

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- SP 101: 4/3/10 @ Noon
Join us to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how we're growing!
- Applebee's Fundraiser: 4/11 & 4/14 from 11am to 9pm. Take the enclosed flyer in when you eat at Applebees on these dates only and they will contribute 15% back to SP! Call us if you'd like more flyers to pass out to friends!

WISH LIST:

- New & Gently Used Camping Equipment
- Large Black Garbage Bags
- Digital Cameras
- Guitars (electric or acstc.)
- Used Ink Cartridges
- Used Cell Phones
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Heavy-Duty Paper Plates
- White Card-Stock Paper
- Rubber Stamps & New Ink Pads
- Loveseat (black or red)
- X-Large B&W Framed Art
- XBOX 360, PS2, or Wii
- New solid-white twin sheets
- New solid-white towels
- Family-friendly DVD's
- Liquid Hand Sanitizer
- Krustez Buttermilk Pancake Mix

BUDGET:

2010 Jan-Feb:

\$8,883

Actual Income Jan- Feb:

\$18,942

Aslan's Refuge Goal: \$422,000

Phase 1/Bldg Goal: \$112,000

Raised: \$61,552

Left to Raise: \$360,448

LEADERSHIP:

Executive Director:

Steven Knemeyer

Board of Directors:

Sharon Morris,

Dr. Dale Peterson, Rebecca Springer, & Diana Wheeler

Program Director:

Desiree' Knemeyer

SOLOMON'S PORCH: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE STREET

The Porch Paper

MARCH 2010

Free Food Friday Success!!!

Since the warmth of summer began to fade, our staff had been preparing to meet the needs of our youth through the cold winter months. Each Friday for the past four months they have taken turns being the chef for the night. On Friday, January 22nd we were given blessed relief from Misseo Dei Church who adopted the food program for the night. They provided a lovely meal with every food group well accounted for. Five wonderful

volunteers showed up to serve which, in turn, allowed our staff

the freedom to sit and have a meal with the teens we love so much!

"I didn't get to eat lunch today 'cause mom kept me out of school." One youth confided in us. Difficult and even dangerous, home-lives can make food a priority not just some little pleasure like so many of us have. These are

teenagers who live in our valley and yet don't have enough food. Some youth are from families whose parents have just recently lost both their jobs due to layoffs.

One young man asked if he could have a bag so he could take an extra sandwich

home for his little sister. This little "Free Food Friday" is meeting a need in the area of youth homelessness that is only now being addressed in our community. "Getting a commercial kitchen installed is definitely moving up on the priority list as we see the number of youth coming in our doors growing every year." says SP Program Director, Desiree' Knemeyer.

A little bar with a microwave and a crock-pot don't do too much for making whole meals. We're looking for more groups to help bring meals for the youth.

Do you or a group you're a part of want to help? Contact us to find out how!



Desiree' making "dinner" before the doors open

Christmas Out Of The Car...

We've all heard about how the economy is causing troubles here and there. Many of us have loved ones who have lost their jobs or their income has been cut, but few of us have felt the bitter cold of a winter night sleeping in the car because we've lost our homes...

Two families have been doing this off an on since November. The children are sent off to stay with whatever friends have room for them while the parents sleep in the car. In some cases Mom and the young chil-

dren find safety in a local women's shelter and Dad goes to the local men's shelter, while the teenage children are left to fend for themselves... but then Christmas came.

Kyla's family was able to save up the money to rent a hotel room for \$35 and they even found a tiny little Christmas tree to set up in the room. When asked what Kyla liked best about

Christmas 2009, she responded that she loved being with her family alone but all together.

Homelessness among the teens Solomon's Porch serves is growing. The more our doors are open the longer the youth have a safe place to be. Please consider

donating or volunteering one night a week to change the life of a youth!



Many Families are now sleeping in their cars...



SOLOMON'S PORCH

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Wenatchee, WA 98807
509-662-1712

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Pre-Valentine's Bash Challenges Wenatchee Youth

Alternative tunes wafted from our front door as youth gathered on the sidewalk waiting for the doors to open the night before Valentine's Day. The New Divide, a band from Portland, OR brought with them a bag of tricks that had teens with their hands in the air and the hair flailing.



Valentine's Day is one of the most dangerous days for young ladies who are pressured by their boyfriends to become sexu-

ally active. This event offered our staff a fantastic opportunity to get over 50 youth into one place to hear about the problem and learn a few tools to help stand up against the pressure.

An opportunity to ask *any* question anonymously was given by way of a drop box. Some youth asked band questions like "how many of you are married?" But then some asked deep, hard, questions such as "Why should I wait if everyone gets divorced?" and "Why does he say he likes me and then go flirt with another girl?" This chance to be candid with their questions



was helpful in addressing questions that others have thought about but were too embarrassed to ask.

Violence against young ladies especially, is due to the perceived "need" for a man in their life. The response to the discussion has been so good that we're taking a small group of these girls to Seattle for a retreat weekend soon. We will solidify the relationships we've been building and talk about more of these difficult subjects. Without a bunch of boys we girls can have more fun!

Knemeyer's Back on the Job!

In July of 2009 our Program Director took a "day job" to bring in more personal income. The change was evident almost right away. Even though she worked here as much as possible the Porch was no longer able to fully support our volunteer staff in their efforts. Our visibility in the community lowered and we reduced to being open only one night a week. This greatly troubled the board of directors and a change had to be made. In December, Dr. Dale Peterson contacted Desiree' and Steven and informed them that an anonymous donor had offered to match every dollar that came into Solomon's Porch that month.

The race was on to find as many donations as possible for this year-end match. A wonderful article ran in the Wenatchee World, emails were sent, the newsletter also made a big impact. By the time December 31st rolled around we were blessed with over \$16,000 in donations. The total after the match was around \$32,000! More than we typically bring in throughout the whole year!

THANK YOU!



Program
Director since
2007

Since that time, Desiree' has been brought back in full-time, we've opened up another night, we have eight new volunteers, and we're working on paying off the remaining \$112,000 for our building. Beyond that, Mrs. Teresa Craig has come on to assist Desiree' in the office a few days a week, making a significant impact in our visibility and networking ability.

If you would be interested in Desiree' presenting to your business, faith community, networking group, or Bible study, call the office to set up a time. We'd love to spread the word about the great things that are happening at Solomon's Porch!