



The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild, and Restore Lost and Broken Lives

Meet “Crazy”. He’s an avid panhandler who says he is no longer in the business of begging for food or money. Born in Ohio, Crazy has traveled the U.S. from east to west and from the north to the south, surviving off the payout he gets from his signs. He openly shares that he’s tried every drug he could get his hands on and has mastered the art of living on the streets. Amazingly, in the past 7-8 months, **Crazy has discovered a whole new way to get high that has brought him to his knees...AND IT’S LEGAL!**

Crazy jokes that he’s been in jail so many times they finally kicked him out. He was accused of NOT looking homeless enough by a lady driving by! So what’s his new drug of choice?

SMILES! Yes, Crazy has tapped into a new addiction and he’s not apologizing for it. About seven months ago he felt led by God to write a completely different message on his cardboard sign. Never could he have imagined the overwhelming response that has brought him a joy unspeakable, although you will never find Crazy at a loss for words.

Not to take lightly people ignoring his gift, Crazy recalls a gentleman in a nice car attempting to avoid eye contact. Repositioning himself so the driver would read “Smile, it’s more fun,” he says the man busted up laughing and rolled down his window stating, **“I hate homeless people but I love your sign!”** He wanted to give Crazy something so he flipped through \$50 and \$100 dollar bills in his car saying he would like to buy the SMILE sign. Crazy answered there was no amount of money that could replace the reactions, compliments, and blessings that were received from presenting his message. He explained to the guy in the expensive car, “you’ve already paid me by #1, reading my sign, #2, busting up laughing and #3, having a conversation with me!” He continued, **“sir, all you’re trying to do is buy that vulnerable moment when someone caught you off guard and you didn’t think that was possible.”** That man drove off and yelled “Love you man!”

On another occasion Crazy tells of a young lady who pulled up and said, “Thank you. Your sign made my day. I’ve had a terrible day...actually a terrible life.” Crazy commented, “You are a beautiful lady in a beautiful car, how could you have a terrible life? In which she replied, “This is my dad’s car, not mine.” I can just see Crazy’s face with a warm smile and kind eyes as he said, “Your dad must love you a lot to let you drive such a nice car!” The young lady responded, “Thank you, I needed to hear that.”

“I am different from others on the streets”, Crazy says. “I don’t take money from people and I don’t get mad at them. This is God’s work, not mine. **I get to act like an idiot, watching people giggle and smile and take my picture and they don’t judge who I am or what I’ve done once they receive the blessing of my sign!**” Now THAT’S priceless!



September 2012



Andra Phelps



Alberta House



Update

There are many people from different walks of life that live at the Alberta House. Some people come to us wanting help to get away from an undesirable living situation. This could be anywhere from being on the streets, dealing with addiction, to getting out a violent situation, and everything in between. There are even people who come to us asking for help because they are having major surgery of some kind and don't have any place to live that is affordable, clean, safe, and in a Christian environment.

For the past few months, we have been completely full and have had no vacancies. It is a blessing, but within that, have had to turn many people away. It is a reminder of just how big the need is for affordable, clean, and safe living.

Carrie Brown/Alberta House Manager



An EASY WAY for you to help:

Donate your used ink cartridges, cell phones/pagers, IPod, MP3 players, digital/video cameras and camcorders, GPS and radar detectors, PDA's mobile hot spots, iPads/tablets, calculators, video game consoles and handhelds, e-book readers and video games and accessories. The City Gate collects these items to raise funds by recycling with Planet Green. Another option is to simply accumulate at least 20 items, print out a shipping label from the website, <http://planetgreenrecycle.com/citygatespokane>, drop it off at any UPS store (at NO cost to you) and they do the rest. Planet Green will inspect the items and then send The City Gate a check!



170 S. Madison Spokane, WA 99201

THE CITY GATE

Invites You and a guest to attend our
Partner Appreciation Dinner
In honor of those who make a difference.

Thursday, September 27th 2012
6:30pm-8:30pm

RSVP required by 9/14/12

Email: aphelps@thecitygatespokane.org
Facebook: Thecitygate Spokane
Call: 509-455-9670

Seating is limited!

NEEDS

Men's Clothing

- Jeans (all sizes)
- Underwear (new)
- Socks
- Tennis shoes
- Fall & winter clothes

Women's Clothing

- Socks
- Underwear (new)
- Bras
- Tennis shoes
- Fall & winter clothes

Toiletries

- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shampoo

Food Bank

- Non-perishable items

Miscellaneous

- COFFEE (always!)
- Grocery bags

**Please,
no summer clothing
at this time.**

winter is coming &
we don't have room to
store out of season
clothing.

Thank you for your help...
we depend on it now more
than ever.

A word from the board...

the only 100% organic cor

As I contemplate things that are happening here at The City Gate, I am reminded about a Christian music group called Signature Sound. One of the songs that Ernie talks about is called "Little As Much". It is about a singer who sings to her children, and is disappointed about not having a larger audience. Ernie told her even if her children are her only listeners she is somebody to the Lord.

I understand that everything that the Lord provides here through our donors, whether large or small, is huge to this ministry. I am ecstatic about how are guests are touched by our Lord and Savior and what He provides for them here. He looks at all of our hearts and let me tell you, little is much.

Submitted by Todd R. Clouse

*Love is our true destiny.
We do not find the meaning
of life by ourselves alone—
we find it with another. Love
seeks one thing only: the
good of the one loved. It
leaves all the other second-
ary effects to take care of
themselves. Love, there-
fore, is its own reward.*

Thomas Merton



JULY STATISTICS

Food Bank:
185 people served
5,305 lbs. of food given

Kitchen:
4,325 meals served
3,595 people served

Clothing Bank:
143 people served

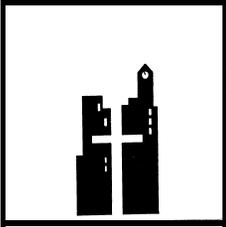
Volunteer Hours:
543 hours

To receive our newsletter by email, write to:
thecitygate@qwestoffice.net
with your name and,
"email newsletter" in the subject line.



Help us be good stewards of our funds.

GO GREEN



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The City Gate

170 S Madison

Spokane, WA 99201

509.455.9670

E-mail - thecitygate@qwestoffice.net

Website - www.thecitygatespokane.org

Facebook - Thecitygate Spokane

"A Gathering Place"

Matthew 11:28

The City Gate Staff

- John Murinko, Pastor
- Shirley Murinko, co-director/office mgr.
- Bonnie Murinko, co-director/food bank
- Jim Hahn, food bank
- Connie Bryant, clothing bank mgr.
- Don Lanegan, dinning room mgr.
- Derek Deniston, kitchen supervisor
- Andra Phelps, PR
- Jamie Parker-Frank, kitchen
- Carrie Brown, Alberta House Mgr.

Please Pray For:

- *The hearts of man to soften towards those who are less fortunate.
- *The City Gate staff & volunteers
- *Tracie
- *Connie

**Friend us on Facebook
for daily updates and
praise reports at**

Thank You!

Without the support of all the 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, whether time, money, food, or clothing, have done much to help the people who walk through our doors everyday. As a staff 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.