



## *A Ray of Hope News Letter*

February 2014

### **From The Desk of Peggy**

## **A RAY OF HOPE WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HOMELESS SHELTER Update**

### **To be Located at 106 5th Ave W Kalispell, MT 59901**

A Ray Of Hope (AROH) currently operates a men's and women's homeless shelter at 46 5th Ave. West in Kalispell, Mt., a thrift store located at 105 6th Ave. W., also in Kalispell, and a mountain retreat for drug and alcohol treatment at 2340 Hope Road, Helmsville, MT 59843.

AROH has aspirations of constructing a women and children's homeless shelter directly South and across the street of the current AROH shelter and directly adjacent to, and just West and across the alley from AROH thrift store. The plan is to demolish the existing home on this property and construct a new building capable of sheltering and serving approximately 25 guests, all women and children. Currently the shelter is limited in its ability to take in children. Having children in the current location with men and women from all different walks of life puts a great burden on staff and volunteers. AROH understands that when a mother and child are on the street they are in greater danger from the effects of the weather, and are probably not close enough to others to cry out for help against an attack if they have to camp or park somewhere. A new facility designed specifically for homeless women with children will provide the safe, short term housing they need.

The guests at the current shelter "give back" by helping out, and these women and children will also help with the operation of the thrift store as well as the daily duties and responsibilities of the shelter. More importantly they will use their talents, as well as receive training in life skills that can help them gain employment. They will also receive budget counseling so they will learn the difference between a hand

up and a handout, and acquire a desire to stand on their own. AROH's hand up assists them in meeting life's challenges, and they gain needed skills to live on their own while taking care of their children, instead of a hand up that keeps them dependent upon community services. A Ray of Hope does this without putting a burden on the state or county's tax base.

There is an ever growing need for sheltering the homeless. AROH operates strictly on donations from private individuals and churches. Being able to provide shelter to children completes AROH'S GOAL TO SHELTER ALL THOSE IN NEED WITH GREATER SAFETY.

We have once again seen people from the community give a hand up in helping people less fortunate. The vision of the shelter is coming together. People are stepping up and moving the vision forward. Garry Phelps is the general contractor, Tom Able is the structural Engineer, and Gene and Dusty Dziza are heading up fundraising. Skilled people in various trades have signed up to help with the building process, and the staff and volunteers are moving forward with a community vision to give struggling women with children a safe place off the streets. Our heart is to hold a debt free, old fashioned Montana house raising.

Bob and I are so blessed with the giving hearts of people who help others who are less fortunate when the need arises. We are SO

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# UPDATE

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grateful to know many people are off all welfare, and the best gift is seeing they have gained back their self worth.

Peggy,

I was homeless and you with a kind heart gave me a place of my own. That is really so nice of you helping vets. I won't forget, I promise.

Carl Nunley

**Peggy,**

My name is Sheri Jenkins and my fiancee is Christopher Quillin. My family and I want to thank you for all your help. I had to take a leave of absent from work due to kidney disease related issues during pregnancy. I was



in and out of the hospital and finally had an emergency c-section New year's eve after hours of trying to induce unsuccessfully. My darling nautical is still in the NICU at this time. We are hoping to bring her home in the next few days. You were able to help with our utilities. I just want to let you know how much you have helped me. It is more than I can express. It helped financially and my stress levels. It has been a long trial and you have given my a ray of hope.

Thank you so very much,  
Sheri Jenkins

## Meet A Ray of Hope Volunteer

A Ray of Hope is a team effort. Accountability is very important in life and in a successful recovery.

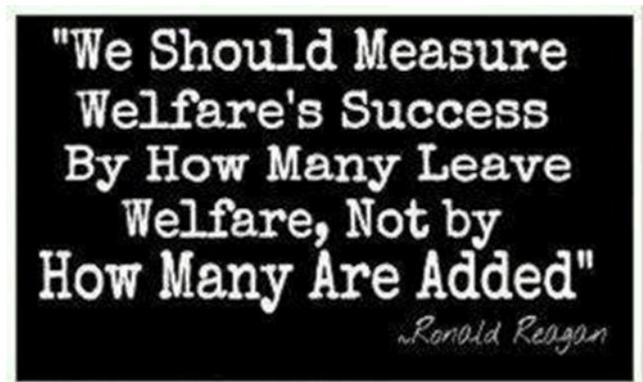
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by example. Therefore it is very important we don't engage in gossip and grumblings, but have a positive attitude to face an issue no matter how big or small, and deal directly with each incident in a hurting person's life. I enjoy walking through the doors of A Ray of Hope because I see daily blessings of hurting people's needs being met in a hand up. I am very excited for the training I am gaining in working with a great team who loves the work they are doing to give a hand up instead of a hand out in teaching others to stand on their own. It is blessing my socks off.

Delta



## A Ray of Hope Guidelines

The ministry of A Ray of Hope is built around the biblical truths in a twelve step program that holds each guest accountable to change their lives. They are living at the shelters knowing our mission statement and our motto of “A hand up—not a hand out”.

### The following is a letter from a guest who is now on staff and blessing the ministry .

I would like you to know that I have no problems with our guidelines here at AROH. I think it would do good for the staff to read them more and keep up to date so that when guests come to us with questions on a matter we have some basis of knowledge to answer those questions.

I also find myself referring to the white book in the common area quite often and like to keep myself familiar with the specifics of the guidelines in the book. I also do not feel I have seen anyone treated unfairly here at AROH.

These supposed episodes of "mistreatment" inflicted upon guests or staff usually result in the individuals having an attitude of entitlement, and also their lack of gratitude for the opportunities and day to day necessities being provided for them here at AROH. It's been my experience that when staff or a guest is feeling disgruntled it is because they have forgotten that they showed up on our door asking for food and shelter and were given a lot more in return.

The guidelines are here to keep the home from becoming a FLOPHOUSE for anyone who wants to crash a few nights and they are a necessity. I am not speaking from my high horse because as you well know Peggy, I myself have tested and broken almost every guideline you have here during my 10 year association with AROH.

I am very grateful that you have always given me another chance. This gives me a bit of a different perspective when I see fellow guests trying to bend the guidelines to suit their own needs. So I hope we all as staff and as current and former guests here at the house can work together in the coming year and keep in mind that the guidelines are here for a reason. Trying to form a personal relationship, friendship, or otherwise, with every guest who comes through the office door can sometimes overshadow the mission statement of the Ministry.

I would also like to note that nowhere in ANY of the guidelines does it say we have to LIKE IT. The guidelines are for the safety and long term mission statements and goals of our ministry. Tonya

Gina Suppers

Thanks so much for helping us out when we needed all the help we could get. Thanks for putting my kids on the adopted family for x-mas. If it wasn't for you guys my kids wouldn't have a nice x-mas. Thanks so much for all you do for these people in need. I'm hoping some day we can return the favor you have done for us. Thanks again. Love, The Suppers

This mom and son were so pleased when they picked up their gifts from a wonderful family from the community who adopted her and her son.



A Ray of Hope  
PO Box 5407  
Kalispell MT 59901

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US Postage Paid  
Kalispell MT  
Permit # 125

Return Service Requested

Thank you for reading about us

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

## A Hand Up Not A Hand Out

Peggy Christensen Executive Director  
406 260 8084

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.

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



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