



Greetings & Happy Holidays!

I hope this finds everyone doing well and staying warm! With the change in weather, we have seen another increase in the number of people seeking help and those just trying to stay warm. The month of November has been busy but good, several of our clients have had wonderful success in their recovery from various mental health and addiction challenges including getting back on their feet and getting sheltered. One of them writes some poetry as a way to help in his recovery and I've included one of his poems at the end of this letter.

Another success, with the generosity of some of our friends and community members, we were able to have a Thanksgiving dinner for our clients including Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberries, and pies. We counted it a great success as we fed 70 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 in 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.

As we continue to work on finding new groups and resources to help our clients we are able to tune into 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 with the temperature dropping he is still in need of coats, sleeping bags, blankets, hats, socks, and gloves. These are the essential items our homeless neighbors need to survive on the street. Mark continues to do an excellent job as he works 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 at 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 November, 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: 814**
- **Targeted Peer Support hours provided: 189 (We saw a 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: 32**

- **Jobs found working with Job Service and local businesses: 15**
- **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 to 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.

### **From Our Place Poet Laureate,**

Darkness was my light of love until I saw your eyes  
 My soul has risen from the ground need not wings, I fly  
 One touch from you embraced a feeling never knew I had  
 Many years have passed my love and now a child calls me Dad  
 My love, my wife, thine heart of mine, together we incline  
 A lifetime it takes to understand, the beauty of a wife and a man  
 Many decades passed in life, now our child has a wife  
 Continued life begins again, one blink, a new best friend

**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 October we were able to help facilitate 4 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