

Greetings Friends! Can you believe **it's been a year since the Drop-In Center opened?** We can't! The past year has been a time of challenges and continuous learning, trial and error, ups and downs, joy and heartache, and **God has shown up every step of the way** showing us how to trust Him more – **God is so good!**

A Glimpse Inside

Through the Drop-In Center, **we currently serve an average of 150 people each month**, with as many as 21 per day. Since opening day, we have served **over 170 individuals** based on first time visits recorded. While numbers will fluctuate, we are **seeing nearly 50% more people each day** in 2025 than we did in 2024, with **numbers continuing to grow.**

Typically, most who come in will use the shower facility, enjoy a meal served by our volunteers, and receive a bag of survival items before leaving. There are some who simply come in to sit and talk. While at the Center, there is a great deal of listening, conversation, prayer, meetings with the visiting advocate and conversations with a chaplain.

Over this past year, **our guests have received help with** resumes, job coaching, fresh clothing and a good clean up for job interviews guidance on housing applications, housing referrals and placements, assistance with car repairs, ID replacements, temporary shelter in emergency situations, referrals for substance abuse treatment, veterans' services, and enjoy periods of respite from inclement weather or from the loneliness of living in their vehicles or on the street.

A recent honor for us was a **celebration of life service** held at the Drop-In Center to remember two of our homeless friends who passed away earlier this year. Our dear friend Bert Hunt (House of Hope) facilitated the service, which was well attended. Many of those who use the Drop-In Center express their deep appreciation to us for this place, A Safe Place, where they are welcome and experience a sense of family.

Further down in this letter, there are **photos** of the Drop-In Center.

What It Takes

We have been blessed with **a strong team of dedicated volunteers** – about 25 currently - for which we are deeply grateful. Many have shared how their experience has changed them and how blessed they feel to be used by God so personally in the lives of people they might have hardly noticed before. While 25 might sound like a lot, volunteers typically serve two to six times per month between the van and the Drop-In Center, and there is some natural attrition over time, so **we always welcome more volunteers.** If you are interested in learning more, just **go to our website for more information** about volunteering.

In the same way that we depend on volunteers to serve and keep the center running, **we also depend on a steady supply of in-kind donations** -- food, beverage, and hygiene items, to name a few – to readily meet the needs of those we serve, and to help ease our costs. For detail on what is most helpful, **refer to our Wish List** (enclosed and on our website).

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“For there will never cease to be poor people in the land; that is why I am commanding you, ‘Open your hand willingly to your poor and needy brother in your land.’” (Deuteronomy 15:11)

We'd Love to Share More about A Safe Place

If you or an organization you know of, would like more information about the work of A Safe Place, please let us know. We would be happy to speak further with you or even present at an event.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of A Safe Place. We appreciate your ongoing prayers for God's leading and provision.

Serving Him,

The Board of A Safe Place - Mike, Neal, Suzanne, Rick, Donna and Pete



