From: United Way of Missoula County & Reaching Home: Missoula"s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Reaching Out: your update on houselessness in Missoula
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022 2:53:09 PM

United Way of Missoula County

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REACHING OUT

The quarterly newsletter of Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
A partnership between the City of Missoula, Missoula County, and United Way of Missoula County.

Looking back--and ahead

Happy 2022! It's undeniable that 2021 was a tough one, but the success and learning over the course of the past year far outweigh the challenges. Missoula is stepping up in real and significant ways to find solutions for Missoulians, and to create new solutions where they don't already exist. In 2021, partners across Missoula worked to create new spaces including the Temporary Safe Outdoor Space, which has served 86 people, and the now-open Authorized Camping Site, a new legal place for people without a house to camp. Partners also hosted vaccine clinics to help Missoulians who are unhoused protect themselves against COVID-19; housed highly vulnerable neighbors at Cornerstone (a new Permanent Supportive Housing development); broke ground on the Trinity project that will include Permanent Supportive Housing, housing that is affordable, and a housing navigation center); and continued to find housing solutions for 140 people who were houseless amidst an unprecedented housing crisis. These successes show that our persistence and drive to support our neighbors is unwavering. We enter 2022 ready to keep breaking ground on new solutions and moving Missoula forward to ensure that all instances of houselessness are rare, brief, and one-time only.

As always thank you for being part of the solution and part of the journey to get there. And a hearty thank you to United Way for providing this continued space for connection.

In partnership and solidarity,
Emily Armstrong

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Reaching Home Manager, City of Missoula Community Planning, Development & Innovation

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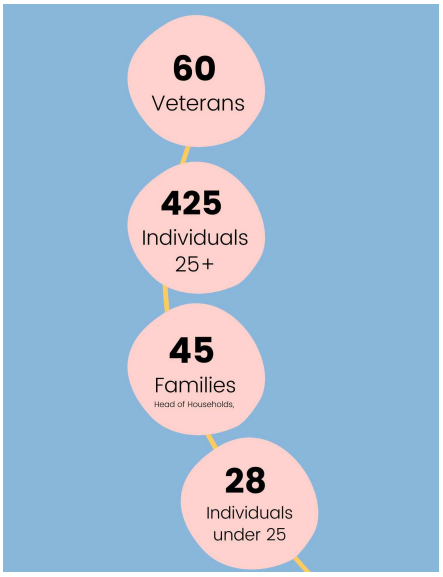
Houselesssness Data



Check out the new Houseless Data webpage! We're thrilled to have this new page out as a resource for the Missoula community to understand the current state of houselessness. Data is a top priority for Reaching Home, working to better understand the data in our houselessness system and increase the quality of the data that we're collecting. In addition to creating a data page, the At-Risk Housing Coalition and the Poverello Center partnered with Charitable Ventures to host two data trainings in November and December for anyone connected to the At-Risk Housing Coalition. There are a variety of other data projects in the works as we continue to strengthen our system-wide data collection and share it more widely across the community. Please take a few minutes to visit our new data site and share it with your friends and networks.

HOUSELESS DATA +

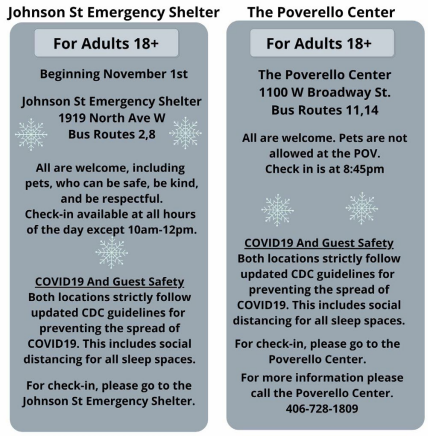
New Authorized Camping Site

The City and County have been hard at work creating the new Authorized Camping Site, located off of Clark Fork Lane. This is a low-barrier camping site for neighbors in Missoula who are unhoused and unsheltered and need a place to camp. The site is equipped with bathrooms, trash and recycling, water, and other basic needs services. It allows pets and is open to anyone who can be safe, kind, and respectful. A designated camping area is a significant need in our community and we're glad to be able to offer

this area as a resource for our neighbors. The new Community Care Team (see below for more information) will visit the site regularly to provide in-person basic medical, social, and housing support to anyone interested. Camping spots will be designated on a first-come, first-served basis.

New Community Care Team

The City and County are partnering with Partnership Health Center to stand up a new Community Care Team made up of a registered nurse, two tenancy support specialists, a peer support specialist, and a community health specialist. This team will travel between sites in Missoula that serve neighbors who are uhoused to provide services and offer support, with priority being on neighbors who are not connected to other services or programs. The team will spend a considerable amount of time at the new Authorized Camping Site and will collaborate with other outreach teams and providers across Missoula.



Emergency Winter Shelter

The Emergency Winter Shelter at the Johnson Street Community Center opened Nov. 1, 2021, and is serving Missoulians every night. This City project is operated by the Poverello Center and funded through partnership between the City, County, and Human Resource Council. It's a critical resource in keeping neighbors alive during the cold Montana winter. The shelter offers a warm space 24 hours a day 7 days a week, one hot meal each day, connection to the Missoula Coordinated Entry System, bathrooms, showers, and various other services. The shelter has served an average of about 80 people per night since opening, with some nights serving more than 100 people.

SPOTLIGHT: Centralized Housing Solutions Fund (CHSF)

The Centralized Housing Solutions Fund (CHSF) is a flexible financial assistance fund developed to support Missoulians by diverting them away from the houselessness system, finding a rapid resolution to their housing crisis, or preventing imminent loss of housing. The fund is operated through a partnership between 2-1-1 at the Human Resource Council as the fund coordinator processing referrals and disbursing funds, United Way as the fund administrator, and Reaching Home providing fund oversight and management. This fund is vital to providing strengths-based support to help neighbors self-resolve their situation with

one-time funding to clear barriers such as: rental deposits, rental arrears, utility payments, moving costs, and a wide variety of other fund uses that get neighbors closer to a temporary or permanent housing solution. Major support for the fund has come from the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Otto Bremer Trust, Wells Fargo, and the Home Coalition.

Inspiring Stories from the Missoula Coordinated Entry System

These are the stories of the people in Missoula doing the work to help neighbors find houses, and the stories of the neighbors finding a new kind of stability.

Story 1: From the Veterans Services Team at the Poverello Center
Two years ago, a female veteran was displaced from her housing due to mental health issues. She was living under a tarp behind Walmart. The Poverello Center's Veterans Services Team enrolled the neighbor in the Pov's Veterans programs. The Team helped her stabilize through connection to new medication and enrollment in their service-intensive transitional housing model. In early December, this neighbor signed a lease and received the keys to her very own apartment (permanent supportive housing with a voucher).

Story 2: From Winnie Lohof with PATH at Western Montana Mental Health Center
The name of the neighbor in this story has been changed for confidentiality.
Jack* was having a bad few weeks. He had been experiencing houselessness for almost five years but these past few weeks were simply untenable. After no longer being able to stay with family due to safety concerns, Jack began camping off a trail near the river. Hidden by nature and with spring slowly arriving, Jack was beginning to feel safe for the first time in a long time.

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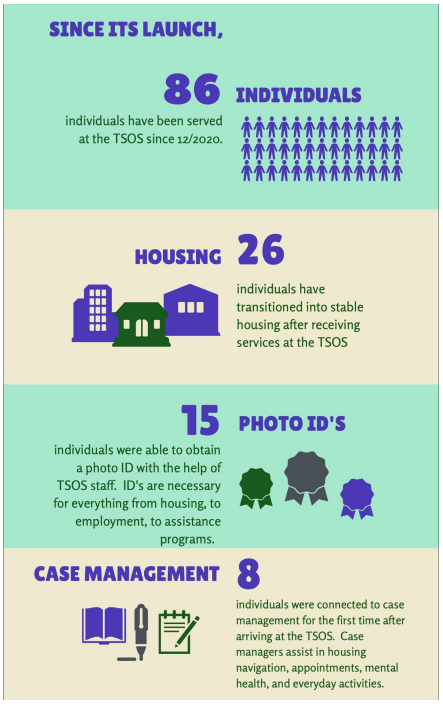
Temporary Outdoor Safe Space completes successful first year

About 30% of the people who stayed at the Temporary Safe Outdoor Space have moved into housing–see the first-year statistics in the graphic to the left.

As background: Missoula's Temporary Safe Outdoor Space (TSOS) is a safe, healthy, secure, staffed (24/7) environment, on private land, that prioritizes serving – with dignity – people experiencing houselessness during the COVID-19 pandemic who are not accessing existing services or resources (approximately 25 people at a time). A goal of Missoula TSOS is to offer people safe space during the pandemic and link them to appropriate, sustainable housing.



Missoula TSOS is a partnership between United Way of Missoula County, Hope Rescue Mission and other nonprofits, the faith community, law enforcement and other first responders, private businesses, county emergency management, and Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. It opened in mid-December of 2020.

You can help

Missoulians have proved again and again they have a heart for helping our most vulnerable. You can help our unhoused neighbors all year round by remembering to shop at Hope Rescue Mission's Thrift Boutique, by watching and helping the Poverello Center's Current Needs Page, and by making a financial gift through United Way.

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