

Rising From the Ashes

“I got a call I never wanted to get on the morning of September 16, 2012.” The agency’s new Transition Home for young men was on fire, said Kathy Bray, President & CEO of Volunteers of America, Utah. The house located at 516 South 500 East was about to be renovated so homeless young men could move in this December. The three alarm fire has pushed those plans back. “We are determined to keep the project moving forward. The need for housing for homeless young people is at a critical level.” said Bray.

According to investigators, the fire was electrical and was bound to happen sooner or later. “We had just assisted the home’s residents in relocating and were waiting for the building permit when the house caught on fire. We are blessed that no one was in the home when the fire started.” The majority of the third floor is gone and the entire house sustained water, and smoke damage. Ceilings fell in, bathrooms were ruined and plaster fell everywhere.

The agency is working with the insurance company to decide on new plans for rebuilding the home. When completed, 14 young homeless men will move in as a transitional housing program. These young men will learn life skills, set goals, enroll in school or training if needed, hold jobs and work on a plan for self sufficiency.

Community support for the project has been wonderful, but with the recent fire more support will be needed. VOA received a \$30,000 emergency grant from American Express to help with expenses. You can help by making a donation at www.voaut.org. More photos are available on the website as well. Kathy and her hard working staff want to thank Salt Lake City Fire Department for risking their lives to help extinguish the blaze.



VOA's Transition Home burns.
Photos courtesy of Bryce Packham, www.SmileLakeCity.com

Hope for the Holidays - Kathy Bray

Most families I know, including mine, plan holiday gatherings with hopes that ____ (fill in the name) will refrain from drinking too much or will be in better shape than last year, etc. Many of us experience addictions within our families and/or close friends.

There is help available. Our organization operates two residential detoxification centers and an outpatient counseling center in Salt Lake County. It's our mission to reach and uplift all people. To get more information or to seek help, call Cornerstone Counseling Center at 801-363-9414.

If you'd like to learn more about our programs, I will be hosting program tours. If you are interested, please call me at 801-363-9414 x. 579 or e-mail me at kbray@voaut.org. I wish you and your family a peaceful holiday season.





Fill the Pack 2012



Make the holidays brighter for youth living on the streets

Homeless Youth Resource Center Wish List

- Financial Contributions
- New Backpacks (school size)
- Gift Cards (grocery, fast food, movies)
- Hand Warmers
- Hygiene Items (body wash, razors, shampoo, deodorant - full size)
- Reusable Water Bottles
- Beanies (dark colors)
- Gloves (dark colors)
- Treat bags



Just \$100 can provide a holiday backpack and a day of valuable services to a youth living on the streets.

Give Today!

www.voaut.org

Homeless Youth Resource Center
655 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Contact Mandi to get involved at

801-364-0744

OR

mandi.keller@voaut.org



Volunteers
of America
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Helping Our Communities Most Vulnerable - Children

Volunteers of America, Utah has a rich history of impacting the lives of homeless individuals and people struggling with addiction. What might not be as obvious is that many of those people are teens or children. Here are a few of the other programs we offer to help children:

Center for Women and Children - The Center is a detoxification facility for homeless women, but unique in the fact that mother's can bring their children with them (up to age 10) while they detox. This breaks down a huge barrier for mothers who want to get clean and sober. The Center also offers opportunity for transitional housing.

Homeless Youth Resource Center - The Center offers a safe place for homeless young people, ages 15-22. The Drop-In Center provides basic needs as well as counseling and case management to help youth out of homelessness.

Cornerstone Counseling Center

Prevention - The Prevention team works in schools and community centers to help kids stay on a positive life track. Many of the school age children are facing challenges in their home. Prevention helps them gain the confidence and tools they need to make good life choices.

Youth Treatment Services - This outpatient treatment program works with young people at a very vulnerable age. Youth are counseled in groups and one-on-one to help them learn the life skills needed to stay off of drugs and alcohol, how to manage complex family situations and other life stresses. Last year 310 young people received services from Youth Treatment Services.

Children's Care Center - While mothers and/or fathers are coming to Cornerstone Counseling Center for group sessions, therapy and counseling appointments their children are being cared for by staff at our Children's Care Center. This service removes the hardship of finding reliable and affordable child care for people's children while they work to better their own lives.



Reaching Out With Mercy and Compassion



Homeless Outreach workers Larry Mullin and Sanela Piragic.

“Volunteers of America’s Homeless Outreach, we have food and supplies. Come on out to the van if you need anything.” These were the words shouted by Outreach Workers, Larry Mullin and Sanela Piragic as they walked along a row of tents and tarps in a Salt Lake area homeless camp. They had just dropped off a sleeping bag to a woman in need. One person emerged from his tent and came to get a bag of food and a fresh pair of socks.

Prior to this stop, the pair had gone by to check on a man they had found in ill condition the day before. He and his wife are living in their broken down van. Mullin and Piragic called EMT’s the day before after seeing the man’s poor health condition. He was transferred to the ER and found to be okay. Checking on him the next day, his condition had worsened and he was taken to Fourth Street Clinic by the outreach workers. Later, he was admitted to an ICU at a local hospital with organ failure. “In my heart I knew something wasn’t right with this man.” said Mullin. Now he is getting the care he needs. Sadly, he will probably be released, when better and return to the van he calls home. VOA’s Homeless Outreach team is working with the couple to try to arrange housing. Until then, Mullin and Piragic will provide what they can. Last year our outreach workers, housing case managers and medical outreach staff helped 1,762 homeless people in Salt Lake County.

Spirit of Giving Award - Daniels Fund

The Daniels Fund carries forward Bill Daniel’s legacy of generosity. The Life and Legacy of Bill Daniels describes Bill as a hard working, courageous, ethical and visionary man who was a pioneer in cable television. He lived most of his adult life in Colorado. Utah claimed a special place in Bill’s heart when he made Salt Lake City the new home of his first professional basketball team, the American Basketball Association’s Utah Stars. Throughout his life, Bill demonstrated his commitment to helping others and giving back. He found joy in sharing his good fortune.

Volunteers of America, Utah has been the grateful recipient of \$355,000 in grants from the Daniels Fund since 2003. The grants have generously supported the Homeless Outreach Program, the Circle of Hope project for American Indians, and the Center for Women and Children where homeless women recover from alcoholism and addiction. In September Volunteers of America, Utah presented Andrea Nelson from the Daniels Fund with the Spirit of Giving Award 2012.



Robert Yorgason, Kathy Bray and Mike King present the Spirit of Giving Award to Andrea Nelson, Daniels Fund

Helping Families - Candy Cane Corner

A partnership of Volunteers of America, The Road Home and the YWCA. Candy Cane Corner is a holiday “store” for families being served by these three agencies. Parents shop, at no cost, for items for their children and themselves. Allowing parents to pick out holiday gifts they know their children need and want allows for dignity and love during a difficult time.

When: December 1- December 24

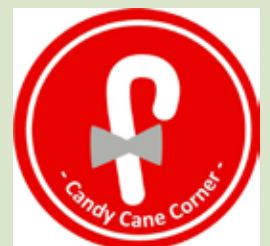
Time: M-F 10-7:00pm Sat. & Sun 12:00-5:00pm

Where: 502 West 300 South

All the items are NEW and donated! Please do not gift wrap donations.

Wish List: Toys, Clothing all genders and sizes, Household Items, Hygiene Items, Games, Teen Items, Pajamas, Gift Card (\$5-25), Gift Wrap, Stocking Stuffers, Socks, Underwear, Coats...

Learn more or sign up to volunteer at www.candycanecornerslc.org



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I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. -Charles Dickens

Silver Spurs Gala

Thank you to everyone who attended our Silver Spurs Gala on September 28, 2012. It was a fun filled evening with lots of cowboy boots, great music, auctions and games. Special thanks to our generous sponsors: Adobe, Energy Solutions and American Roofing. VOA's Events Committee worked throughout the year to make it a magical evening for everyone who attended. Robert Yorgason and Kathy Bray Co-Chaired the event which brought in more than \$55,000.



Event photos courtesy of Natalie Bona, Forever Lasting Images

Distance for Destiny

Students from Juan Diego High School held their annual Distance for Destiny 5K race on September 29, 2012. Participants and sponsors helped to raise \$5,000 for VOA's Homeless Youth Resource Center.

"Homeless Youth deal with daily issues that most youth can't even imagine. We love seeing young people working to help other young people improve their lives." Zach Bale, VOA's VP of External Relations.



Juan Diego High School Student Council members present a check to the Homeless Youth Resource Center

