

The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild, and Restore Lost and Broken Lives

AMAZING RESPONSE TO EMPTY SHELVES



January

How is it possible to have a hunger problem in a land where we have so many programs to feed the poor? I'm glad you asked. Those who struggled financially at the beginning of the year, choosing to swallow their pride and make an appointment at a local food bank, may have heard something like this; "We apologize for the lack of food selection, you are welcome to re-schedule your appointment and hopefully we'll have more to offer." This is what a father of four children and many others heard towards the end of January arriving at The City Gate's, 2nd Harvest food bank outlet in hopes of supplementing their food supply at home. Trusting in our God and moved with compassion, faith and action, The City Gate witnessed the miracle of community.

February 5th, of this year, I had "had it" with weeks of turning people away from our food bank because of a lack of sustainable food to offer, so, I did what any middle aged, outspoken, passionate American female would do...ALERTED THE MEDIA, FACEBOOK, AND GOOGLE GROUPS! Little did I know, when you send out a news alert stating, "NO FOOD on food bank shelves!", (ok, we did have some produce, marshmallows, cans of collard greens and tomato/clam juice) the immediate response that would come from our community!

A very caring Kylee Cruz from KXLY News was first to contact us to find out the facts and inform viewers. Wednesday afternoon she came in for an interview and filmed the empty shelves, with her report briefly that evening and at greater lengths on Thursday, February 7th. The City Gate opened it's doors and began answering phone calls at 10am on Thursday morning as the phone rang off the hook, email after email poured in, multiple people carried in cases of bulk food and checks were dropped off or mailed. It was an overwhelming experience as I burst into tears with the realization that people do care enough to do something when made aware!



Shopping

As a 2nd Harvest recipient and blessed by it, The City Gate receives over 4,000 lbs. of food each month. The selection of food varies from month to month and in January each year, they too are affected by smaller donations and less food drives thus, impacting all the food banks that rely on them. Distribution of the food is set up for four week increments so the months that have a fifth week

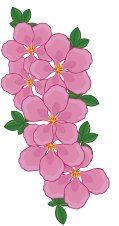
receive no extra food as is the month of January. In desperation I called Jandyl, our Member Service Coordinator from 2nd Harvest, who so graciously worked with us to restructure our account with them, realizing we qualified to receive more food than we were previously set up for. She also connected us with local "food rescue" sources where we now pick up from weekly when they have excess usable food.



Loading the truck

We continue to give God the glory as more and more people were touched by the "alert". The Inlander wrote up a community awareness piece for their newspaper and put it on their facebook page, Spokane Homeless Coalition (SHC) spread the news through their google groups and announced a food drive for The City Gate asking us to speak at their March meeting. With over 70 in attendance from various agencies working with Spokane's homeless, we were able to share The City Gate mission, receiving a \$100.00 cash donation, two large

April 2013



boxes of canned and boxed food as well as three grocery bags and much encouragement.

As a non-profit inner-city church to the low-income and homeless, we receive zero grant money and are completely supported by various individuals like YOU who donate the necessary food, clothing, hygiene products and monetary gifts keeping our doors open. Since the media release, we've tallied over \$5,600 in cash donations for food bank needs not including all the groceries brought in which should carry us for at least a couple of months. Currently, The City Gate food bank has more food selection than any of us on staff recall ever seeing. The room is full of good (and I mean items you would select for your own cabinets) food for the hundreds of people who make appointment each month to choose from. Now, if we can only get enough financial support to buy more meat for meals we serve here, put in an air conditioning and build a women's shelter... (maybe I should "alert" the media ;-). Actually I am reminded in James 4:2b-3 where James teaches, "you have not, because you ask not or you do ask and fail to receive because you ask with wrong purpose and selfish motives." Continue Lord to grow us, as we put our trust in You!



FULL SHELVES!

Andra Phelps



Pastor's Point

Love People Right



It often seems that many of us think we have the answers to other peoples problems without actually asking the person what it is they need. We, here at The City Gate are being challenged to love people the right way, not necessarily our way. First we need to love God and allow His love to pass on to others through relationship. When we take the time to know someone, we may actually come to find out what is truly needed and then empower the person to accomplish getting that need met.

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

NEEDS

Men's Clothing

- Jeans (all sizes)
- Underwear (new)
- Shoes- sizes 10 and up
- Spring & summer clothing

Women's Clothing

- Underwear (new)
- Shoes
- Spring & summer clothing

Toiletries

- Deodorant
- Razors
- Toothpaste

Food Bank

- Non-perishable items

Miscellaneous

- COFFEE (always!)
- Grocery bags

Now that spring and summer are near, we are looking for lighter weight clothing

Please,
NO winter clothing
at this time.

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



A WORD FROM THE BOARD

As I think about the inner-city and The City Gate, I am reminded about the sermon that I just preached a few Sundays ago. Love in action takes all the characteristics that I am about to share with you. God continues to remind me that I have to be an example to the people we serve. (some quotes are written by Max Lucado) "I choose to love... to love means to not justify hatred or have bitterness. I choose to have joy... to have joy means to accept all things even if we don't think it is a good thing. I choose to have peace... peace means that we are forgiven and we should forgive as our Savior has forgiven us. I choose to be patient... we need to be patient with one another and quick to forgive. I choose to be kind... kindness is what we show at The City Gate, and we need to show that kindness to the rest of the world. I choose to have goodness... go the extra mile for someone whether in deeds or money. I choose to be faithful... faithfulness is being faithful in whatever or whoever you are around. I choose to have gentleness... gentleness is not yelling at people who get in your way but willing to listen and pray. I choose to have self control... self control is willing to be only influenced by God and listening to what the bible says."

These are all characteristics that are Godly, and choices we get to make. Characteristics that The City Gate tries to instill in our patrons. As for me, I choose to try to live my life with these characteristics. Could you imagine what our world would be like without them.

Todd Clouse/Board of Directors



Derek Deniston,
you are missed!

If you would like more
information about our
services go to our

NEW WEBSITE

www.thecitygatespokane.org

March 2013 Statistics

Food Bank:

149 people served
4,290 lbs. of food

Kitchen:

4,951 meals served

Clothing Bank:

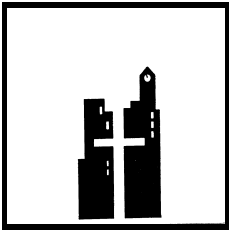
214 people served

Volunteer Hours:

280

Thank you

**Zipline for all of
your help!**



To Reclaim, Rebuild, and Restore Lost and Broken Lives

The City Gate

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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
- Don Lanegan, dining room mgr.
- Melissa Godin, kitchen
- Bruce Woolard, kitchen
- James Horton, cook
- Helen Crawford, clothing bank
- Andra Phelps, public relations
- Wes Heimbecker, social services
- James Gulbranson, security
- Carrie Brown, Alberta House Mgr.

Please Pray For:

- Brittany
- Katie
- Gary
- James
- Sarah



**Don't forget
we have church service
every Sunday at 10 am**

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.