



# SUMMER 2021



Summer of 2021. It has been a summer of extreme heat... and GOD'S PROVISIONS! Here is a huge donation of bottled water that we received from Jewel's Helping Hands. With the crazy high temperatures, for extended periods of time, we went through so much water keeping our downtown friends hydrated. We have also reached out to our followers for water donations...and been blessed! BUT WAIT...Summer isn't over quite yet. If you would like to donate more bottled water, we would love it!

To the right is an amazing group of young servants who blessed The City Gate, staff and guests, with their time. These middle school students traveled to Spokane from Missoula Montana. This is their 2nd year serving at The City Gate, and these kids will do ANYTHING asked of them... even the icky cleaning. This group, led by Austin and Chris, is always welcome to come serve along side of us. We look forward to seeing you next year! THANK YOU!



Speaking of volunteers, **THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN JOIN IN!** Pictured left is the daughters of 2 staff members and Pastor John's granddaughter. (Also Frank, our faithful driver, in the background.)



If you have a picture/story of your time serving at The City Gate, we would love to see it or hear it, and maybe share it. Send community service photos/stories to [thecitygate@outlook.com](mailto:thecitygate@outlook.com)

## *Hear from Student nurses who served at The City Gate as part of their education*

Since working with The City Gate, my eyes have been opened to the power of consistent relationship and empathy. The people that The City Gate serves are often overlooked, disenfranchised, and vulnerable. I have seen how The City Gate staff and volunteers address the suffering of these people with undeterred compassion, whether it is specially picking a jacket they think someone would like or listening to someone vent about a tragedy, **The City Gate always shows up!**

Being a part of this has been incredibly eye opening and powerful for me. As a Spokane native, I have witnessed how homelessness has impacted our city. There is no quick fix for the issues that these people struggle with: housing, insecurity, addiction, and mental health are complex issues that are experienced by many in Spokane. What I have learned is that the person on the other end of the issues is in **need of connection and relationship**. My view of how to serve these people in need has shifted from answer seeking big picture to relationship based service that honors the person, regardless of their situation. I have seen people stand in line for food with eyes down and shoulders slouched and leave with a smile and understanding that **The City Gate will always be there for them.**

On the medical side of things, I have seen a need for follow up care and more trust in medicine and medical providers. I hope one day all people will feel welcomed to bring forth their medical issues and that more people will come along and support The City Gate in caring for the health and well being of their patrons. I feel so lucky to have spent a semester at this incredible ministry. I am eager to take what I have learned here into practice in order to best care for the most vulnerable in Spokane.

~Abby M, WSU student nurse



*In their own words.....*

I am a nursing student at North Idaho College and over the summer have been working on classes for my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I found myself needing a place to do some volunteer hours in the community for my population health class. I knew I wanted to do something to serve the homeless since health in the homeless community is what I chose to focus on for the semester. Originally, I tried to volunteer with organizations that provided health care for the homeless community, but after weeks of running into dead ends with unreturned and unanswered phone calls, volunteer slots already being filled, etc., I decided to volunteer at a place that fed the homeless. I began calling organizations until I got an answer on the other end of the line. It was The City Gate. James answered the phone right away, said I could start volunteering immediately, and made it easy. I came the next day and had a wonderful experience.

Arriving at The City Gate, I was welcomed by Pastor John and his staff, who quickly ushered me into serving along with their team like one of them. Pastor John shared stories of the lives that God has changed through The City Gate, and it was inspiring to hear the effectiveness that has come through their ministry. I appreciated their approach at The City Gate. I have volunteered with multiple organizations during the past several years. Sometimes one must wonder if programs that offer no accountability are enabling those that they serve, and on the other hand I wonder if not treating people with kindness and respect keeps people from seeking help. At The City Gate I found one of the most balanced approaches to ministry I have seen. The people there serve tirelessly to offer great tasting and good quality meals to the homeless, and Pastor John is gifted with the ability to tell what kind of a person someone is and relate with each person in an individualized way. Because of these things, those served by The City Gate know that they are seen, loved, and cared about. On the other hand, Pastor John and the other staff are not afraid to call people out when needed or to deal with the hard stuff, such as enforcing the rules and dealing with conflict. They have a great team at City Gate. The first time I met Pastor John, he told me, "I don't have to manage people much here." I got to witness this firsthand, since one of the days I volunteered Pastor John was out of town. The team worked like clockwork in his absence, and every time someone was absent everyone else pitched in to fill in for them.

I am so honored to have had the privilege of serving at The City Gate and felt like part of the family even after my short time there. May God bless you guys!

Esther Z, RN, BSN student



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

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The City Gate



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## A Gathering Place...

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



We are still serving our guests outside, to-go style, to limit contact. Our need for containers is great!

## ONGOING NEED

**To-Go style containers that can be used to serve our meals**

Here is an example of the styles that work well for our needs. These were bought at URM on Hamilton, by Gonzaga.



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