



An entity of Good Samaritan Ministries

End of month report for January, 2023

Good day all! Can you believe it? A month of the new year is already gone and it has been a busy one.

I would like to start off by thanking Lea Wetzel, CBHPSS and Bill Deavel, CBHPSS from MPN, with their site visit to Our Place and the tremendous support that they and MPN have given us. I would like to personally thank them for their support as I take on the new role of Program Coordinator at Our Place. I would also like to thank Commissioner Candace Payne for her visit to Our Place and congratulate her on her appointment to her office. We look forward to working with Commissioner Candace Payne, Commissioner Andy HuntHausen and Commissioner Tom Rolfe in their continued support of our efforts at Our Place.

Example to start writing below: please update, add future thoughts and plans,

For the month of February, Our Place has operated at full capacity and our hours of operation have been temporarily expanded with us opening our doors Monday through Saturday from 8AM to 3:30 PM. The change in hours reflect the clients needing a warm environment due to temperatures being below freezing on many mornings. Once the weather begins to improve and the morning temperatures begin to get warmer we will be returning to our 9:00AM to 3:30PM Monday through Saturday.

Our Place would like to congratulate Alton Talley, Jr. CBHPSS on his promotion to the position of Program Coordinator, (previously known as Program Manager). He continues to do a great job building the relationships with our clients and has ideas to continue to improve on and expand our program as a Recovery, Wellness, Resource and Education Center.

We continue the training of our personnel with the help of Brandy Vail and Montana's Peer Network, especially with help from Lea Wetzel, CBHPSS and Bill Deavel, CBHPSS so we can continue moving forward in enhancing our skills and knowledge to better serve our clients and the community. Our recovery-based groups continue to grow with an increase in participation and interest as we work to refine and restructure our programs.

January continued to be a successful month in our efforts to gain more consumers even though it saw the closing of new applications for the MERA program. Although the MERA program and

clients we saw stopped on January 20th, there has begun to be an increase in clients seeking assistance to acquire Birth Certificates and ID's. We continue to see success in wrap-around services with GSM, Many Rivers, MSH as we work together to help provide as many services as we can for those in need. January was also a month where we have started working more with the Department of Corrections as we help those clients newly released to acquire services and peer counseling.

Here are our numbers for the month.

- **February client count: 781**
- **MERA applications processed - 45**
- **Peer assistance for ID's, Medicaid, SNAP, Social Security, and Birth Certificates - 34**
- **Housing found: (Permanent supportive housing vouchers filled, in coordination with Good Samaritan and the Housing Navigator, these are cases that originated at Our Place).**
- **Foster care: respite for foster care**
- **Jobs found: 3 jobs were found**
- **Emergency food packs given out: Between the street outreach program and Our Place we handed out 120. (These were the packs donated by food share)**

*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 peer support...a fantastic combination for success!

Treatment: Through our recovery groups and peer counseling, Our Place has been concentrating on assisting people suffering from mental health issues and addiction. We have availed ourselves of the assistance of Rimrock, MCDC, Boyd Andrew, Many Rivers, AWARE, FUSE and Instar Community Services.

On the Peer Support side, we offer support one-on-one to Peers who are experiencing a crisis. I, myself have had a growing number of clients that come to me for support and counseling. Though I am not a professional counselor, I share my lived experience, which spans the last 36 years in recovery, with those that come looking for someone who understands, is sympathetic and empathetic to their daily struggles. Through these shared experiences they are able to gain knowledge and insight into solving their own issues.

Successes:

The successes that are being seen among our clients in the month of January continue to increase as clients learn the value of taking responsibility over their own lives. We continue to strive to reshape the clients and community's frame of mind regarding Our Place as a warming shelter to place where people can come to heal, find hope and discover they are not alone in the journey of recovery. We achieve this through shared life experiences in various recovery groups, mutual experiences, peer support, be it one-on-one peer support or just supporting one another. Through

our street outreach program and community support our clients find a sense of belonging, hope and camaraderie to increase their chance of success in life and recovery.

We 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 average between 8 to 14 showers each week. We are truly grateful to have these connections in the community.

STREET OUTREACH

A CONTRACT WITH EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT/ROCKY

Greetings Helena!! My name is Mark Nay, and I am the Street Outreach Coordinator for Good Samaritan Ministries. I have the privilege to work with our unsheltered neighbors in the Helena Community. Many within our community are faced with a very difficult question. "Where do you go, when there's nowhere left to go?" There is no doubt that our unsheltered community members are faced with unprecedented challenges. Our unsheltered population is growing, and affordable and readily available housing is getting harder and harder to find.

Winter months in Montana are particularly challenging because, well, it's Montana and it's freezing!! Oftentimes, the greatest victory that I see is just knowing that an individual or a family has a roof over their head for the evening in the sub-zero temperatures. And while I know that we haven't found everybody, through community efforts, the vast majority have been able to find warmth in the evening. I would definitely like to thank and commend God's Love and their staff for keeping the emergency shelter doors open. I also want to acknowledge Ara Babcock, our Assistance Coordinator at Good Samaritan Ministries. During the coldest stretches in January, Ara worked tirelessly to assist me in providing hotels for our most vulnerable population.

In the month of January, I directly worked with 36 unsheltered individuals, assisting in a wide range of needs. I was able to assist with immediate needs such as food, sleeping bags, tents, clothing, hygiene, and winter gear such as coats, hats and gloves. I was also able to assist many with more focused services such as replacing identification, housing applications, help with substance use, rides to appointments, or just someone to talk to on a tough day.

Our Place continues to provide a wide range of services to our unsheltered neighbors. Congratulations to Alton Talley!!! Our Place is in the very best of hands. Alton is compassionate, open-minded and innovative. His knowledge and life experience will be vital in connecting to those in the most need.

I am so grateful to the Helena community. Good Samaritan continues to work closely with community partners in creating and offering efficient and sustainable solutions to those in need. Thank you to all those who donated generously to our programs. While things are not getting any easier, we continue to be open-minded and proactive in helping our neighbors.

A special thank you to the Good Samaritan Thrift Store and all the staff. Our store continues to be the foundation of what we do and are the unsung heroes of the programs that we offer.

MARK NAY

Housing Navigation Report: January 2023

Housing Navigation (H.N.) was able to find and secure stable, safe and long-term housing for five more H.N. clients in the month of January 2023. This brings a total of 8 clients since the beginning of 2023. Three of the five clients were in the 50-80% of the Adjusted Median Income (A.M.I.). The remaining two housed clients were identified in the 30%-50% A.M.I. range. The need for housing navigation is prominent in the Helena community for several reasons. Some of these reasons include employment relocation, rental market increases, household increases/decreases, and an overall increase in the cost of living in Lewis and Clark County. The H.N. program stays with the client until they have found stable shelter. This is what sets the Housing Navigation program apart from other housing programs in the local Helena community.

The H.N. program has drafted a fundraising letter for some specific Good Samaritan Ministries donors. Currently, donors are being reviewed for submission. Fundraising and donations would greatly help to raise money for the Housing Navigation program and continue to maintain its longevity in the Helena community. There has been a high demand for housing navigation and financial assistance for application fees. Total funds spent in the month of January 2023 was approximately \$300. This is averaging \$50.00 per household spent depending on how many adults are living in the household. Many property management companies and private landlords are charging an application fee of approximately \$25.00 to \$55.00 for anyone older than 18 years of age in the household. This can cost some households anywhere between \$25.00-\$165.00 for application fees alone. The H.N. program is helping to relieve some of the burdening fees that are enabling low financial savings for additional moving costs, such as the move-in deposit, as well as the first and last months' rent. This could be an opportunity to help more individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity.

The H.N. page on the Good Samaritan Ministries website is updated each weekday as new housing is consistently being advertised. This allows access to current local housing opportunities and allows the information to be in one location for ease to clients, landlords, and property managers. Currently, there are two local private landlords and one large property management working with the H.N program to help stabilize the current housing crisis being experienced by the working class. Community partnership and cooperation is very important to create stabilization. The H.N. program continues to refer clients and people from the community to outside resources for assistance when it is not available through the Good Samaritan Ministries. Some of the outside assistance programs H.N. clients are being referred to include Family Promise of Helena, God's Love, Pureview Health Clinic, and Boyd Andrew for mental health and addiction counseling. This helps people of the community from all backgrounds, gain independence and long-term stability.

SHANNON DINSDALE - HOUSING NAVIGATOR

A CONTRACT WITH CITY OF HELENA AND LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY