



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives



**Rebuild Together Spokane, a mission group from First Presbyterian Church in Spokane, chose The City Gate for their service project this year. After nearly 2 decades in our building, with nothing more than a touch up here or there on paint, we were blessed with a wall to wall (and ceiling) paint makeover! Many hands, hours and answered prayers went into this transformation.**



**After 15 years of service, Rebuild Together Spokane completed their FINAL PROJECT here at The City Gate. We are blessed and honored by your gift! The City Gate is just one of many projects completed by this dedicated group.**



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***In YOUR words...*** A volunteer's testimony

I felt alone. I kept asking God where He was. Why couldn't I feel Him? Why couldn't I figure out how to love Him and be loved by Him? I was looking for God in my own solitude; I was seeking Him in the dark corners of my soul. I could not find Him. Loneliness envelops a person like an all-consuming pit; it draws you in and away from everything and everyone who could help lift you up.

***Enter: The City Gate.***

I started volunteering at The City Gate thinking that I would do something good with my time and maybe gain some cool experiences along the way. I volunteered to help others, but it turns out they helped me so much more than I could ever have expected.

I was searching for God. I did not find Him in my success or my failure. I found God in my neighbor. He was in the eyes of a complete stranger in an unfamiliar place.

Not that God is not everywhere, in everything. But I believe that He can be seen most clearly in community with others. **We were not made to live this life alone.**

Volunteering is not about checking off the good things I've done. It is about connection. I needed The City Gate just as much, if not more, than they needed me. They allowed me to connect with people, with God, and with myself. The City Gate offers wonderful services to those in need. This establishment seeks to help God's people, without discrimination and prejudices, but with open arms. In my time here I learned the power of a kind smile, the importance of relationships, and the source of love.

To love God is to love His people. I realized that at The City Gate. The wonderful staff and volunteers there serve not only food to fill the belly, but connection and love to fill the heart. Everyone who walks in is not just another face to feed, but a human with depths and emotions who deserves love and compassion just like anyone else.

I could not love God by only loving myself; I could more fully love God by loving His people. When I began to enter His world, see the hurt and the pain and the joy in His beloved, I began to learn how to love. When I opened my eyes to the pain of this world- when I let in the sadness of reality- I also let in love and light.

I saw God in the eyes of those affected by homelessness. I saw God in the cuts, bruises, worn clothes, and Indignant anger. I saw God in the hard work of The City Gate staff. God does not stay in the comfortable places I often frequent. God is among the broken and weary waiting to wrap them in His warm embrace.

I hope that in my time of volunteering I brightened at least one person's life, if only for a minute. One smile is all it takes sometimes to turn someone's day around. One smile, one conversation, one acknowledgment is powerful enough to bring life back into someone's eyes and communicate to them that they are loved, they are enough, and they are God's.

The City Gate ministers to the soul. Health and reconciliation are not only dependent on the body, but the emotional and mental healing that only love and connection can bring.

Several months ago I was hurting, devoid of affection. **Now I am surrounded by love and family.**

~Vanessa

**1 Peter 4:10**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

**A great big...**



**To Washington Federal**

“We thank Washington Federal for their continuing support. Without the support of community focused organizations like them, we can not function.”

~Bill Davis, board of trustees

Thank you Washington Federal! We solely depend on the community to respond to the call of this ministry to Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore lost and broken lives. That in itself requires much time, energy and resources. So, thank you for your support.

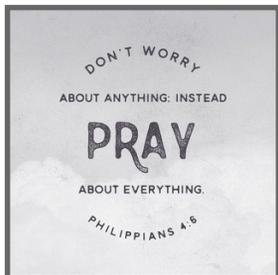
~ Pastor John

**Congratulations!**

To the class of 2019 graduates who will be graduating in the coming weeks and looking forward to college and careers. Keep them in your prayers for guidance in their new journey.



Special recognition to Heather Murinko, not only Pastor John's grand daughter, but a volunteer since birth! She was able to logged 227 hours of community service (just in high school), most of those hours served here at The City Gate. Heather is enrolled at Carroll College this fall and plans to pursue a career in nursing, specializing in trauma.



**Please pray for**

- \* The City Gate staff
- \* Marilyn
- \* Jay
- \* Dave
- \* Kathy
- \* Breanna
- \* Misti's Mom
- \* Angie and family
- \* Fred
- \* Pastor John

- **DIRE NEED!!!**
- **Women's summer clothing**
- Women's jeans
- Men's jeans
- Deodorant
- Flip flops
- ...AND ALWAYS...COFFEE!

**NEEDS**



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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The City Gate



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

## A Gathering Place...

Did you enjoy reading our volunteer testimony by Vanessa on page 2? Do you have a volunteer story to share? We **WOULD LOVE** to include **YOUR WORDS** into our newsletter!!

Tell us **YOUR** story and we would love to use it in our newsletter

*Stories, testimonies, photos and memories can be emailed to:*

**[thecitygate@qwestoffice.net](mailto:thecitygate@qwestoffice.net)**



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