



**NEWS ADVISORY**  
**July 27, 2011**  
**For immediate release**

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**Poverello Center Community Discussion Set for August 10**

The City of Missoula and the Poverello Center Board of Directors will host a community discussion about the future location of the Poverello Center on Wednesday, August 10, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at [St. Patrick Hospital, Conference Rooms 2/3](#). Childcare will be provided. All are invited to a discussion facilitated by Amie Thurber, executive director of Missoula's National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI). NCBI provides dispute resolution services throughout Missoula.

The August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will give community members the opportunity to share their thoughts about priorities for a new Poverello Center facility. This conversation is built from the assumptions that homelessness is a key community concern, that the Poverello Center serves a critical need in Missoula, and that diverse community interests must be heard and considered in determining where and how that need is met.

At its Ryman Street building, the Poverello Center serves all of Missoula with shelter, meals and clothing for people who are homeless, unemployed or poor. In 2010, it provided 25,106 nights of shelter and served 126,571 meals. About 40 percent of its clients are employed. Also, 21 percent are veterans, 36 percent are disabled, 19 percent are women and 4 percent are elderly.

The Poverello Center needs a new building to shelter people in safe and decent beds and serve meals more efficiently. Mayor John Engen believes that settling the Poverello in a new facility and serving the needy and homeless is a community responsibility and thus has offered leadership in a public process. It is his hope and the hope of the Poverello Center's board members that open community discussion can lead to a solution that works. They are interested in hearing Missoula residents' ideas and concerns.

Following this meeting, a working group representing diverse stakeholders will work to identify ways to address community concerns and to evaluate potential sites using the criteria set by the Poverello Center board, with community input. The working group will share its recommendations at a second public meeting, likely in late August.

Amie Thurber can be reached at NCBI at 541-6891. St. Patrick Conference Rooms are located on Level 1 of the [Broadway Building](#). The Broadway Building's main entrance is located on the west side of the St. Patrick campus, on McCormick Street. Citizens may park in the underground parking garage off of McCormick Street and take the elevators from the parking garage to the Broadway Building. In addition to the parking garage, citizens may park in the parking lot of the old Safeway Grocery Store, located on the corner of Broadway and McCormick Streets.

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