

Helena Chi Alpha: Community | Mission | Discipleship



Introduction

Helena Chi Alpha is a college missions organization which exists to reconcile students to Christ, equipping them through Spirit-filled communities of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, and mission to transform the university, the marketplace, and the world. Helena Chi Alpha was established in 2001 and has had both a local and global impact. Our ministry is strategic because college students spread throughout the world after earning their degree, taking the gospel message with them.

We minister to college students at Carroll College and Helena College as well as many college-aged young adults in the greater Helena area. We are governed at the regional level by the Montana District of the Assemblies of God and have oversight at the local level from a five-member board. Chi Alpha is the University arm of the Assemblies of God. Nationally, Chi Alpha is on over 300 campuses and has its own organizational leadership apart from the Assemblies of God leadership. The Assemblies of God is our parent organization, with that being said we are an interdenominational ministry, welcoming students of all faiths and backgrounds. At a local level we have a five member board. Our staff team consists of an eight-member executive team led by our two directors along with 10 associate staff members. Every Chi Alpha staff member raises their own personal budget from many donors, typically their family and friends. We have 30 college students and young adults currently on our student leadership team ministering to over 150 students actively involved in our community. Furthermore, our reach extends to the thousands of college students and young adults in Helena.

Our current ministry house has approximately 700 square feet of usable space; however, due to the consistent growth we have experienced over the last decade, it is no longer able to accommodate most of our activities. Despite its inadequate size, the house itself is a critical part of our ministry due to its location across the street from Carroll College. Ultimately, it serves as one of the primary ways we establish contact with new students. During the summer and fall, the space can be useful for hosting outreach events on the lawn; however, once the winter months set in, almost everything we do has to move to the local church in order to accommodate our congregation. Currently, our ministry house fulfills its purpose of being an informal gathering space for our students. Given this, the current location is essential for us to maintain, but we are in need of an additional ministry center. Here are some examples of activities we do that cannot be accommodated by our current locations:

- **Large Group Services and Events:** We host our large group service, Ignite, at a local church, which carries with it two significant drawbacks. The first is that we must plan around the schedule of the church, leading to inconsistency in our services and locations. The second is far more devastating. As American university culture is becoming increasingly secular, even at religious schools, negative associations with churches or religion are becoming more and more common. Because of this, students who grew up



not going to church, and even some who did, are skeptical to go to a service in a church setting. This has weakened our attempts to evangelize to unchurched students and connect with churched students at Ignite. If we were able to invite them to a gathering in a space that was uniquely our own, more students would attend with a friend and hear the gospel message for the first time.

- **Regular Staff and Student Leadership Meetings:** During the week we have many events, including but not limited to, student and staff prayer meetings, general staff meetings, committee meetings, and weekly student leadership meetings. Most of our staff meetings are held in a small corner office at a local church where 18 of us squeeze into a room meant for 9 or 10 at the most. We are in need of a space that could fit us comfortably for meetings, would allow us to split into smaller groups for specific ministry discussions, and would be available to use at any time rather than only when the church is not using it. Our weekly student leadership meeting (about 48 people in total) is also hosted at a local church since our current ministry center is too small, and carries with it some of the same concerns as our large group services and events.
- **Small Group Bible Studies:** At the heart of our ministry are small groups, and we currently host 25 weekly small group Bible studies. Our Student Leadership Team is composed of college aged young adults along with students, and they either solo-lead or co-lead weekly Bible studies for their peers at school or in the community. Many of our leaders have asked to host their small groups at our current ministry center, but unfortunately the space is not conducive to hosting these private gatherings, as the house is always open to students and only has one open area. In addition, some of our small group Bible study leaders go to college online, are in a gap year, or are not currently enrolled in school. Not having a dorm room or living with parents can create a challenge when trying to find a location to host their group. Having a central location able to accommodate multiple small groups a day would boost the health of our small groups and solve the location problem many of our leaders struggle with.
- **One-on-One Discipleship Meetings:** All of our staff and student leaders are involved in weekly one-on-one discipleship meetings with other students to grow in their relationship with God and one another. Our current ministry center is capable of hosting only one of these meetings at a time, so often many of these meetings will take place within public areas. However, these areas are not always available, frequently lack privacy, and are often full of distractions. To put it into perspective, there are almost 100 discipleship meetings that happen every week, and they all find places to meet around Helena.
- **Campus Missionary in Training (CMiT) Classes:** Often in our ministry, students will sense a call on their lives for missions. Our CMiT program equips those recognizing this call to steward it well. We facilitate CMiT, a 10-month intensive study and internship program designed to grow prospective ministers in practical ministry skills and



theological foundations. Currently the space we use is inadequate for hosting our internship classes because of the limited space and resources available at the church office.

- **Chi Alpha Equine (XAE):** Our horse ministry helps students develop horsemanship skills, deeper relationship with God and confidence. It has seen great success in cultivating depth, connection, and self-awareness by utilizing horses. Some ways horses are used in ministry include leading a weekly small group in which horse activities are integrated within the Bible study; teachings and objective lessons during retreats; one-on-one discipleship meetings; leadership training; and more. The horses are currently boarded about 15 minutes from Carroll's campus, making it difficult to utilize them for daily ministry.

These are just a few examples of the issues we face as a decentralized ministry forced to meet in many diverse locations that are often stretched to capacity. We have exhausted our options for finding a meeting place that is close enough in proximity to Carroll College, affordable enough to rent, able to accommodate the number of students involved, and available at times that college students can participate. To continue to see college students and young adults in Helena, Montana fulfill their purpose in God's global plan, we need a central location to gather that accommodates the growing number of students Helena Chi Alpha serves and provides a space needed to continue that work for years to come.

For the last few years, Helena Chi Alpha has searched for a new ministry center that has the capacity for our growing ministry, proximity to campus, and is financially self-sustainable. After many properties failed to meet one or more of these requirements, we have finally found one that fulfills all of our needs and more. The success of this capital campaign will give Helena Chi Alpha a central location for all of our ministry activities, a source of revenue for operating costs, a solution to our space issues, and the ability to confidently steward the faith and future of every young adult in our community for decades to come.

Project Summary

The Helena Chi Alpha Capital Campaign will fund the purchase and improvement of 4880 Green Meadow Dr. Helena, MT, 59602, [hereinafter The Green Meadow Property] to fulfill the growing demands of our ministry. The Green Meadow Property is \$850,000 and consists of a house, shop, and barn that sits on a 12-acre plot of land that is less than 5 minutes from Carroll College. Our aim is to renovate the 64 foot x 32 foot shop into a ministry center where we host all of our activities and events. We will renovate the existing 4752 square foot house into two apartments that will be rented out to help pay for the monthly costs of the property. With the assistance of local contractors, it is estimated the total improvement costs will be approximately \$150,000, bringing the total project cost to \$1,000,000.



Right now, the Green Meadow Property is owned by a couple who strongly supports the vision of Helena Chi Alpha, and see what it could become with the acquisition of the property. They have graciously given Helena Chi Alpha priority in the purchase of this property for a substantial discount of market value \$1,035,000. The asking price of \$850,000 is \$185,000 lower than the market price. Once the funds have been raised, we will purchase the property and begin the improvements.

The Green Meadow property fulfills all of our requirements for a new ministry center as seen below:

- **Centralized Location with Adequate Space:** Upon renovations, we would almost triple the size of our meeting space, creating more than enough room to host all of our ministry activities and events.
- **Available to College-Aged Students:** Because it would give us a space large enough to accommodate 200 students, we would have the freedom and flexibility needed to plan our gatherings and events around the unorthodox schedule of college students.
- **Proximity to Campus:** The Green Meadow Property is only three miles away from Carroll College and a five minute drive.
- **Self-Sustainability:** Upon renovations, the two-unit dwelling will cover the costs of the property and provide a source of income for ministry operating expenses. (See Monthly Property Cashflow Chart and Sustainability sections below for more information).

Project Budget

Purchase Price	\$850,000
Ministry Center and Dwelling Improvements	\$150,000
Total Needed	\$1,000,000

Ministry Center Improvement Breakdown	
Framing	\$5,000
Plumbing	\$3,000
Drywall	\$8,000
Insulation	\$8,000



Tape and Texture	\$6,000
Trim and Finishes	\$3,000
HVAC	\$13,000
Flooring	\$14,000
Doors and Windows	\$4,000
Bathroom	\$7,000
Concrete work	\$9,000
Gravel parking Lot	\$14,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000
Total Needed for Ministry Center Improvements	\$100,000

Dwelling Improvement Breakdown	
Framing	\$3,000
Drywall	\$2,000
Tape and Texture	\$1,500
Flooring	\$14,000
Cabinets and Countertops	\$15,000
Appliances	\$5,000
Windows and Doors	\$4,000
Electrical	\$1,500
Plumbing	\$1,000
Miscellaneous	\$3,000
Dwelling Improvements Total	\$50,000



Monthly Property Cashflow	
Insurance	\$250 (Estimate)
Taxes	\$467 (Current)
Utilities	\$238 (Current)
Garbage	\$11 (Current)
Debits Total	\$966
Rent from Dwelling 1	\$1,500
Rent from Dwelling 2	\$1,000
Credits Total	\$2,500
Cash Flow Total	\$1,534

Fundraising Strategy

Raising \$1,000,000 is a daunting task, but by the Lord’s provision and our hard work through personal asks and grants, we have already secured \$63,000 in pledges from individuals. We plan to raise \$500,000 through grants and \$500,000 through individuals. If we fall short in our fundraising efforts, we have a plan to finance up to \$200,000 of the project through a zero interest mortgage made by a couple's generous offer.

Organizational Capacity

We understand the magnitude of a project of this scale and the implications it could have on our ministry and the students we serve for decades to come. Because of this, it is our heart to steward this opportunity with the utmost care and attention. We have devoted a large portion of our veteran staff (5 members to be exact) to the Helena Chi Alpha Capital Campaign.

Helena Chi Alpha has strong experience in fundraising. In 2008, we saw the need for a central location for our ministry and our students; however, at the time, we had no place we could call our own. Therefore, we began the process of purchasing a ministry house. Proximity to campus was one of our highest values at the time, and we settled on a small house directly across from Carroll College on Benton Avenue. After fundraising over \$50,000 for a sizable down payment,



we purchased the property for \$285,000. At the time, the Benton Avenue House served many of our needs as a small ministry, and over the years it has been crucial to the growth and recognition of our ministry. We use the basement and second floors as sources of rental income to cover the cost of the mortgage and other expenses, and we have renovated the main floor to be a coffee shop style gathering space for our students to use for studying and connecting with one another. In 2019, we led a campaign to pay off the remaining balance on the mortgage of the Benton Ave House, raising \$40,000 from private donors and \$50,000 from awarded grants.

Now paid off, it continues to serve as a casual meeting space for our students and a source of income for some of our operating expenses. Although it has been a blessing and will continue to serve as a space to introduce students to our ministry, we have outgrown its capacity as a meeting space. The Green Meadow Property is able to host all of our ministry activities in one central location and is also located close to campus.

Sustainability Plan

The Green Meadow Property fulfills our requirement of long-term sustainability. Upon renovations, the house on the property would be split into a three-bed, two-bath main living space, and a two-bed, one-bath lower apartment. The spaces will generate \$1,500 and \$1,000 in monthly rental income respectively. As seen in the Monthly Cash Flow table above in the budget section, this would generate a net revenue of \$1,534 a month to help cover operating costs related to the ministry.

Goals and Objectives

The primary aim of this capital campaign is to increase our ministry space and directly address the ongoing growth inhibitors in our ministry so that we can reach more students for Christ in Helena, Montana. Our goals are broken down strategically below.

Goal #1: Reach more young adults for Christ in Helena.

Objective A) Increase the attendance of our large group services by 50% in the first year of operation.

Objective B) See our student leadership team grow to 50 students by the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Objective C) See our CMiT program equip 10 college graduates for ministry in the next two years.

Goal # 2: Expand our organizational capacity.

Objective A) Create a large group meeting space large enough to host Ignite. (At least 150-person capacity) by January 2025.

Helena Chi Alpha: Community | Mission | Discipleship



Objective B) Create a space capable of hosting four simultaneous small groups by January 2025.

Objective C) Create a suitable office space for staff, students, and CMiT meetings by January 2025.

Objective D) Provide five spaces for daily discipleship meetings by January 2025.

Objective E) Move the XAE horses to the Green Meadow Property by August 2024 to begin hosting small groups for the fall semester.

Goal # 3: Enhance our partnerships and send more students on missions trips with them.

Objective A) Finish the dwelling renovations by August 2024 to provide another income source for student scholarships.

Objective B) With a larger space, increase the attendance and profit of our annual student missions trips fundraiser by 50% in February 2025.

Objective C) Send 50% more students on trips with our partners (see *Collaboration* section below) in the 2024-2025 academic year.

As we undertake this building project, we will release annual financial updates and building progress. We will keep detailed plans and receipts and maintain transparency not only as the building is underway, but also as it meets the needs of our ministry. Having our project goals visible and current will help us keep track of the progress. Our timeline is as follows:

Buy the Green Meadow Property	End of May 2024
Renovate the Dwelling	Complete by August 2024
Renovate the Ministry Center	Complete by January 2025

Collaboration and Community Impact:

Helena Chi Alpha works to positively impact college students and the communities in which they live and work. As such, part of our ministry aims to serve our community through fulfilling physical needs. The Green Meadow Property will help our partnerships flourish in two exciting ways. First, it will provide us with a space for fundraisers and an additional source of rental income. These will help scholarship our students for service, outreach, and missions trips with some of our partners. Second, it will allow us to host events throughout the year that connect our students with other local ministries and organizations. Here are some of our most impactful ongoing partnerships:

- The Hope Center - women's shelter for those overcoming substance abuse in Helena
- Seattle's Union Gospel Mission - dedicated to providing shelter, education, and relief to the homeless

Helena Chi Alpha: Community | Mission | Discipleship



- Fellowship of Christian Athletes - a community working to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes
- Options Women's Clinic - provides discreet reproductive care to women
- 40 Days for Life - an organized movement desiring to see an end to abortion nationwide through prayer and education
- Mission Mountain Ministries - provides sabbatical rest to ministers in the Pacific Northwest
- Carroll College - Catholic College instilling an enduring wonder for knowledge that will prepare students for leadership and their chosen vocations
- Habitat for Humanity - equips volunteer groups to build homes for the homeless and impoverished
- Live Dead - a missions organization that specializes in sharing the gospel with unreached people groups of all cultural and ethnolinguistic backgrounds worldwide
- God's Love - provides shelter and relief to the homeless and recovering addicts in Helena
- Glacier Bible Camp - Christian summer camp that empowers Montana youth through knowledge of the Gospel
- Indian Youth Camp - Christian summer camp dedicated to sharing the gospel and empowering the Native American youth population in Montana
- Miracle Ranch - Christian summer camp with a focus on ministering to youth through horses