

Friends,

The next nine months are going to be really interesting when it comes to homeless services in Jackson County. You might have seen the April 12th headline in the new *Rogue Valley Times*.

The story went on to say: "Jackson County will receive \$8.8 million to rehouse 133 households and create 67 shelter beds... by Dec. 31". It remains to be seen which local non-profits are going to apply for this funding and how they are going to put it to use. But one thing I am sure of is that the Medford Gospel Mission does not receive government money of any kind.

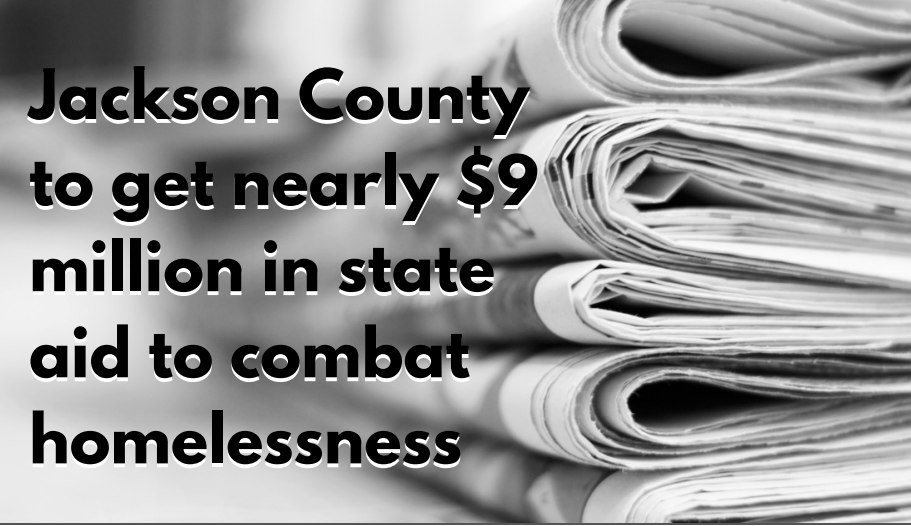
Tempting? Not really, because the risk is far greater than any gain that it would bring. It would be easy for us to add 67 beds for far less than \$8 million dollars, but what would it cost? Our religious liberty, our ability to freely share the Gospel, or our ability to require people to not use fentanyl or other really dangerous drugs. Is that worth \$8 million dollars? No. It wouldn't be worth \$100 million dollars!

Doing the math, the state money coming into our community over the next few months is more than the Mission has spent over the entirety of the past decade. Over the past 10 years we have worked at restoring over 750 men and women in our transitional living program with the vast majority of them leaving homelessness behind for good. In addition to that, eight of those years we provided emergency shelter beds to over 7,500 people. We also operated our free restaurant, *the Main Ingredient*, that served around 500,000 meals, and our *Outfit Outlet* free clothing store has helped thousands of people.

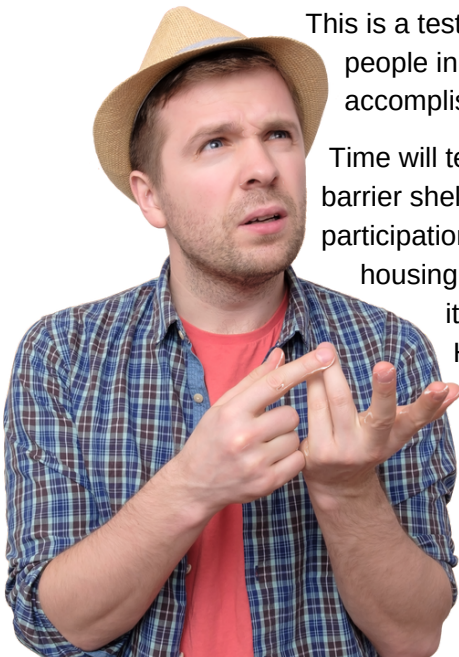
This is a testimony of how local people like you have responded to poverty by equipping us to help people in our community. You don't have to be a mathematician to understand that a lot can be accomplished without relying on taxpayer dollars.

Time will tell what non-profit will take the state up on their generous offer and provide 67 new low-barrier shelter beds, beds that don't require people to be clean and sober or have any program participation requirements, beds that simply hold people waiting for government funded permanent housing. It remains to be seen if the \$8.8 million to get 133 people off the greenway is worth it? We will see if it makes a real impact or if it simply adds to the ever growing Homeless Industrial Complex. Hopefully for everyone's sake, next year at this time our greenway, parks, and other public places will be safe for everyone to use once more.

In a similar way that secular non-profits partner with the government to get things done, the Medford Gospel Mission partners with local churches. The difference is our calling didn't come from Salem a few months ago, but it was a calling from local churches 63 years ago to reach the lost and gather the reached that are living in poverty in our community.

A black and white photograph of a stack of papers or documents, with the top edges of many pages visible, creating a textured, layered effect.

Jackson County to get nearly \$9 million in state aid to combat homelessness



We are funded by generous donations from people in our community and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds

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Being called by the local church, we take the Word of God seriously, and we believe that the Good News of the Gospel transforms people as He reconciles people to himself. This brings true meaning and a purpose to all areas of life. This doesn't just effect us for eternity, but it starts today.

Jesus doesn't just save our souls. He saves all of us: body, mind, affections, will, and relationships. This means that relationships are not just something we do. Relationships are the core of who we are and how we flourish. For this reason, our program is all about restoring wholeness to the Four Key Relationships: with God, with self, with others, and with the rest of creation.

Remember, the state of poverty in our community isn't hopeless because God will continue to restore lives through the work of His people until He returns. And by His grace, we will continue to *reach the lost and gather the reached* and make an incredible difference for Christ in our community.

This spring and throughout the year we are going to be holding poverty workshops with local churches, so please pray about joining us as we not only stand together, but work together to love our neighbors, especially our neighbors in poverty for the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Thank God for sending
His Son to make
reconciliation possible
in our community!



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

In honor of Jesus Christ
by Ken & Diane Capp
In honor of Pastor David Rapp
by Sherrill Hieber
In honor of Marvin Ter Best
by Dean Ter Best

In memory of Jerry Armstrong
by Mary Armstrong
In memory of Nancy Mills Bachmann
by Charmaine & Ron Brackett
In memory of Harry & Corrine Belau
by Betty Hunter
In memory of Earl Best
by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis
In memory of Ben Brackin, Jr.
by Ben & Geraldine Brackin, Sr.
In memory of Mildred Bray
by Joyce Lull
In memory of My Brother Bruce
by Lynn Baker
In memory of Jami Anne Burk
by Roberta Hawkins
and by Pete & Margaret Jackson
In memory of Hank Delladio
by Mark & Karen Delladio
In memory of Bill & Carolyn Dutton
by Janice Blankenship
In memory of Steve & Buck Fixsen
by Pat Fixsen

In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire
by Paul & Janice Roby
In memory of Mark Gosnell
by Joe & Mitzi Colton
In memory of Jane & Roger Gratsinger
by Duane & Rebecca Haas
In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter
by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman
In memory of Roberta Laber
by Ronald Laber
In memory of Lu Lull
by Joyce Lull
In memory of Ronelda McCollum
by Kathleen Frazier
In memory of John & Vida Melville
by Joanie & Steve Ganong
In memory of Phyllis Murray
by Rolf Murray
In memory of Marion Myrick
by Nancy Mitchell
In memory of Billie Ray Nering
by Ken & Diane Capp
In memory of Donald & LaRue Oberlander
by Melody Stevens
In memory of Patricia Piter
by Steve Piter
In memory of Jim Ronda
by Connie Ronda
In memory of Jack Salter
by Judy Salter

In memory of Nancy Scafani
by David Scafani
In memory of Jerry Scheid
by Jackie Scheid
In memory of Peter Searby
by Dave & Ginny Newell
In memory of Dorothee Shadzad
by Michelle Hobbs
In memory of Duane Shinn
by Dianne Carter
and by Garland & Roberta Shinn
In memory of Aaron Ter Best
by Dean Ter Best
In memory of Lane Tesdal
by Marlene Tesdal
In memory of Ron von der Hellen
by Judson Parsons
and by Vernon Gebhard
In memory of Dustin Weidman
by Donna MacKenzie
In memory of Elizabeth Westerberg
by Gayle Wolfe
In memory of Griff Wilder
by Pattie Wilder
In memory of Charles Williams
by Marilyn & Jim Kelley
In memory of Garry Wilson
by Arline Wilson
and by Betty Rule
In memory of Denise
by Charles Hoffman