Caring For Our Unhoused Neighbors

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“I was asked why I did not give a rod with which to fish, in the hands of the poor, rather than give the fish itself as this makes them remain poor. So I told them: The people whom we pick up are not able to stand with a rod. So today I will give them fish and when they are able to stand, then I shall send them to you and you can give them the rod. That is your job. Let me do my work today.“

- Mother Teresa
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Self-actualization: achieving one's full potential, including creative activities

Esteem needs: prestige and feeling of accomplishment

Belongingness and love needs: intimate relationships, friends

Safety needs: security, safety

Physiological needs: food, water, warmth, rest

“Morality begins at 1,500 calories a day.”
According to the National Coalition to End Homelessness, the top five reasons for homelessness are:

1. lack of affordable housing
2. lack of a living wage
3. domestic violence
4. medical bankruptcy
5. mental illness

- 40% of Americans are ONE paycheck away from homelessness
- 80% of people with substance use disorder have an underlying mental illness
- 45% of people that are homeless have a mental illness (compared to 4.2% of general population)
Poverty in Phelps County

* 15.6% of our neighbors do not have enough food in their home to adequately meet their nutritional needs.
  * That’s 6,980 people.
* 56 households registered as homeless
  * 7 of those have children in them
  * This is only a portion of the actual number
* On average, it costs a family $60 a month to do laundry at a laundromat.
  * 4-5% of take home pay
Yvette and Kids
A Brief History

- Began about 10 years ago as a ministry of the Vineyard Church as a laundromat that was open one afternoon a week
- Became separate 501c3 non-profit in 2014
- In 2016 expanded services to include emergency overnight shelter
- In 2019 began offering free meals daily
Core Values

* People are worthy of dignity and love simply because they exist
* No one should have to sleep on a sidewalk
* No one goes a day without eating
* No one is judged on past behavior
Current Services

* Free laundromat (laundry detergent and dryer sheets provided, too!)
* Free shower
* Free meals 7 days a week
* Emergency overnight stay for homeless adults (Nov. 1st through March 31st ONLY)
* Playroom for children
* Computer to use for online classes and job and apartment searches
* Referrals to resources
* Free WiFi
* Couches and chairs to rest
* Love, compassion, and non-judgmental listening
Our Impact

* 18,378 Meals Served in 2018
* 9,072 Loads of Laundry
* 22 People per night, on average, found refuge in our emergency overnight shelter
Mark
Community Partnerships

- Your Community Health Center
- Compass Health
- The Community Partnership Resale Shop
- G.R.A.C.E.
- The Salvation Army
- Goodwill
- Rolla Police Department
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
- Missouri Career Center
- MANY local churches and Civic organizations
Volunteer!

Opportunities include:
- Meal Prep/Serve
- Day/Evening Host
- Cleaning/Organizing
- Overnight Volunteer
- Fundraising/Special Event
- Back-up Volunteer

Community involvement is crucial.
Ways To Help

* Donate items from our frequently used items list!
* Host a fundraiser!

* Donation form and list of frequently used items located on brochure.
Ways To Help

- Make a one time gift!
- Become a sustaining donor!
  - Provide shelter to one person for a night for $15
  - Feed one person for a week for $31
  - Feed one family for a week for $124
"The Rolla Mission is that extra little help to get through that rough patch in life. They help you talk through your problems and find a way to fix whatever it is that is getting in your way from that American dream we all have. Nowadays, I’m truly blessed; I have a steady job that helps me to provide for my family and me. It was a struggle to find work. When I did, I wouldn’t have made it through the waiting period of getting paid without the sustenance from The Mission to be able to perform as I needed to at work. None of that would have been possible if it had not been for big kind heart that The Mission has shown me. I thank them so, so very much from the bottom of my heart."
Thank you so much!

Questions?
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