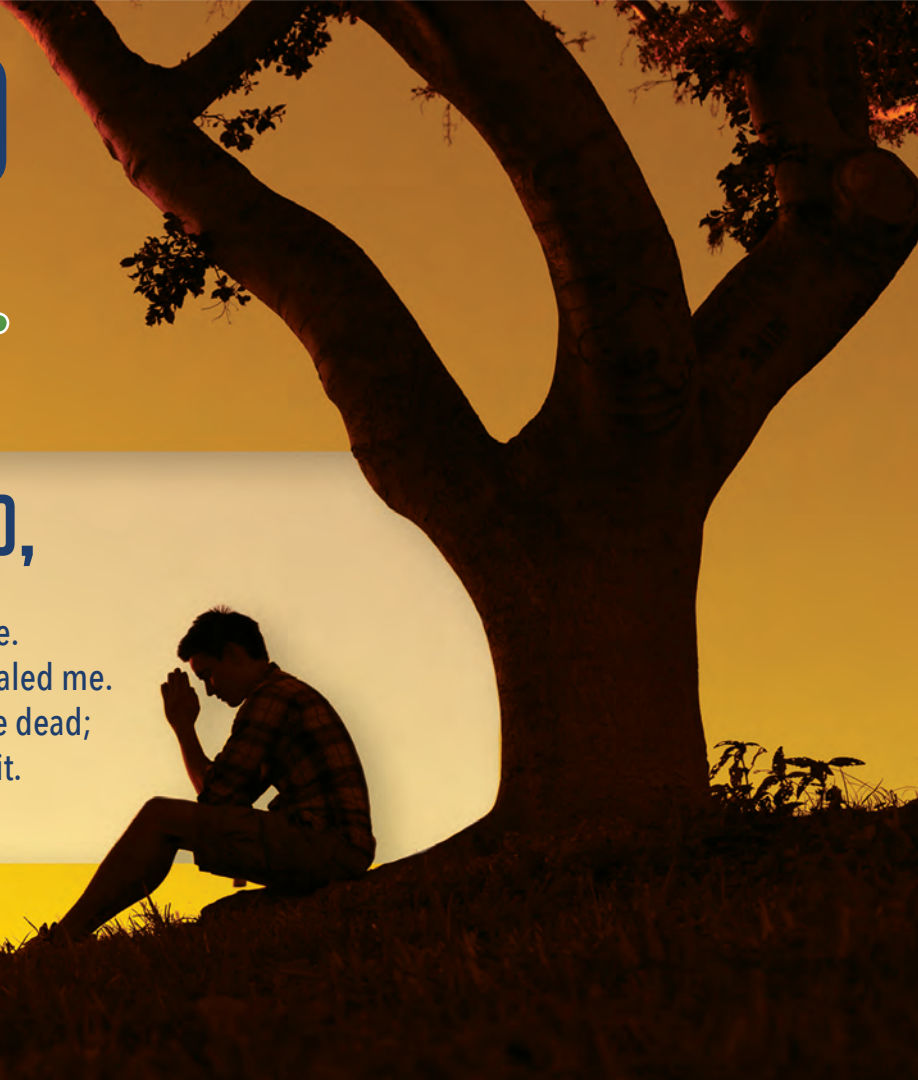


ANSWERED *Prayers.*

I WILL EXALT YOU, LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.
You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Psalms 30:1-3 (NKJV)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Prayer: Antidote to Isolation

We are wired for connection and relationship- both with our Father and each other. When we are isolated from one another and from God, we find ourselves at risk; prey to all manner of enemies. If he can isolate us, he can influence us. Prayer has been described as “keeping company with God”. I’d add that intercessory prayer is “keeping company with others” as well.

Please find in this newsletter many answers to “isolation” via prayer. Our experience has revealed that prayer helps us to unfold God’s plan and see His purpose. The essence of His purposes are right relationship with Him, ourselves, and those around us. Enjoy these stories shared by Sherry, Ashley and Jessica. Then, I encourage you to keep company with God and with Hope Rescue Mission through prayer. Prayer is the antidote to isolation and the gateway to healing relationships.

Jim Hicks, Executive Director

Prayer has been described as
“KEEPING COMPANY WITH GOD”



ANSWERED Prayers.

Recently I have prayed for more interaction opportunities with God's people. The pandemic era had left me with the desire to connect in ways that were missing or scarce over the last few years. He has answered those prayers in numerous ways and I am eternally grateful.

This summer I found myself at the Safe Outdoor Space picnic table with a group of my co-workers, volunteers, and TSOS program participants. I was blessed to hear testimonies that amazed me and brought happy tears to my eyes.

Missy's story is not uncommon as she described to me how her and her husband ended up with us and is living in one of the TSOS tents for now. She shared her soul with me and the heart she has for her children who are currently with relatives. Looking into her eyes as we shared the lunch I had packed for two, not knowing who would enjoy it with me, I saw something that I imagine was not present before her and Mike came to TSOS: **that is HOPE!** What a blessing that God answered a prayer through you Missy!

Also, recently I have been blessed with so many opportunities to connect with some of you, our faithful and beautiful supporters. I am blessed by every phone call, handwritten note, and in-person visit. No conversation goes by without hearing something about what our God is doing in each priceless life.

Know that this staff and volunteers keep you in our prayers each day and that **the seemingly small things MEAN SO MUCH!**

Sherry Gunter, Finance Director



◀ Volunteers at the baling operation

In the Fall of 2021, it became pretty clear that the limited space for offices at our Hope Thrift Boutique was not going to be sufficient to house our entire leadership team long-term. We had done the best we could with the limited availability we had, but we were rapidly outgrowing our space and with the amount of donations coming through the doors at the Boutique, that limited space was needed to expand the thrift store floor and donation storage.

...we serve a **LIMITLESS GOD** whose ways are higher than ours!

Individually and as a team, we prayerfully considered relocating our administrative staff into an office that could also house our 549-HOPE operations. The ask was big. Retail space was limited. The cost for rent was beyond our budget. Yet, we serve a limitless God whose ways are higher than ours! Three months into the new year, we received notice that a multi-year grant contract we received for our work at the Temporary Safe Outdoor Space was being increased and we were asked to step into a space of a previous recipient operating a former Drop-in-Center in Missoula. Knowing that this was a big transition for us, the \$50,000 would be flexible in use to open a new drop-in-center and operate it. When asked if it could be used to pay for a lease (since we had nowhere to operate a Drop-in-Center), the answer was yes!

That same day, we received a call that some retail offices were coming available upstairs in Revive Church. Here we are, four months into our new location, with a thriving collaborative team, a new Drop-In-Center, dedicated space for 549-HOPE and our Hope Coordinators and an incredible partnership with a church who shares our mission to serve. **God has been so faithful and has answered our prayers!**

Ashley Corbally, Director of Development



◀ April Seat, Director of Outreach in our new Drop-in-Center

▶ Bouquet of flowers from United Way of Missoula County brought to us during our open house



WITH GOD,
all things are possible!

My early childhood was plagued by neglect, homelessness and my father's heroin addiction. At 12, I left my parent's home and lived on the streets, in survival mode, for the next 27 years. At 19, I lost my father to a heroin overdose.

In and out of jail, and 32 arrests later, a Christian woman bringing church in the jail planted a seed and told me: "let me love you until you learn to love yourself." I decided I couldn't do this anymore and gave my life to Christ. I felt peace for the first time in my life in 2013 in a jail cell alone and was delivered then from my opioid addiction!

In the mess of my journey to find my Lord and Savior, I spent 12 years separated from my oldest son and on non-speaking terms. God heard my prayers for restoration of this relationship, and after 12 years, we are now reunited, he has moved to Missoula and he, too, shares a heart to serve in broken places. He has been volunteering at the TSOS and I am grateful my children will never receive that same call I received about my father. With God, all things are possible!

Jessica, Staff Member working at TSOS



Jessica with her son.



www.hopemontana.org | 406-542-5240

