



The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

THE ENTERTAINER

~The story of Anthony~

Let me introduce you to our friend, Anthony.

Anthony has been coming into The City Gate now for about 5 years. It was my pleasure to sit and visit with Anthony and to hear about how he got here. His story starts in northern California. Most of his childhood was in Antioch but as a sophomore in high school his family moved to Paradise. Anthony graduated from Paradise High School. In 2001, Anthony moved to Washington where he had family in the Tacoma area. He found himself traveling east to take a job with a friend in Sandpoint. Upon arriving in Sandpoint, and through some miscommunication, Anthony realized the job wouldn't work. They were needing a delivery driver and, well, he didn't have a driver's license. Struggling with alcohol abuse and limited on funds, Anthony was quickly running out of money. He took to hitch hiking and made it as far as Spokane. So, Spokane it was.

Five years ago, Anthony found himself trying to hitchhike out of Spokane at Christmas time. He sat on the freeway on ramp with no luck of a ride. He saw a sign for a 24-hour shelter and felt a sense of hope and relief... That is until he approached the front and was laughed at, as it was a women's only shelter. Thankfully they pointed him in the right direction. Anthony found a shelter to crash at and felt the generosity that Spokane had to offer our homeless community.

This was the start of a journey that brings us to today. When asked if he plans on staying in Spokane, Anthony is clear that he has no plans to leave. While he enjoys visiting his Western Washington family, his roots are spreading in Spokane.

Anthony began involving himself in church after he settled in Spokane. For the first time Anthony felt a connection with the church. When the church he had been regularly attending moved, Anthony found himself looking for somewhere to go and grow. Through a friend, Anthony came to The City Gate. He was already camping nearby and honestly, "I was digging the FREE coffee ALL day long!"

It has been a series of ups and downs for Anthony and The City Gate. He would be the first to tell you that there were times of frustration and even times that he wanted to walk away. Not always seeing eye-to-eye with everyone on staff, Anthony found that he could be honest and open with James. Through their relationship he has come to a place where he can forgive more freely. Not just with The City Gate but in life.

Anthony recalls one time when he was really upset. After making a vow never to come back he realized that he was hungry, and The City Gate was the only place open for dinner. He didn't just come in for dinner. He talked to James about his anger and thankfully he forgave and returned. Maybe it was just for the meal at first, but Anthony has come to belong here. You can ask any staff or volunteer and they will agree.



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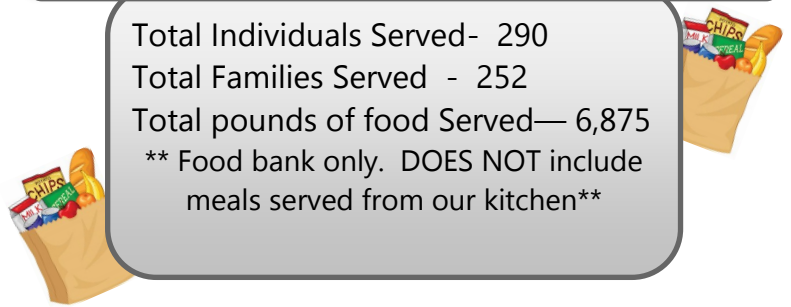
2018

NEEDS:

- Coffee!!
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Shredded cheese
- Pasta Sauce (bulk)
- Men's Socks
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Food Bank Client Stats for March

Total Individuals Served- 290
 Total Families Served - 252
 Total pounds of food Served— 6,875
 ** Food bank only. DOES NOT include meals served from our kitchen**



Please Pray For:

- *The City Gate Board of Trustees
- *Alberta House residents (health concerns)
- *Dale
- *Shirley
- *Misti
- *Johnny
- *Our beloved guests who continue to struggle with addiction

Now that spring has sprung, and you are beginning to plant your gardens, plant a little extra to share with your inner-city friends. Perhaps you can **PLANT AN EXTRA ROW?!** The City Gate appreciates fresh fruits and veggies to use in our homemade meals and also to pass out to our guests. We are thrilled to accept fresh produce, but can not accept home canned goods.



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Here at The City Gate we recognize Anthony for who he is. He is silly.

He is entertaining. He is gifted. His gift, and more importantly his passion, is music. He is never far from his guitar. In fact, if you ask any of the regulars about “the guy in the goofy hat with a guitar” they will know you are talking about Anthony. He sees music’s ability to calm. Anthony sees himself having a purpose being here with his music. “Homeless people need music too. I can feed that to them.”

It is a goal of his to perform at Soulutions when he is ready. For now, he is waiting, and so are we. According to him, “I am waiting until my music will leave my audience *stupefied*. Astonished.” We are anxious for that moment, and we know that God has given Anthony a gift in his music and we will patiently wait for him to share that with us. In the meantime, don’t be surprised if you see Anthony on a street corner. Some will call him a panhandler, but he prefers the term “entertainer”. He makes ends meet but will tell you honestly, “I don’t do it for the money. I do it for the smiles.” His clever signs will get a reaction every time and Anthony loves the rush he gets from seeing a reaction. In all he does, Anthony IS an entertainer. We are honored to be a place where he feels welcomed and willing to grow.

A letter from Michael Smith

~ Student nurse

I was born and raised in Spokane with several brothers and sisters. From a young age, I wanted to be in the medical field but I had no idea or in what context I would find myself. By God’s grace, He began to open doors and close others, and I eventually found myself in a nursing school here in Spokane. These past two years at school have been challenging yet so rewarding. In our last semester, we had the preference of where and with whom we would do our community clinical. I chose The City Gate, yet had no idea how much of a personal impact the staff and the people would have on me. As a nursing student, I had the preconception that I would come to The City Gate to educate and teach individuals things related to their health. This is far from what has happened. I have been the one who has been taught. I have been taught the importance of human dignity, the power of sacrifice whether big or small, and the power of friendships and respect. I have seen joy, I have seen anger and I have seen individuals who have little hope to cling on to. Yet through all of this, I have been taught that every single human, whether at The City Gate or anywhere else has intrinsic value and worth. I will never forget the friendships that I have with these individuals. I have been blessed to sit across the table and listen to many life stories and hear of much brokenness yet often times hope-filled. If anything, I have learned that I am not much different than many of these individuals. I am so thankful for this opportunity to participate in the work that The City Gate is doing and I pray that God will continue to bless it as it has blessed countless individuals.



I have been a volunteer at The City Gate for about 25 years. During these years I have seen God’s Grace at work because we have stood by our mission statement, “To reclaim, rebuild and restore the lost and broken lives of the people of our inner-city” Some of our staff are former substance abusers. They have stayed at The City Gate to give back to our clients what The Lord gave them. Many of our Alberta House tenants are also former substance abusers. They give back by volunteering at The City Gate in so many ways. Without all these people giving back to the Lord’s ministry, we could not open our doors! In the coming months we will high light some of these wonderful servants of The Lord. The City Gate has served the people of the inner-city for over 30 years. We serve the homeless, the out of work families and those who are searching for a better life. We have always asked for your prayers. In these times of increasing needs - we are serving about 10,000 meals each month and our food bank is one of the busiest in town - we need your prayer support more than ever. My favorite scripture is Philippians 4:6 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” So, we thank you for all you have done for The City Gate and ask for your continued support and prayers.



Bill Davis

~ board of directors, president



"God Can Do It: We Can Help"

Help us to be good stewards of our finances

To receive our newsletter **IN COLOR** by email. Simply email us at: thecitygate@qwestoffice.net with your name and “email newsletter” in the subject line.



The City Gate

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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[The City Gate Spokane](#)



www.thecitygatespokane.org

A Gathering Place...

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

After a long, wet winter
The City Gate is looking
forward to a **GOOD,
DEEP SPRING
CLEANING!** If you
have a group looking for a
service project, please
consider helping us scrub.



Contact The City Gate during
our regular office hours to set
up your time to come pitch in.

Tuesday-Friday
10-12 & 12:30-3
(closed from 12-12:30 for
lunch)

(509) 455-9670



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