

CITY OF REFUGE

Off The Streets!

A Newsletter for Friends and Donors
of the Idaho Falls City of Refuge
Men's Mission & Community Outreach

Winter 2009

We gathered together and shared the Lords blessings



The City of Refuge had a great time on Thanksgiving. We served a meal for our community at 6:00 P.M. with the help of lots of volunteers and donated food. Over 70 people were served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings that evening. There were at least 25 volunteers and staff helping prepare and serve the meal and several spent time visiting with our guests over pumpkin pie. Unfortunately, the number of people in need keeps growing. We are now serving about 40 to 50 people each night and seeing more families with children. Our residents and dinner guests sincerely appreciate your donations of food, clothing, finances and especially your time. If you want to be part of serving in our ministry, please call Cherie, our Volunteer Coordinator, afternoons after 2:00 P.M. at 552-5575.

City of Refuge Thrift Store ready for the Holidays

We are truly grateful for everyone in our community who has stopped into our thrift store this year. We have opened up the entire browsing area. If you have ventured downstairs, you have seen the amazing changes that have taken place

Thrift Store Holiday Hours

Monday to Saturday

10:00 AM to 7:30 PM

We will be closed Dec 25th - Jan 1st to give our volunteers time with their families.

Merry Christmas!

thanks to all of you. We have a great selection on slightly used Christmas decorations and many other Christmas items. With the help of all of our volunteers, we are able to provide the community with a fun and warm place to shop or just say hello. We are truly blessed to have a couple of new faces at the thrift store; Alan Ruoho and Billy Kidd are both currently enrolled in our discipleship program. The City of Refuge thrift store wishes you and your families the very best Christmas and a Happy New Year.



HAPPY, HAPPY, HOLIDAY'S!



As we enter into the giving season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have so graciously given of their time and gift's of money. It is because of these gifts that our discipleship program is off and running and we are able to meet the needs of those in our community who are less fortunate. All of us here at the city of refuge wish you and your families the very best Christmas and a blessed New Year. God bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Ronnie Lloyd
Case Manager/Lead Supervisor



City of Refuge Christmas Plans

We are planning a Christmas of gifts, food, fun, music, and fellowship. We serve a brunch for our residents in the morning followed by a time of gift giving, with the contributions that you all have provided. At 1:00 p.m., the Sonshine room will be open to all and in the evening we will have a special Christmas feast with music, games and fun. If you are interested in being a part of the celebrations in any way please call and let us know...we will make sure you don't miss out on any of the fun!!!

From the Director

One Quiet Moment

"One Quiet Moment" is from Glad's An Acapella Christmas, my favorite Christmas song. The song is about Joseph and Mary reflecting in a quiet moment about accepting their part in God's plan. They lived in a time of oppression for the Jewish people. A time when the Jews were anticipating a Messiah based on their understanding of what Christians refer to as the Old Testament prophets' revelation of God's plan.

"The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ" Luke 3:15 NIV

Imagine being called by God's messengers to do your part in a plan you don't fully understand. They certainly did not expect God to give up His glory and be born as a man. Accepting their part had consequences. They would be shunned for having a baby out of wedlock; Joseph would have to raise a baby that would not be his. But there would be the joy of raising the King, referred to in Isaiah 9:6 *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

As the plan unfolds, they would find more consequences that they had not anticipated that had been revealed in prophecies about their son.

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." Isaiah 53:3

God's has a plan. We each get to decide if we are going to be part of His plan and that decision comes with consequences, some seen some not seen, but all for God's glory even if we can't see it. We live our lives in a way that reflects what we truly believe. We should each take a quiet moment this Christmas to reflect on our part in His plan. Are we willing to live our lives in a way that reflects what we say we believe regardless of the consequences? Do we really believe what we say we believe?

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David McKinney".

David McKinney



Biblically Based Counseling



For many years, City of Refuge, along with many in the Christian community, has recognized the need for true biblically based counseling in Idaho Falls and the surrounding area. COR is now pleased to announce a cooperative effort between COR and Family Care Center (FCC) in providing

this counseling in a private and confidential setting. Dr. John Oakley, a Licensed Professional Counselor, is now available to meet with individuals, couples and families to provide assistance in seeking God-honoring solutions to difficult situations. Dr. Oakley has served 18 years as a Senior Pastor and has a Master's in Bible, Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, and a Doctorate in Ministry. He has experience in marriage and family issues and has extended training and experience working with adolescents. Dr. Oakley is also available for marital and pre-marital counseling. It is the desire of COR and Dr. Oakley to combine their efforts to offer quality, professional, Christ-centered counseling in a safe and confidential setting, at an affordable price. Dr. Oakley emphasizes a collaborative respectful approach to help resolve personal or family challenges thereby allowing each person to live a more satisfying and productive life. Please call Dave McKinney at COR for more information about Dr. Oakley or call the Family Care Center at 208-529-8832 to speak to Dr. Oakley and/or make an appointment. Dr. Oakley's experience as a pastor gives him a unique background in being able to understand and address pastoral issues, and he offers confidential counseling services to pastors at greatly reduced rates, or without charge if funds are limited.

"The goal of Christian counseling is exalting Christ in our lives. This is a process where God penetrates, touches and heals the brokenness in people. It is not an end in itself, but rather a process of one person ministering to another and helping them find new life in Christ. Christian counseling does not replace the church but seeks to honor the church and 'fulfill the law of Christ' in bearing one another's burdens (Gal. 6:1). Christian counseling is a helping ministry to the church and pastors in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18) of people to God through Christ Jesus." Dr. John Oakley, D.Min, MBA

COR NEEDS



- Coffee
- Fresh Fruit
- Salad Dressing
- Spaghetti, Pasta
- Paper Plates, Cups Napkins
- Canned Fruit & Vegetables
- Creamed Soups
- Canned Tuna
- Large Ziploc bags
- Disposable Razors, Deodorant
- **55 Gallon Trash Bags**
- Bleach
- Powdered Laundry Soap
- Sleeping Bags, Twin Blankets
- **Winter Gloves** and Hats
- Copy Paper
- Thrift Store Volunteers - Saturday
- Volunteer Cooks
- **Prayer** for: Finances, Leadership, Volunteers, Staff

Your 2009 Gifts at Work

(For Jan 1, 2009 - Nov 30, 2009)

- 2,792 bed nights provided
- 153 different residents stayed
- 67% of residents moved to more permanent housing
- 12% were veterans
- 40% were under age 30
- 40% were age 31-50
- 17% were age 51-61
- 3% were age 62 and above
- 820 Bible devotion attendees
- 14,606 individual meals served
- 634 food boxes distributed
- 397 people helped with 2,122 items from the thrift store



Keep praying for "Tim."

Memorials

(October through November 30, 2009)

In Memory Of:

Alvin Fehringer by T & T Reporting, **Tucker Morishita** by Susan Sato, **Chris Lewayne Looslie** by Donna and Larry Looslie, **Floyd Wheeler** by Phyllis Sayer, **Art Erikson** by Karen Johnson, **Ted Harder** by Vicki Harder.

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"[a]—which means, "God with us." Matthew 2: 22-23 [a]Isaiah 7:14

The City of Refuge is a non-profit organization committed to providing emergency shelter, essential services, and hope to homeless men. COR is the only emergency shelter of its kind in a nine-county region of Eastern Idaho. Meals, food, and personal items are also provided to the hungry and hurting in our area.

Our Mission Statement

Demonstrating the love of Christ by providing opportunities for the homeless and impoverished to become self-reliant through the utilization of resources provided by God's people, for God's glory.



Men's Mission & Community Outreach

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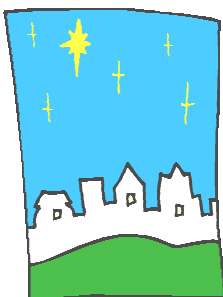
Director: David McKinney

david@cityofrefugeif.org



City of Refuge is a self-supporting outreach of: **Family Care Center, Inc.** 1675 Curlew Drive, Idaho Falls 83406

Executive Director: John Oakley, D.Min., MBA



Merry Christmas!

