

Marry Christmas



Happy New Year

A Ray of Hope News Letter

November 2013

From The Desk of Peggy

A Hand Up Vs. Entitlements

It is important to consider that while all individuals are different, God loves each of His children and has a purpose for each one of them through the fact, nature, surprise and permanence of His love and not by following the world's ways. This is the cornerstone of the ministry and work of A Ray of Hope.

In giving a hand up to the walking wounded, we need to be a good student of individual human nature, learning more than names and faces and occupation. Each guideline of A Ray of Hope is meant to discover the things that please and displease each person in their actions and reactions, and taking note of their strong and weak points. With the staff's and volunteer's willingness to adjust their own self-interests in order to provide another child of God the same love Christ provided when he forgave us, a lost sinner is reached to bring us to the position we are at today. We encourage staff and volunteers to jog their memory daily when they become upset over people's poor choices and sin, and to have the same love for others that Christ and others have had for us, in that when we were yet sinners He loved us into victory over the death of our poor choices and bondage. They then learn to walk away from all the drama and the people who create it, and instead surround themselves with people who make them laugh, forget the bad, and focus on the good, love the people who treat you right and pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy.

Steps of a Hand up-not a Hand out.

*Respecting everyone as an equal and believing that God has a purpose for them. Falling down is a part of life; getting back up is a choice of grabbing a hand up or living on hand outs.

*Following a daily guideline of what is expected of them to take care of themselves. They are also expected to care about the needs of others around them.

*When they are involved in gossip, looking down on others, or pointing at other's bad behavior, they are required to write up an incident report and sign it. They learn to face issues head on and get it straightened out. They then learn how to play well with each other.

*Serving four hours a day towards the care of their home, (the shelter) Helping at Hope Thrift, and helping others in the community.

*They are required to look for work and bring back job applications so that A Ray of Hope can verify that they are working to get a job. We even call the possible employer as to why they were not hired. In doing so changes can be made.

*We help them get their ID's back, acquire a driver's license and get their G.E.D.

*We help them find odd jobs, which helps them to build good references. We ask people that hire them to honestly evaluate their work, and that helps build their self-worth, or holds them accountable for poor work

Continued on page 2 see A Hand Up

Your Donations At Work

“I found A Ray Of Hope by doing online research for ways that I could get help. They helped me get my CNA reinstated. They helped my father and mother, whom I am living with, get tires.” A family has adopted her family for Christmas.



Larissa

Their need and sto- single mom who on. A Ray of Hope along with her land- her children in the know and love.



Corie

ry: Corie is a lives in Mari- helped her lord to keep home they

A moth- is living in a trail- worried the rent to find little girls ma. A Ray of Hope helps her with gas for job hunting and she has been adopted for Christmas.



Christina

er looking for work. She Somers, Mt. and is rent- er from her dad. She gets she won't be able to pay because she is struggling work. She has 2 sweet and loves being a mom- of Hope helps her with

A Thank you Note:

We really appreciate the help you guys gave to us especially today of all days after the government shut down when there is 800,000 people without a job today. May God richly bless A Ray of Hope with showers of blessings rain. We all need to step up and be the church and get out of our boxes, in giving a hand up.

David and Heather

A Hand UP

From page 1

habits.

We hold each one accountable to budget counseling and how they are spending their money. The sad part of this one is that they will fight us out of pride stating that “no one is going to tell them what they will do with their funds”. Or they fear that they owe so much that they will never be out of debt, or they “cannot find the paper work of their debts”. The last one is “well I don't have any funds to budget”. Many times we start with their food stamps, and how and what they are buying with them. This has been the first step for many of our guests getting off all government entitlements.

When people come in from the community for help, we call landlords, utilities, and sometime background checks, because we do not want to enable someone to spend money on bondages or wants instead of being accountable to others. We strive to help them learn to live within their means, which starts with holding a job. Many of the people who come for help say “I am above flipping hamburgers and cleaning up after others”.

Husband Derek was laid off because of winter. He is a painter. Wife Pheren just got a job. They have three kids. A Ray of Hope helped them in a hand up and the family was adopted for Christmas.



More of Your Donations at Work

“I just wanted to express what a wonderful place Ray of Hope is! I have been cooking up a crock pot dinner once a week for the past month or so. The home is such a warm and comfortable place to be. Mandy and Karen work so hard. Mandy is such a caring person, I am so glad to know her! I've met a lot of very nice people here. Kalispell is very lucky to have Ray of Hope part of its community. Such a big blessing! Thank you Peggy and Bob Christensen.”

A Ray of Hope Volunteer Toni

A single grandmother, Lee Anne moved to Kalispell and started living with a family member and- own housing to Ray of Hope family was

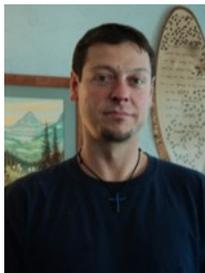


working to get her raise her grandson. A helped and her little adopted for Christmas.

Steva came to A Ray of Hope desperately in need of assistance with electrical and gas to keep her two young girls in a home. A Ray of Hope paid her electrical and gas bills. They have been adopted for Christmas.

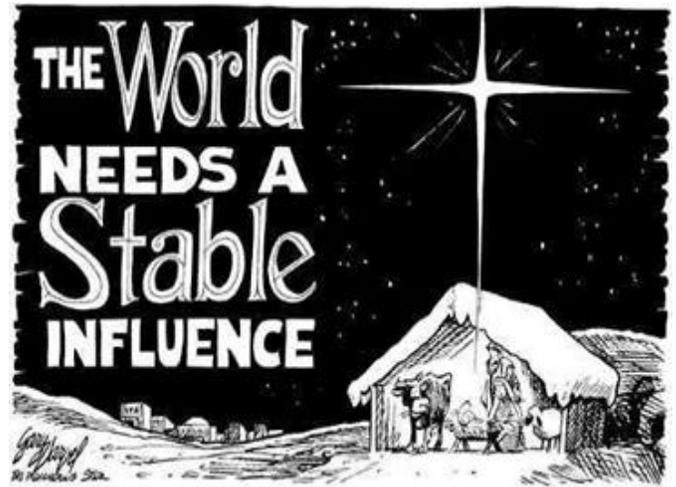


Brandon is a single dad looking wanting to pro- ters. Brandon was until he hurt his struggles to find loves the Lord wants to serve.



hard working sin- for work and just vide for his daugh- in construction back and now the right job. He very much and His daughters are the apple of his eye. A Ray of Hope paid his rent. Brandon has given back by working to help get a camera system installed at Hope Thrift. His family has been adopted for Christmas.

“My name is Leslie. I have a son who is 2 years old. I just recently got custody of my 15 year old brother. I am a college student looking for work. My family lost my 18 year old brother at the beginning of this summer in a tragic accident which has been hard on all my family.” AROH helped Leslie, and her family was adopted for Christmas.



The reason for the season is that Christ the Son of God came to bless the world with His truth. We at A Ray of Hope work to walk in Christ's path by giving a hand up to others. One of the biggest hand ups that we give is in Budget Counseling headed up by our board member, David Mclean. A Ray of Hope needs more people to step up to mentor another in understanding and living on a budget to be able to stand on their own. If you feel lead to help in this area please sign up for Dave's upcoming Budget Counseling Seminar to be held on Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 9 to 3 p.m. at Family Life Christian Church.

There is no charge and lunch will be served.

Babysitting will be available for the children.

Please call 755-4673 for sign up and more information.

A Ray of Hope
PO Box 5407
Kalispell MT 59901

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Visit us at <http://arayofhopemontana.com/> Phone 406 755 4673

A Hand Up Not A Hand Out

Peggy Christensen Executive Director
Board Members
Linda Mengwasser / Paul Befumo / Lynn Wilson
Bill Phillips / Robert Christensen / Tom Dalton /
Connie Kirby / John Weaver / Dave Mclean

WE have good workers that need a Hand up
with Work
Call 755-4673

Donations Of Food, Eggs, Meat, Sugar, Coffee,
TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex , Money
Are Greatly Appreciated
Donations are tax deductible

Mission Statement:
A Ray of Hope is a 501c3 State and Federal tax-exempt organization formed to help those in need. Our primary focus is helping families become functioning members of society and helping the hungry and homeless with their need when all else has failed them.



Shelter
46 5th Av West Kalispell MT 59901 PH 406 755 4673



Thrift Store
105 6th Av West Kalispell MT 59901 PH 406 260 4184

Please send donations to
A Ray of Hope
PO Box 5407, Kalispell MT 59903