

PROJECT PATH

2nd Quarter Report, FY 24-25



Stepping Stones
ALLIANCE

Introduction

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is provided in accordance with the Service Agreement between Stepping Stones Alliance and the City of Umatilla as part of the West Umatilla County partnership to provide services to our community's homeless residents through Project PATH (Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing). This report provides an update on site preparations, community outreach, strategic plan, budget, and general services. More detailed materials are available upon re-quest which might include draft/adopted operational policies and procedures, meeting minutes of Stepping Stones Alliance, or general member policies and code of conduct. This report is in-tended to serve as a high level update of the services provided and the general progress we have made thus far.

Pilot Program Contacts

County Commissioner
Dan Dorran

City Managers

Dave Stockdale, City of Umatilla
Byron Smith, City of Hermiston
Darla Linker, City of Stanfield
Dave Slaght, City of Echo

Project Contact
Marisela Morales

Stepping Stones Contact
Jesalyn Cole

PURCHASE AND INVESTEMENTS

This section details the allocation of grant funds for purchases aimed at enhancing the Navigation Center and fostering community growth among its members. The outlined field trips and online purchases are key components of this effort, providing opportunities for learning and access to valuable resources that support PATH's mission. These investments are designed to enrich the overall experience for members and promote a sense of connection and development within the community.



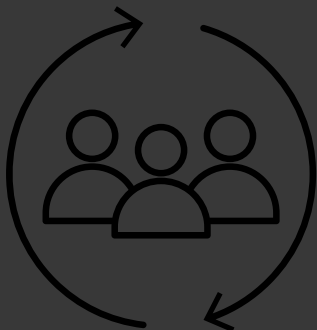
Field Trip Investments

Members were able to take field trips to four local business to spend grant funds in recreational items such as books, puzzles and decorative plants to improve the ambiance of the Navigation Center.



Online Purchases

Additional funds were spent on online purchases to acquire board games for recreational activities, outdoor sports equipment, and furniture for the Navigation Center.



Purpose and Impact of Puchases

- Facilitated trust-building and positive personal growth.
- Enhanced daily interactions, contributing to a stronger sense of community.
- Promoted a welcoming and engaging environment within the Navigation Center.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

During this reporting period, we implemented key updates to enhance staff coverage and member support. These updates include adjustments to staff schedules, expanded security coverage, and the addition of a new hire to improve accessibility through shuttle services. Below are the details of these changes:



Staffing Overview

We maintain five hourly staff members as Staff Assistants and Site Support. These staff members provide coverage and support for daily operations and ensure the smooth functioning of the site.



Staff Coverage Schedule

- Staff Assistants are scheduled from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., seven days a week.
- The Phoenix team provides coverage from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., seven days a week, with one officer on-site during overnight hours.

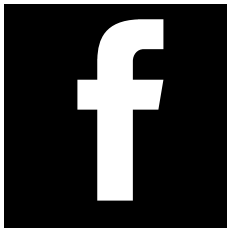


New Hire and Shuttle Services

We hired an additional staff member who works 12 hours weekly. This individual is responsible for operating the shuttle services from Monday to Friday, offering transportation for members to: appointments, grocery shopping and banking.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND CAMPAIGNS

Our media presence increased significantly this quarter, largely due to **Giving Tuesday** on December 3rd. Throughout the day, we shared impactful programming updates, success stories, and ways for the community to get involved. Additionally, we have been engaged in our Community and participated in or hosted the following activities and meetings:



Social Media- Facebook

- Posts: 66 total posts on Facebook (FB).
- Views: 96K.
- Reach: 12.3K.
- Content Interactions: 675.
- Followers: 857.



Social Media - Instagram

- Posts: 66 total posts on Instagram.
- Views: 2.3K.
- Reach: 208.
- Content Interactions: 108.
- Followers: 170.



Community Participation

This quarter we participated in or hosted the following activities and meetings:

- Grant Calls: Ducote.
- Volunteer Fair: Hermiston Chamber.
- Community Events: Project Community Connect, Land of Lights with AWS.
- Committees: Food Insecurity Committee, PATH.
- Umatilla Chamber Luncheon.
- Hermiston Altrusa Club.
- Hermiston Faith Advisory.
- Non-profit leadership presentation at Proud River Leadership Academy
- Umatilla City Council.
- On-site tours for Hermiston City Council, area partners, grant funders, and community members.
- ROCC: Attended monthly meetings.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

We continue to strengthen and expand our partnerships to better serve our community. Below are some recent updates on: financial contributions, item donations, meal contributions and class offering from our partnership agencies. These partnerships and contributions are vital to our mission and are greatly appreciated.



Financial Contributors

- Community Members.
- AWS.
- Blue Mountain Insurance Professionals.
- Northwest Beef Express.
- A-1 Industrial Supply.



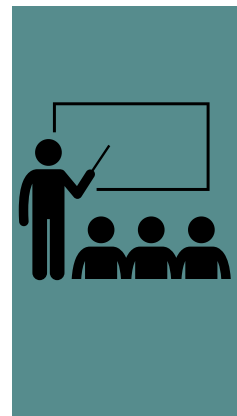
Item Donations

- Community members - food items.
- Cornerstone Baptist Church - food items.
- Living Faith Church - 30 gift bags of clothes and toiletries.
- Home Depot - hygiene products.



Meal Contributors

- The Hermiston Rotary Club and Hermiston Altrusa Club prepared meals for us to freeze and use as needed.
- Regular meal donations continue from the following restaurants:
 - Veg Out.
 - Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe.



Classes

- **Skill-Building Classes:** C.O.P.E.S has started offering weekly skill-building classes on-site for members. Additionally, a parenting class was introduced before the holidays, open to both the community and our members. We are exploring other class opportunities, including money management, RentWell, and anger management.
- **Staff-Led Initiatives:** Hourly staff are actively participating by proposing and leading new classes and groups. They have already initiated resume-building and interview skills workshops.

GUEST AND MEMBER NUMBER UPDATES

Over the past three months, the guest stays, ISU membership transitions, and meal services have shown significant activity. The report outlines the number of guest stays, new guests, transitions to ISU membership, and ISU occupancy for October, November, and December. The data highlights the growth in guest stays and transitions to ISU membership, as well as the continued support through meal services.



October

- Guest Stays: 265.
- New Guests: 18.
- Meals Served for the quarter: 95 meals.
- ISU Membership Transition: 6 guests transitioned to ISU membership.
- ISU Occupancy: 19 members occupying 17 ISUs.



November

- Guest Stays: 366.
- New Guests: 23.
- Meals provided by volunteers/community: 68.
- ISU Membership Transition: 11 guests transitioned to ISU membership.
- ISU Occupancy: 19 members occupying 18 ISUs.



December

- Guest Stays: 402.
- New Guests: 32.
- Meals prepared/served by staff: 27.
- ISU Membership Transition: 3 guests transitioned to ISU membership.
- ISU Occupancy: 21 members occupying 20 ISUs.

FUNDRAISING AND FUNDING UPDATES

Significant efforts have been made to secure funding to support and sustain our initiatives. This section highlights the progress made in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities, including the status of awarded grants, pending applications, and targeted fundraising activities. These efforts are critical to ensuring the continued impact and growth of our programs.

Awarded Grants

- Oregon Community Foundation awarded \$30,000 for outdoor kitchen shelter.
- Community Development Block Grant awarded \$226,700 for indoor/outdoor kitchen spaces.

Pending Grants

- Schnitzer Cares awarded \$2,000 for a commercial grade washing machine in the Navigation Center.

Fundraising Initiatives

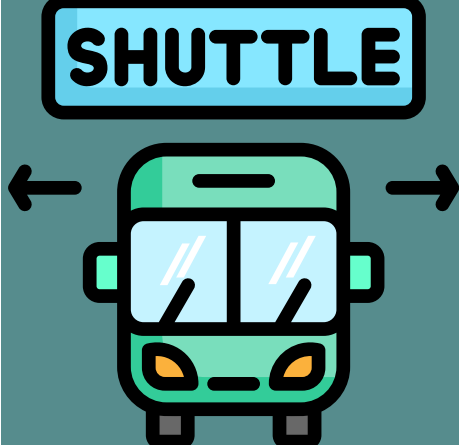
- We raised \$1,000 during our Giving Tuesday fundraiser!

Fundraising Initiatives

- We raised \$7,500 during our Year-end-Giving fundraiser!

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Transportation services are essential part of ensuring accessibility and convenience for the community. One key service is the daily shuttle drop-off in Hermiston. This reliable shuttle operates every morning, providing timely transportation for guests/members. The specific drop-off times are outlined below for easy reference:

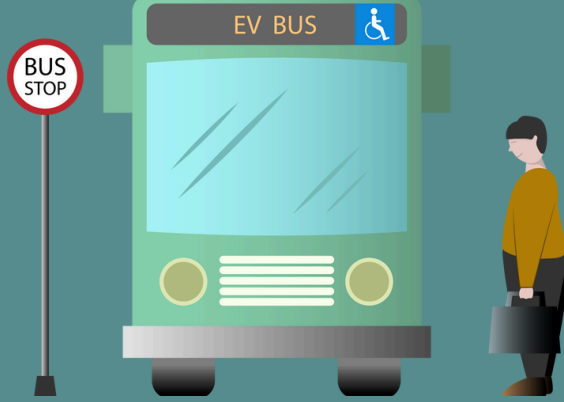
A stylized green and white shuttle bus with a blue sign above it that says "SHUTTLE". The bus has two arrows pointing outwards from its sides, indicating it can move in either direction.

Shuttle Drop-Off

- Shuttle drop-off occurs every Morning at 7 a.m. at C.O.P.E.S (140 SW 11th St. Hermiston).

Shuttle Pick-Up

- Shuttle drop-off occurs every Morning at 7 a.m. at C.O.P.E.S (140 SW 11th St. Hermiston).

An illustration of a green and white bus with "EV BUS" and a wheelchair icon on its side. To the left is a red and white "BUS STOP" sign. To the right is a person in a yellow sweater and black pants carrying a black briefcase.

Public Transit Access

- Kayak Public Transit provides a Hermiston Hopper route, which members can access by taking the PATH Shuttle into town and walking to these designated Kayak stops: Northwest Farm Supply and KIE Supply Corporation.

NAVIGATION CENTER/MEMBER UPDATES

Carolina continues to assist members in achieving their goal across various areas, including:

- Employment.
- Housing.
- Budgeting.
- Physical Health Stability.
- Mental Health Stability.
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment.
- Obtaining Class A License.
- Securing Documents and/or Benefits.

Member Engagement Activities:

- Bi-weekly Member Meetings: Address news, changes, and challenges as a group.
- One-on-One Meetings: Conducted at least weekly to provide personalized support.
- Daily Well-Checks: Ensure consistent monitoring and care for each member.

Volunteer Information:

- Sleep Center Volunteer Shifts:
 - October - 62 shifts.
 - November - 69 shifts.
 - December - 69 shifts.

What is SS Looking forward to this next quarter?

Stepping Stones Alliance is excited to expand class offerings for members and remains hopeful for an agreement on the next phase of ISUs as our membership grows. Financial sustainability remains a top priority, and we are grateful for Ducote's collaboration in securing larger grant opportunities. Community education is thriving, and we are committed to attending events and sharing knowledge to enhance awareness further.

As we enter 2025, we look forward to advancing projects such as the Navigation Center kitchen and outdoor common space, pending the award of CDBG funding. Additionally, the solar panel project we were selected for is underway, with installation beginning in November, and we are eagerly awaiting the next steps. We celebrate the ongoing success of our members as they achieve their goals and look forward to a year of continued progress and collaboration.

