We continue to work on our career opportunity program, training our staff and expanding the opportunities we can offer here at Our Place through ongoing opportunities. I am proud to say we have hired a second trainee in our effort to help people gain work skills and knowledge to help them develop a career and better their lives. We continue to work them through various aspects of communication, group facilitation, and programing to help our clients with the assistance of Brandy Vail and Montana's Peer Network as we move forward with our recovery-based groups giving them the opportunity to learn on the job.

We continue to work on finding new groups and resources to help our clients as we learn to understand their needs more accurately and what will help them better their lives. We are still seeing clients come together to support each other and share knowledge as they help one another navigate life's many challenges. This is an amazing thing when you consider many of our clients are homeless and essentially a community within our community so to see them leaning on each other is encouraging.

**From the streets**, Mark Nay our Street Outreach Coordinator reports our homeless neighbors are still in need of coats, sleeping bags, blankets, hats, socks, and gloves. These are essential items Mark's clients need to survive on the street. As always, Mark does an excellent job working with our homeless clients in ways very few people can. Mark brings a level of compassion and personal skills that allow our clients to feel secure in knowing he will do everything possible to help them where they are in life. If you have any of the needed items please let us know so we can help pick them up.

For the month of December, Our Place has operated at full capacity, our hours of operation remain Monday through Saturday from 9AM to 3:30 PM.

Here are our numbers for the month.

- **Client count: 815**
- **Targeted Peer Support hours provided: 196 (We continue to see an increase in peer support hours with clients being housed through the MERA program as well as the normal needs of help with recovery guidance)**
- **Veterans served: 27**
- **Jobs found working with Job Service and local businesses: 10**
- **Emergency food packs given out: Between the street outreach program and Our Place we handed out 125. (These were the packs donated by food share)**

We are continuing in our efforts to bring in resources from the community continually trying to build the Thursday afternoon resource group as well as helping our clients connect with the community resources who are unable to come to us. As our focus continues to be helping people regain hope, connect with resources, get back on their feet and move forward with their lives we continue to see many positive changes in our client's efforts.

Our peer supports continue to make a difference in people's lives each day. Sarah Grantham our marketing director for Good Samaritan also continues to be a positive influence on our clients as a Peer Support coming to Our Place to run groups during the week as well.

**Case Management** consists of assisting with paperwork for our consumers, taking them to meet with different community entities, being present when they are filling out lease paperwork, filling out case management packets for the Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers, following up with any required documents and keeping files for clients, as a per support...a fantastic combination for success!

**Treatment:** OP has been focusing on people suffering from addiction, we have utilized Rimrock, MCDC, Boyd Andrew and Instar Community Services. In the month of December we were able to help facilitate 2 people going to treatment.

**On the Peer Support side,** we offer support one-on-one to Peers who are experiencing a crisis. On average we work with three to eight people a day. This is not professional counseling, but more a sympathetic and experienced ear to help them work through their problems, while coming up with appropriate solutions or options

The success in wrap-around services with GSM, Many Rivers Mental Health, MSH as we work together to help provide as many services as we can for those in need continues to grow and make a difference in people's lives.

We also continue to work with United Way, Good Samaritan, and St. Paul's Methodist church to offer the homeless community showers which take place each Tuesday from 9am until 12pm. This program remains successful, and we continue to average between 8 to 14 showers each week. We are truly grateful to have these connections in the community.

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Todd Tecca, CBHPSS

Our Place Recovery and Resource Center