

How Hope Rescue Mission (HRM) is helping those without a home during the 'stay-at-home' order.



A recent article in Bloomberg Cities news asked the question, *"How do you comply with a 'stay-at-home' order if you don't have a home?"* The article listed the five top ways that cities can help the homeless during these unprecedented times. Following is the list of these five action points, along with what **Hope Rescue Mission** and its partners are doing to **HELP PEOPLE...RESTORE HOPE ...CHANGE LIVES...**

Halt evictions:

- **HRM** is partnered through the COAD Task Force (Community Organizers Active in Disaster) so that our 549-HOPE Coordinators and the City Landlord Liaisons may talk to property management companies and private landlords in order to help those who are or will be at risk. There are some who we can help directly and some that we are able to mediate payments for so they can stay in their existing housing. The City of Missoula has asked for a halt on evictions with not much response, so working together collaboratively has been a huge success in preventing homelessness.
- **549-Hope Coordinators** are huge assets to our At-Risk COAD group as they receive training on working together with landlords.

Adapting shelters, acquiring new space, and creating isolation capacity:

- **HRM** is working with *Reaching Home* 10-year plan to end homelessness and through the COAD Task Force to talk with churches and the City of Missoula about securing spaces that may be available for shelter, overflow shelter, and how we can help with those who are in isolation stay in isolation.

Upgrading hygiene and sanitation, and medical support:

- **HRM** is working with the City of Missoula and Missoula County to provide hand washing stations, dumpsters, and portable toilet facilities in areas where the unsheltered are staying.
- **HRM** is leading the effort in coordinating with churches to collect more hygiene kits and other essentials than normal.
- In conjunction with COAD we have streamlined services through our **Hope Outreach**.

Increasing meal services:

- **HRM** has partnered with Feed the Need to serve 90 hot meals a week to those who are unsheltered and 50 non-perishable sack lunches in downtown Missoula.

Stepping up Outreach:

- **HRM** is now visiting the Reserve Street camps area five days a week along with our church and organization partners.
- COT (Coordinated Outreach Team) comprised of HRM and the Poverello's Outreach Teams is now serving those who are unsheltered downtown and in the Broadway Island area due to COVID-19.
- The **HRM Outreach Team** has doubled in size through church volunteers who pour into those who are unsheltered.
- The **549-HOPE call center** plays a huge role in all of these efforts.

In these uncertain times, how wonderful it is to be able to rest in the promises of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The **HRM** staff, partners and volunteers continue to **Help People...Restore Hope...Change Lives** while, at the same time, taking recommended precautions. We press on, not with a spirit of fear, but, with confidence that God is in control. In consideration of those most vulnerable and for the health and safety of all, we have closed the **Hope Thrift Boutique** temporarily and, yet, are planning for a future Customer Appreciation Day and look forward to receiving your donations of good used items again. The **Grace House** has suspended off campus activities for the residents and is preparing the garden for spring planting. The **Outreach Team** has stepped up efforts to visit and care for the basic needs of those who are homeless. The **549-HOPE Coordinators** are taking calls from home and organizing deliveries for those who need food and medications but are unable to pick them up. Our community meal that was scheduled for April 9th has been postponed until the health department deems that the danger has passed.

While most activities have largely been put on hold, know that you are in our prayers and that we eagerly await when we are able to be working side by side again with you.

During our time of physical separation, here are some things you can do to support those in greatest need:

- Clean out your closets and drawers to donate your good used items when we are able to safely receive donations again.
- Dust off and polish your used furniture in good condition and send a picture to boutique@hopemontana.org if you would like to put it on consignment when we reopen.
- Collect health and sanitation items that are in short supply at the stores and call 549-HOPE (4673) to let us know you have them.
- Sew face masks to be donated to those who must be out among people.
- Text GIVEHOPE to 26989 and sign up to give a one-time, recurring or roundup donation.
- Start a fundraiser on your FaceBook page.
- Use smile.amazon.com when ordering on-line and choose Union Gospel Mission of Missoula (dba Hope Rescue Mission) as the recipient of Amazon's matching gifts.
- Set aside the funds you would have used for temporarily suspended activities. You can visit our website www.hopemontana.org or mail a donation to Hope Rescue Mission, PO Box 306, Missoula MT 59806.
- Consider donating part or all of your stimulus funds to those in great need.
- Thrivent members can now donate your Choice Dollars to Union Gospel Mission of Missoula (dba Hope Rescue Mission).

Here are just a few examples of how your donations help:

- **\$15.84** sponsors a table of 8 at our community meal.
- **\$48.21** sponsors one participant for one day at our Women and Children's Grace House.
- **\$87.67** operates our 549-HOPE call center for one day.
- **\$128.05** supports our outreach programs to those living on the streets and in their vehicles.

We are in exciting times and there is opportunity all around us to demonstrate the love that God so freely lavishes on us!

May the Lord bless and keep you,
The Staff of Hope Rescue Mission