

voice



Volunteers of America, Utah Newsletter - Spring 2012

Glimmers of Hope

Spring is here and certainly offers vibrant signs of renewal, and many glimmers of hope. I love this time of year for the visual beauty it brings in the bright flowers, budding trees, green hillsides, and snowy mountain peaks. This is also one of the more difficult times of the year here at Volunteers of America, Utah.

We're working on business plans and budgets for next fiscal year, which will start in July. We clearly see more people seeking help and not enough resources to meet those needs. It seems like people who are homeless and living in poverty will be the last to experience a rebound from the recession. So, when the glimmers of hope come our way, we are so grateful.

A glimmer of hope came from the State legislature. They approved a lead gift for a new Homeless Youth Resource Center. What a shining example of commitment to serve a very vulnerable group of people. We are currently seeking a new location for a larger Homeless Youth Resource Center. We will do more for the 1,000+ homeless youth in Salt Lake County – more housing options, more educational opportunities, more employment support, more hope and love.

And, glimmers also come from foundations, corporations, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County governments. Glimmers of hope come from individuals, too. Each gift is like a bright star. So many entities and people have come forward to provide a first time gift and/or a stretch gift to keep our programs going and meet community needs. Thank you for helping the most vulnerable in our community – those who often get turned away from other services. With your support we can offer opportunities for a better tomorrow.

There are a couple bright spots coming this summer. We will have two construction projects under way: our Detoxification Program expansion and remodel of property to be used as a transition home for young homeless men. Ultimately, it's about instilling hope in the hearts and minds of people we serve. Life for them can be better with more safety, more stability, more empowerment. May the glimmers prevail.



Kathy Bray, President & CEO with Bob Lake, Board Chair

Kathy Bray,
President & CEO

Women in Recovery Recognized - *I Remember Mama*

Every year around Mother's Day, Volunteers of America holds a special banquet to recognize women who have made the choice to live clean and sober lives. The annual *I Remember Mama* dinner is an inspirational evening where women in recovery are encouraged to stick with their treatment program, stories or successes are shared and women are honored. This year, Jodi Delaney was awarded the agency's Outstanding Woman in Recovery award. After more than 11 years of sobriety Jodi has achieved academic, family and career success. She shared her powerful story with more than 220 women in attendance. Thank you sponsors: Optum Health, First Step House, SL County Alcohol and Drug Council and many individuals.



Jodi Delaney with family

Homeless Outreach Extends Helping Hand Even Further

Homeless Outreach Team (HOP)

For years VOA has been known for its red Homeless Outreach van. Outreach workers drive the streets and alleys of Salt Lake County, walk through parks, along rivers and under bridges looking for people who are struggling with homelessness. Last year HOP assisted more than 1,600 people in need.

Workers provide basic need items to people who have little or nothing. In addition to food, clothing, tents and sleeping bags they also provide assistance with other needs. Often staff drive people to one of our 2 detox facilities, to shelter and to the VA for assistance. They provide phone numbers for important service agencies and give friendship to people who feel invisible in society.

Case Managers also assist with housing needs. They provide a valuable service in helping men and women apply for housing assistance, moving into apartments and support them after a move to help with the transition.

Medical Outreach Services Team (MOST)

As the agency has spent time in the homeless community they have seen the need for more assistance. Together with the Fourth Street Clinic, the Medical Outreach Services Team (MOST) was started. The team meets people where they are and provides on-the-spot medical assistance, transport and referral to medical facilities.

Ed Snoddy is leading VOA's part in the new MOST program. He explains, "This team is designed to meet the medical needs of homeless individuals living on the streets, along the rivers or abandoned areas of Salt Lake County. We seek out individuals that are most vulnerable, who are service resistant to main stream service, and those who are in need of housing and benefits. The program is designed to offer short term case management to bridge the gap between MOST and permanent community service." We are proud to be able to offer this unique service to people suffering on the streets.

Library Engagement Team

In addition, VOA will soon be adding a Library Engagement Team. Lori MacKinnon, Homeless Outreach Program Manager says "The library team will provide outreach to the chronically homeless who frequent the Salt Lake City and Sugar House libraries. They will act to provide support to library staff and provide crisis intervention to those patrons who are struggling with mental health issues, drug addiction and homelessness. They will also provide referrals to those in need to other community agencies for shelter, basic need items, detoxification services and benefits. This program will be beneficial to the library staff and the other patrons of the libraries. The team will provide a much needed service that will help library staff meet the needs of all their patrons, while engaging with homeless people in a non-judgmental and caring way." Funding for this program was awarded to VOA through Optum Health and Salt Lake County Behavioral Health. *Photos courtesy of Francisco Kjolset, Salt Lake Tribune.*



Char McCuaig and Ed Snoddy help a man on the streets



Homeless camp in Salt Lake County

Homeless Outreach Wishlist

- Bottled Water
- New Socks
- New Underwear
- Men's Jeans (size 38)
- Canned Foods
- Sunscreen
- Tents and Tarps
- Outreach Van
- Cash Donations

Drop Donations at our Admin office :
435 W. Bearcat Drive
M-F 8:30am-5:00pm
or call 801-875-4586
to make arrangements

New Transition Home for Young Men to Open



Bruce Bastian speaks on behalf of homeless youth

This past December Volunteers of America, Utah announced the purchase of a home in Salt Lake City to provide transitional housing for 14 homeless young men ages 18-24. This new home will meet a critical need in the community, helping to end the cycle of youth homelessness for young men. Over the past 5 years, Volunteers of America has seen the number of homeless youth in Salt Lake County grow by more than 160%. Volunteers of America, Utah offers services to homeless youth through its existing Homeless Youth Resource Center by providing Street Outreach, a day-time Drop-In Center and Transitional Housing for young women. In the last fiscal year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) the agency served more than 1,040 homeless young people.

Programs at the new home will include safe residential services, basic needs support, 24 hour supervision, use of the Positive Youth Development model, goal setting, monitoring of school progress, tutoring and employment services. Comprehensive case management services will help address social, emotional, physical and behavioral needs. Staff will also offer prevention planning to ensure that residents do not become homeless again in the future and will provide after-care support to young men for an additional six months after they move out of the house.

To help fund this project, Volunteers of America received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which required matching funds. Thanks to the generosity of John Netto & Rev. Catherine Putnam-Netto, the LGBT Community Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Utah, the B. W. Bastian Foundation, Salt Lake City, the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund and other private donors, VOA has begun to match the grant. The LGBT Community Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Utah and B. W. Bastian Foundation have created a challenge grant for \$100,000. About \$48,000 is still needed to reach the match.



New Transition Home is set to open November 2012

You can contribute to this project by going to www.voaut.org or send your contribution to Volunteers of America, Utah 435 W. Bearcat Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Silver Spurs Gala - September 28, 2012

A benefit for Volunteers of America, Utah
Celebrating 26 years of service

When: Friday, September 28th

Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Where: The Gathering Place at Gardner Village

Join us in honoring:

The Daniels Fund

\$1,200 for a table of 10 or \$125 each.

Tickets available at www.voaut.org or by calling Robert Yorgason, Event Chair at 801-755-8237



Dinner - Live & Silent Auction - Games - Live Music

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safety... stability... empowerment...

Founders' Day Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual breakfast fundraiser. We had a record number of attendees. Special thanks to our table captains, board members and our generous sponsors: American Express, GE Capital, UBS Bank and Energy Solutions. Your contributions will help us continue to serve those in greatest need in our community. Together we can help end homelessness, serve people living in poverty and help people struggling with addiction.



Smoke Free Facilities

Starting May 1st Volunteers of America, Utah facilities have gone smoke free. Preparations for a smoke free environment have been under way for some time. At our Center for Women and Children it wasn't uncommon to see women grouped together in the back yard smoking cigarettes. Most people who are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol also smoke cigarettes.



Meghan Fry, Director of the Center said "Most of our clients have quit smoking or have cut down. Most have already contacted the Tobacco Quit Line. We are providing other resources and information as well." A client at the Women's Center shared "I am quitting because it was required, however the recovery percentage is higher when quitting so I have embraced it. I have been wanting to quit for a while."

If you want to quit smoking
 call 1-800-QUIT NOW

MIDTOWN 3535 South State Street

SOUTH TOWNE 10920 South State Street

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Do Good - Feel Good - Event