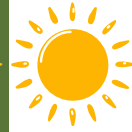




SUMMER 2024

OUR TIMES



OUR MISSION:

"Our Place Community Outreach respectfully welcomes our Spokane neighbors by providing basic needs and services, bringing hope for an improved future."

Interested in Donating?

DONATE

Donate Funds!

Scan or visit
ourplacespokane.org!



Needed Items!

- Cat & Dog Food
- Garbage Bags
- Grocery/Gas Gift Cards
- Men's Clothing
- Utility Wagons
- Water Bottles

Donate Time!

Scan or visit
Volunteer Spokane!



Words from our Executive Director:

I would love to share with you the story of our Laundry Center beginnings... In 2008, we surveyed our neighbors to understand some of their greatest and most unmet needs. Next to secure and affordable housing, it was laundry services. Our neighbors told us visiting a commercial laundry mat was too expensive and they had resorted to using their sink basins, tubs or not at all. Understanding this was a basic need Our Place could support, our Laundry Center was created! For the last 16 years, we have offered three washing machines and four dryers.

If you have ever had a machine go out at home and had to visit a commercial laundry mat, you may know already know, most loads cost an extreme \$5 to \$8!

"What would you do if you knew you could not fail?"

In the immediate future for Our Place, it would be a remodeled Laundry Center. Our Laundry Center is in great demand and continuously in use. We could really utilize three more washing machines and six new dryers (and some extended operating hours). This would help meet the need! Last year, Our Place engaged in 41,299 individual acts of assistance, and we will continue to help all we can. Clean clothes provide dignity and hope!

We estimate the total cost of this project to be under \$30,000. If you have it within your means, would you consider making a donation toward this goal and help us and our community succeed? Together, we are making the difference, and we are forever grateful for you.

Our Place *prevents homelessness* by providing basic necessities of food, hygiene, clothing, household necessities, **laundry services**, bus passes, utility assistance and resource referrals all in a one-stop shop. At Our Place, everything we do is encompassed by our main mission and goal: keeping people housed. How does this work? The old adage our parents and grandparents said, "Pay your rent first," applies here. Pay your rent first, and let Our Place help with the rest. And for 37 years it has been a formula that works.

-Kindly, Tracie Swanson, Executive Director

Meet Our Staff Team!

Darrel P. - Food Center Driver

Heidi R. - Clothing Center Manager

Kat H. - Assistant Director

Katie D. - Hygiene Center Manager

Leonard J. - Building Center Manager

MJ D. - Food Center Manager

Naomi W. - Development Manager

Nina K. - Volunteer & Resource Manager

Tracie S. - Executive Director



A picture of our Thursday crew on our new loading dock!

Volunteer Highlight: Frank

Frank has been volunteering with us every single day since June 2017. We're so grateful he responded to our call out for volunteers in his church bulletin, just after he retired. He helps out whenever & wherever he is needed, and is such a kind and humble person. He graciously greets folks from all walks of life and helps primarily in our Clothing Center & now in our Laundry Center. In addition to his time & energy, Frank donated funds and helped make the creation of our new loading dock happen! Our Place appreciates him so much, and when asked why he volunteers, he simply said, "Someone needs to do it!"



Our volunteer Frank in our Laundry Center!



ninak@ourplacespokane.org



92% of folks who benefit from our services rely on receiving groceries from our Food Center in their weekly visit

An average 126 new households are finding us each month



An average 382 new individuals are relying on Our Place for food each month

Our Place relies on volunteers to cover about 2/3 of the working efforts to make our services available!



In March, Our Place engaged in over 5,100 individual acts of assistance

Community Impact Story - *Written by volunteer Donna K., BSN, Nurse Writer*

On June 19, I had the wonderful opportunity to see Our Place at work. I witnessed single people & families waiting patiently in the long, hot line for their turn at the Food Center. Few complained. Several people expressed their sincere gratitude for the services. Many (59) filled out a form with feedback about Our Place, some of which is featured below:

- Our Place provides a sense of community and hope; it's a place to meet nice people
- It's a place to give and receive while being treated with respect and dignity
- The food and other services allow more money for other monthly expenses
- It is convenient having several services in one location (laundry, clothing, food, and other essentials)
- Appreciation for all resources provided, such as the info board with other local resources
- Without Our Place's services, many would not have enough food for themselves or their families

As I watched the team busily setting up the food bank and the people who arrived for service patiently waiting, I felt an overwhelming sense of community & pride for them. Thank you to all the donors of Our Place Community Outreach, as Our Place is a necessary service for the community.



Supporting Churches

Christ Central Church
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
Knox Presbyterian Church
Salem Lutheran Church
St. Augustine Catholic Church
St. John's Cathedral
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
The Cathedral of Our Lady of
Lourdes Catholic Church
Sisters of The Holy Names of
Jesus and Mary

Stage Lights for Our Place Follow Up

We were honored to have about 130 folks gather in support of Our Place's services on May 9th for our annual fundraiser, Stage Lights for Our Place. It was a fun and successful evening with music by DJ Curtiss G, entertainment by the Spokane Children's Theatre, beverages by Bellwether Brewing Co., and donations from over 100 folks & businesses!




Our Place Community Outreach
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DIRE DONATION NEEDS

-  **\$15** Supplies a hygiene pack full of everyday essentials for a month.
-  **\$40** Provides a pair of shoes for a child in need this summer.
-  **\$80** Supports a single mother and her child with all of our free services for a month.
-  **\$104** Maintains food security for a senior for two months.
-  **\$160** Supports a young family with food, clothing, and hygiene items for a month.
-  **\$300** Provides utility assistance to a homeowner in crisis.
-  **\$624** Sustains a family of five with access to food, clothing, and hygiene supplies for three months.



Scan or visit ourplacespokane.org!