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## NEWSLETTER — SEPTEMBER 2017

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### JAMES AND JAMES JR.



Jamo grew up with his two sisters, Tabitha and Vanessa, and mom and dad in Arizona. The family moved many times and lived in a poor neighborhood. When he was six years old, his mom tragically died in a car accident. As the oldest of the three siblings, he remembers this time very well. James, his dad, had a tremendously difficult time dealing with the death of his wife and now having to raise his three kids on his own. One year and another terrible car accident later, James made the heavy but necessary decision to ask his in-laws to take care of his children. He wanted them to have a life that he could not offer them while being addicted to drugs and financially and emotionally unstable. Once he straightened out his life, he wanted to take care

of them again.

Jamo, Tabitha and Vanessa moved to Scottsdale, AZ to be with their grandparents. Living with them meant a much better living situation but it also had its challenges. Since it was their daughter who had passed away, Natalie and Joe were in a state of grief. Moreover, they did not have a good view of James because of the way he lived his life and the choices he made, which was difficult to conceal. For Jamo it was often difficult to connect with his grandpa and grandma on an emotional level, as they were from a totally different generation whose values and expectations were dissimilar.

During that time James' and Jamo's relationship was almost non-existent. James would see his children a couple times a year and called on birthdays. Jamo remembers, "[My relationship with my dad] was really a hard topic. Everyday you see kids with their dads at school." James adds, "It was like [the kids] lost their mom and their dad, too." This led Jamo to be hesitant about investing in friendships and spending time with people outside of school. For him it was difficult to see "happy and normal" families who have not experienced the same that Jamo had experienced. The people who live in that neighborhood in Arizona are very sheltered and often do not understand what "the real world" is like, James explains.

However, about five years ago the re-connection between James and his children started. James had become a follower of Jesus Christ and started to invest more time in his kids. He visited them more often and has since then called them regularly. What helped Jamo re-connect with his dad was the time when he stayed with James and his family for about five months a few years ago. Jamo has an easier time connecting with his father because he can remember when his mom, dad and his siblings were still a family.

Even though Jamo has not connected with the idea of Jesus as his Savior, he loves volunteering and serving. He has served in the church that his grandparents took him to growing up in the Youth Ministry as Facilities Coordinator. And he has also taken care of his grandma after she developed rheumatoid arthritis. In the near future when he goes back to Arizona, he would like to take classes to become a pharmacy tech and work as a care taker in an retirement home.

**THE CITY GATE STAFF**

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**Shirley Murinko**, Director/ Office Manager  
**James Gulbranson**, Assistant  
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**Eric Murinko**, Security  
**Kathy Gibbons**, Front Desk  
**Donnie Saunders**, Food Bank  
**Buffie Harmon**, Clothing Bank  
**Marie Siebe**, Kitchen Manager and Newsletter  
**Jimmy Hahn**, Kitchen Staff  
**Elisha Shelton**, Alberta House Manager

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Rebecca
- Sarah’s parents and family
- Michael R.
- Reed
- Mark
- Tara
- Jamo
- Johnny
- John Kittel
- Sienna
- Sage

**FOOD BANK STATISTICS**



The City Gate Food Bank served

- a total of **315 individuals** and **272 households** in the month of July 2017.
- a total of **7,500 pounds** of food in the month of July 2017.
- **15 days** during the month

**HELP US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR FINANCES**

To receive our newsletter *IN COLOR* via email, simply email us at [thecitygate@qwestoffice.net](mailto:thecitygate@qwestoffice.net).

Please include your name and “email newsletter” in the subject line.

## Word from the Board

### Do you speak Swahili?

For over 20 years I have been known to have the following discussion with individuals in my counseling office:

“Do you speak Swahili?”

- “No, I don't.”

“Why don't you?”

- “Because I never learned it.”

But if I went to another country like Africa and asked the same question, I might well get the answer: “Yes, I speak Swahili, and no, I do not speak English.”

The point I am making is that we ALL learn what we are taught. When we are toddlers, we do not have the power to change what that will be. There is no shame in my having learned from what I was systematically taught about life and who I am as I was growing up.

The tragedy is that not all of us were raised in a healthy environment. Many of us learned to survive daily life with very destructive and self-destructive behaviors. We each have our own unique type of “Swahili” that we learned and carried into adulthood. For us this is “normal.”

Many of those who come through the front doors at The City Gate have tragic histories that are so radically different from our own. The staff and volunteers have been blessed by connecting with them over a cup of coffee or a meal. To see firsthand the powerful impact of Jesus Christ in broken lives is awesome!

We soon come to realize that it is only by the grace of God that my own childhood was not just like the one of the person sitting next to me at The City Gate. I, too, could have been the one who was taught “Swahili” and then lived the tragic life that followed.

Please consider supporting this ministry in whatever way God is calling you personally. You may even discover, as I have, that I am the one who is deeply receiving at the same time I am sharing.

Humbly,



*Rich Paulsen*

A sinner and member of The City Gate Board of Trustees



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[The City Gate Spokane](#)



[www.thecitygatespokane.org](http://www.thecitygatespokane.org)

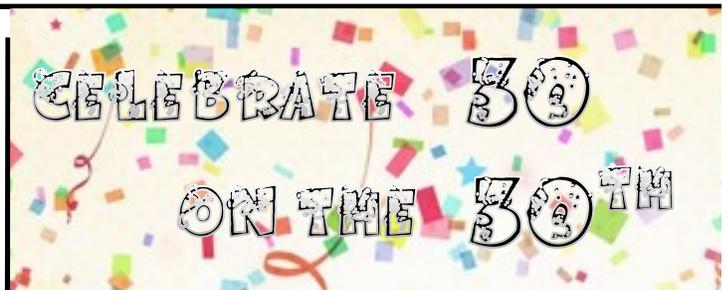
*A Gathering Place...*

“Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” — Matthew 11:28

## NEEDS:

**In dire need of Men's and Women's summer clothing!**

- **Men's clothes:**
  - Jeans for Men, Size 30, 32, 34, 36, 38
  - T-shirts for Men, All Sizes
  - Shoes for Men (size 9 and up)
- **Women's clothes:**
  - Jeans for women
- Coffee
- Tomato Sauce
- Frozen vegetables



The City Gate turns 30 (!) years old this month and you are invited to celebrate this exciting event with us! **“Celebrate 30 on the 30th”** will take place on **Saturday, September 30th, from 1 - 5 pm**. For any further information, please contact Laura Wintersteen—Arleth via email ([lwintersteen@wsu.edu](mailto:lwintersteen@wsu.edu)) or call 509-999-6282.

We are looking forward to seeing you and celebrating God's faithfulness with you!



Without the support of volunteers who give their time and energy to this ministry, The City Gate would not be the haven it is to so many people. Whether you come once a week or once a year, you have contributed to keeping this place up and running. Your donations, regardless of time, money, food, prayers or clothing, have done so much to help the people who walk through our doors everyday. As pastors and as Christians, we want to thank you for heeding the voice of the Lord and ask you to keep us in your prayers as we continue this journey.

Love, Pastor John & Shirley