

# Interfaith Sanctuary



## Students Helping Students — OATHS

Interfaith Sanctuary Housing Services (Sanctuary) regularly provides shelter for families with school-aged children and we see firsthand what local and national statistics show: homeless youth often fall behind grade level and are 50 percent less likely to graduate from high school than their peers. They tend to have high rates of developmental delays, learning difficulties and emotional problems as a product of uncertain living situations and extreme poverty.

A student organization called **OATHS** (Organization Assisting the Homeless Student), was founded in 2010 by **Ben Skinner**, a sophomore at Bishop Kelly Catholic High School, and has been instrumental in providing support for our school-aged children at Sanctuary. “We really appreciate our partnership with OATHS,” shares Sanctuary Supportive Services Director Abel Grimaldo. “The OATHS team understands the challenges these young learners face and are prepared and willing to provide assistance.”

This summer, local teens at OATHS set out to fully renovate the new family room at our shelter. These enthusiastic teens and their mentors turned what was a drab extra room into a colorful and more comfortable



living area for our families, complete with study tables and chairs, a large dining table, and bookcases created by **Idaho Correctional Industries**.

OATHS’ volunteers painted the walls and floor, and further furnished the room with books, games, art supplies, family movies and a television with DVD player. The renovated room was also filled with beautiful black and white photographs provided by the **Inside Out Project**, a global participatory art project that gives everyone the opportunity to share

their portrait and make a statement on what they stand for.

The new family room will serve a variety of functions at Sanctuary. Families staying at the shelter can share a meal and watch a movie. Children will also have a place to read, do their homework, play games and do art projects. The makeover was a perfect fit for OATHS’ mission and makes life that much better for Sanctuary’s young guests and their families.

Thank you to OATHS and our many other community supporters, who assisted and turned out to view the renovation on August 14! Sanctuary staff will continue to work with OATHS on other projects at the shelter, such as providing homework support to Sanctuary’s young guests during our *Energizing Minds* evenings.



# Sanctuary Launches New Women's Program — SISTAS!

Thanks to recent community and financial support, Sanctuary started a new Supportive Services program this summer, in order to better respond to the complexity of issues faced by our female homeless guests. Launched in August by Jayne Sorrels, Sanctuary's Executive Director and Karen Morton, our new Case Manager, the program's key goals include: 1) Creating a safe and supportive environment for women to share their experiences and build supportive relationships; 2) Sharing information about the types of support that are available to them including companion support, professional support, spiritual support, self-help, and physical support; and 3) Developing a personal safety plan that utilizes new skills for better decision making.

The highlight of the SISTAS Program is a 3-day retreat, with annually rotating topics. The first year retreat – **Finding a Safe Place** – took place August 1–3 and focused on dealing with the lasting implications of abuse, ways to prevent further abuse and creating a safety plan. National statistics report that 100% of women who are homeless have experienced sexual abuse and remain at high risk.

Women staying at Sanctuary were able to come together at the Nazareth Center in Boise for a rare chance to share their experiences and learn from trained facilitators and speakers, including the **Women and Children's Alliance (WCA)** and **Boise Police Department**. As an extra special treat, a field trip was coordinated to the **Paul Mitchell Salon** for donated haircuts and manicure/pedicures.

Retreat participants shared that the experience strengthened their relationships with other women, increased their knowledge of resources available to them in the community and had increased knowledge of where to go and who to contact to create a formal safety plan with the WCA. Remarks Retreat Assistant Susan Earnst, "I was impacted by listening to the women's stories and by watching the ladies glow as they were getting their nails and hair done. When we complimented one of the women as she left the salon, she beamed and said 'I feel like a million bucks'. That seemed to sum up the success of the weekend. I was also moved by watching the women toughen up as we were leaving the peaceful setting and preparing for the heat of the street. I didn't want to send them back there."



SISTAS has already served over 15 women, and put three of those women on the path to finding independence through securing housing. Weekly follow-up meetings with the women are being held to build on the topics introduced at the retreat. A Spring Retreat is planned focusing on the themes of employment and financial literacy.

This incredible program was funded by the **Idaho Episcopal Foundation**, the **Idaho Charitable Women's Foundation**, and our whole family of contributors, including generous, individual donors who supplied overnight items for the event. For all the good that you help make possible in hard situations, we **THANK YOU!**

## Our Mission:

**A** Interfaith Sanctuary is a collaboration of people of faith and people of conscience who have joined together to shelter and serve individuals experiencing homelessness. Sanctuary provides overnight shelter for men, women, and children, and supportive services that promote greater self-sufficiency, improved well-being, and permanent housing acquisition. We recognize the dignity of each person and therefore offer our services in an accepting and respectful manner.

## Some Facts:

- S** •Interfaith Sanctuary offers a bed and a light meal for up to 160 men, women, and children each night, providing a total of 55,000+ bed nights each year.
- A** •Our **Emergency Shelter Program** includes accommodations for families with children, which we prioritize to help meet their shelter needs. We are often able to offer services to underserved populations that are unable to find shelter elsewhere.
- N** •Our **Supportive Services Program** is designed to promote well-being and self-sufficiency, through case management, disability support, family strengthening, and assistance with permanent housing acquisition.
- C** •Through our **Community Volunteer Program**, Sanctuary volunteers perform over 5,000 hours a year of service.
- T** •More about Sanctuary, including our annual report, is available on our website at **InterfaithSanctuary.org**.

## How To Reach Us:

**A** Shelter address: 1620 W. River Street, Boise, Idaho 83702 \* Phone: 208.343.2630  
**R** Mailing address: P.O. Box 9334, Boise, Idaho 83707  
**Y** Administrative/Development Office: 1020 W. Main St., Suite 100E, Boise, Idaho 83702 \* Phone: 208.343.4160  
 Email: info@interfaithsanctuary.org



Shelter guests saying, Thank You! to our community volunteers.

## A Night of Celebration at Sanctuary!

On Thursday, September 18, our **Annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ** was held at Sanctuary with many community volunteers and shelter guests in attendance. On this night, not only were we celebrating our great volunteers, but also shared from the abundance of our garden with a **Harvest Party** with our parents and children. The evening though had another element that we called **Vince's Day**.



The seed for Vince's Day was planted on a very hot Tuesday in July when our community came out in droves to donate much needed water for Sanctuary's homeless guests. Sanctuary Office Manager Apollos Cassian was in the parking lot writing up receipts for the donations in a receipt book. Vince, a dear guest of Sanctuary, saw Apollos taking what appeared to be orders on his pad and went up to make his own order. He asked Apollos if he could please get ice cream, music, prayer and maybe even a juggler for the Sanctuary's kids. Apollos told us this story at Sanctuary's monthly Staff Meeting. It was decided by some of the Staff that we could make that happen for Vince and the kids.

On Thursday, September 18, the party came together: **Goody's** came to the shelter with a freezer full of ice cream and some helium balloons; **Albertson's** donated hot dogs, buns, and condiments for 250 people; **Life's Kitchen** made huge trays of side dishes; **Rabbi Dan Fink** showed up with his harmonica and a prayer; **Andy Byron** and **Rex Miller**, with music and songs; and **Belinda Bowler** came to play music and surprised us all with her juggling skills.

We got to see kids laughing and holding on tight to their balloons and ice cream. We saw our homeless guests dance with each other and with our volunteers. We also saw the hidden talents of our guests. They can play the harmonica, juggle with the best of them, dance with joy and laugh out loud. Vince brought joy to so many that day and we are forever grateful for the wishes he made for our Sanctuary families and their children.



## Sanctuary Guests Find Their Groove

*Sanctuary's Volunteer Appreciation BBQ (aka Vince Day) proved to be a special event for so many reasons, one of which was getting to know our guests a little better.*

*One current guest, Tony, shares a story that is common for many of our guests.*

Tony approached Jodi Peterson (Sanctuary's PR/Marketing Consultant) while the musicians were playing and Belinda Bowler was juggling and said "I've done some juggling." Jodi asked Belinda for some extra juggling balls and gave them to Tony. What happened next was amazing. Tony juggled like a circus performer! He juggled through his legs, over his head and behind his back. While he juggled all the kids and guests sang at the top of their lungs. It was an amazing, unplanned, unexpected joyful moment.

Jodi spoke to Tony after his juggling performance and she asked him to share his story of how he came to Sanctuary. Tony talked about his career as a musician and a glass blower and that after a divorce he fell into depression and struggled to hold on to his business. Tony shared how this led to drug use and some jail time and that he lost his business and equipment; this was not the path he had planned. While in jail, he got clean and has been clean for 7 years. Tony has made some attempts to get back on track, but says he keeps faltering.

Tony's music has kept his spirit alive and his bass guitar traveled with him everywhere he went for the past 8 years. This



year he ended up in financials straights and had to sell that bass guitar to a pawnshop to pay his debts. He's now at Sanctuary, hoping to get his life back together.

After hearing Tony's story, Sanctuary staff connected with the **Musician's Fund of Boise (MFOB)**, a non-profit that was founded late last year to help create some sustainability for our local musicians. MFOB has funds but have lacked a solid direction for how to help. Tony gave MFOB a direction. This musician needed his bass back and he had things he could give back to his shelter family. The MFOB in partnership with Sanctuary located his bass guitar at a pawn shop. A meeting was set up with a board member from MFOB, Tony and a Sanctuary Case Manager to tell him the plan: the MFOB Board would buy Tony's guitar back, if he would help start a music program at the shelter.

Tony enthusiastically agreed and will head up the new Sanctuary Music Program with help from a local company called the **Boise Rock School**. The Boise Rock School will donate equipment to Sanctuary to help get this music movement started and provide an opportunity for our Sanctuary guests to either find their way back to music, or discover music for the first time. The goal is to form a band to encourage creative, positive outlets for our guest's energies. **Curtis Stigers**, the founder of MFOB, went personally to pick up Tony's Bass Guitar from the pawn shop. Tony was given his bass back and will use it for his work on the music program at the shelter and hopefully as a professional musician again one day soon.



# Energizing Minds through Gardening:

*Wells Fargo Green Team Keeps on Giving!*



Most of us can appreciate the multitude of benefits provided by Green spaces; from brightening up an area, reducing stress, to eating healthier, there are plenty of good reasons to dig around in a garden. At Sanctuary, we are thankful to have our very own healthy garden thanks to the fantastic Green Team from Boise's local **Wells Fargo Bank**. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, the Idaho Wells Fargo Green Team and many WF volunteers planted the garden they helped build in 2013 at Sanctuary. The team gathered again this Spring and got busy clearing weeds, rearranging mulch and planting a variety of vegetables and flowers in the beds in front of the building (facing the River Street Exit of the Connector).

The garden provides some living beauty and a peaceful place amidst a lot of concrete and traffic and Sanctuary employees have found that the guests appreciate the garden and take pride in watching over it. In fact, we love our garden so much that Sanctuary's Supportive Services staff have incorporated gardening into a weekly *Energizing Minds* program for shelter guests. "*Energizing Minds* provides children at the shelter with structured educational activities facilitated by trained community volunteers," explains Sanctuary case manager Abel Grimaldo. "Activities include gardening, reading, science projects and homework assistance on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6:00 - 7:30pm."



The Green Team followed up throughout the summer with additional TLC for the garden and a seasonal topic under Sanctuary's *Energizing Minds* program. Kids got to learn about the work of wiggling worms and form lifelong memories tasting fresh-picked mint and lettuce, not to mention enjoy the mutual benefits of watering a garden after a hot day.

We concluded the season with a Harvest Party on Thursday, September 18, where the fruits of our labor were showcased as part of Sanctuary's Volunteer Appreciation BBQ!

## Boise Likes a Challenge!

### *Beat the Heat!*

#### *A Flood of Compassion*

Summers can be relentlessly hot in Boise and Sanctuary staff regularly see our shelter guests come through the doors each evening with sunburns and various symptoms of heat-related illnesses. This summer, Sanctuary put out a request to the community for bottled water donations and other summertime items to help our guests better cope with the heat out on the street. In case you were wondering how generous our community can be, shelter guest Tobias shared his sentiments, "The water coming in is just...it's amazing how the community can pull together like this to help the homeless people out." Thanks to everybody spreading the request, Sanctuary received 15,000 bottles of water, sunscreen, hats, and aloe-vera, generously donated by individuals, companies, organizations and clubs from around the Treasure Valley, and some from beyond!

### **First Time Donors Meet the Challenge**

On October 1, 2013 we announced that the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise** would reduce our mortgage for every first time financial donation made, up to \$50,000. We are excited to announce that this challenge was met! A huge thank you to all the first time donors who made this possible, your continued support is invaluable. Also, we are tremendously grateful for the abundant generosity of the Roman Catholic Diocese. The doors of Sanctuary were opened in a permanent way thanks to the original lenders, RCDB and the **Idaho Housing and Finance Association**.

### **Sunwest Bank Challenge!**

Sunwest Bank, based in Irvine, Calif., moved to Idaho in March 2014 when it acquired the Syringa Bank and that month, the Executive Director of the Sunwest Foundation connected with Sanctuary, toured our facility, and invited us to submit a match-based grant to the Foundation. Sanctuary got word out to our donors and supporters to raise \$7,500 to match this grant, and by mid-June, we had reached our goal! Thank you to all our generous supporters and to the Sunwest Foundation!



*Thank You*

*We would love to recognize and acknowledge all our donors, but you are too many to list! So a HUGE collective thank you to all of you who have donated so generously to Interfaith Sanctuary this year. Your donations make a difference in the lives of the 160 men, women and children who each day have safe and secure shelter because of your gifts.*

# Shining the Light on Homelessness

Sanctuary greatly appreciates the support of the Boise community and looks forward to this annual event to celebrate our family of supporters. Many who donate their time, treasure, and talent were invited, and those who were able to contribute in an increased capacity were recognized through our *Shining the Light on Homelessness* awards. Hosted this year at **St. Paul Baptist Church**, the 2014 luncheon featured delicious lunches from Zeppole, set to the beautiful song “Because I Have Been Given Much”, performed live by our own Margaret Stigers.



Joined this year by **Rep. Cherie Buckner-Webb**, Sanctuary staff and board honored this year’s winners of our *Shining the Light on Homelessness* awards. The Faith-based organization of the year award went to **Cathedral of the Rockies** and was accepted by **Senior Pastor Duane Anders**. The Cathedral is a long-time partner of Sanctuary and has provided financial support over the years as well as a number of services that benefit our shelter guests. Outstanding partner organization of the year was the **Organization Assisting the Homeless Student (OATHS)**, whose young volunteers completely remodeled Sanctuary’s family room this summer, to make it a little more like home. OATHS founder **Ben Skinner** was on hand to accept the award and shared his remarkable sense of

giving that led him to organize OATHS as a local high-school student at Bishop Kelly. A special recognition was given to **Dorothy Aldecoa** (in memoriam) for individual donor of the year, whose heartfelt story of generosity was shared.

In 2014, the business community also played an increased role in supporting Sanctuary’s work of providing shelter to our homeless guests. Local business leaders **Don Reiman**, founder of **Echelon Group**, and **Harry Martz**, founder of **Power Enterprises**, turned heads at Sanctuary’s 2013 Xtreme Holiday Xtravaganza concert by challenging the audience of this special event to match their Year of Shelter giving. This fun night to remember resulted in over \$33,000 raised to help pay the costs of nights of shelter, as attendees stepped up to our winners’ challenge. Don and Harry received the Business of the Year award!



Once again, Sanctuary was humbled to be surrounded by so many who are answering their call to service. A special thank you to our luncheon sponsors who made this event possible and even more enjoyable: **Albertson’s**, **Dawson Taylor**, **Usful Glassworks**, **Laverna at St. Paul Baptist**, **Rep. Cherie Buckner-Webb**, **Margaret Stigers**, **Tates Rents**, **North End Organic Nursery**, and **Zeppole**.

## Building a Better Future

Interfaith Sanctuary recently completed its largest single renovation to date, including safety features such as fire walls, improvements to the family dorms, office spaces and bathrooms for women and families. Local builder **Nick Guho of Guho Corp.** led the renovation and has been a patron since Sanctuary’s beginnings. Nick got involved after hearing Fr. Timothy Ritchie tell his Catholic congregation about the then-new shelter and asked if anyone knew of an available space. Guho Corp. owned a small warehouse downtown and donated the space and paid all the utilities while people stayed there during Sanctuary’s first winter season. He’s consulted on the recent renovations to the dedicated River Street space and will work on the final renovations.



Thank you to our generous construction project donors and supporters, including:

**Guho Construction Corporation (Nick Guho); Design West Architects; City of Boise; Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation; John F. Nagel Foundation; Angels Among Us; Drs. Ed & Mary Ann Reynolds Foundation; Idaho Foodbank Fund and the Whittenberger Foundation** (for funds to purchase a commercial refrigerator and freezer to store fresh fruit and vegetables).

## FAMILIES SERVING FAMILIES

Mahatma Gandhi said “*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*” On Family Service Day



2014 (June 21), Sanctuary enjoyed the company of 75 participants who were able to make a difference in the lives of our guests. Volunteers helped to paint, clean, and build an outdoor shelter and benches. The volunteers were members of six

different churches: The **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, **Cole Community Church**, **King of Glory Lutheran Church**, **Hillview United Methodist Church**, **St. Stephen’s**

**Episcopal Church and Mountain View Community Fellowship Church.** It was a great Saturday that flew by!

The project couldn’t have been completed without our dedicated volunteers and donors. Paint supplies were donated by **Nick Guho (Guho Corp)**, **Home Depot in Meridian**, **Kelly Moore Paint Co.**, and individual community donors. We also want to send out a special thanks to **Paula Rowberry**, Family Service Day Organizer; **Sarah Christenson**, (former) Special Projects Coordinator at Sanctuary; and **John Wilkins**, Family Service Day Project Site Manager for their hard work and planning that went into organizing this amazing project.



Interfaith Sanctuary  
Housing Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 9334  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Sheltering, supporting, and advocating for homeless members of our community since 2005.

## Connect!

### Learn:

- \*Schedule a talk:  
[info@interfaithsanctuary.org](mailto:info@interfaithsanctuary.org)
- \*Take a tour: 208.343.4160
- \*Events: E-newsletter at  
[InterfaithSanctuary.org/blog](http://InterfaithSanctuary.org/blog)

### Volunteer:

- \*[InterfaithSanctuary.org](http://InterfaithSanctuary.org)

### Donate:

- \*[InterfaithSanctuary.org/donate](http://InterfaithSanctuary.org/donate)
- \*[szilvia@interfaithsanctuary.org](mailto:szilvia@interfaithsanctuary.org) or  
208.343.4160



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## Upcoming Events

### Xtreme Holiday Xtravaganza

This year we will be hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Xtreme Holiday Xtravaganza on Sunday, December 21; Monday, December 22, and Tuesday, December 23 at the Egyptian Theatre. As supporters of Sanctuary, our donors receive this information first and also have the first opportunity to purchase their tickets before they are released to the public. Receive word on pre-sale tickets by subscribing to our e-newsletter; visit [InterfaithSanctuary.org/blog](http://InterfaithSanctuary.org/blog)!



### Xtreme Auction Items

Besides the amazing music at Sanctuary's annual fundraiser, the Xtreme Holiday Xtravaganza, the event also includes an incredible silent auction, for which we are seeking more large ticket items.

Do you have a condo or home in Sun Valley, Maui or elsewhere to offer as an auction item? How about a horseback trip, a cruise, or other adventure experiences?

If you have an auction item to offer, please contact Duffy Benton at [duffy@qwestoffice.net](mailto:duffy@qwestoffice.net).