

In Memory of Our Friend, Rose Stauffer August 31, 1984 - June 10, 2013

We first met Rose in March of 2008 when she came in to interview for our case manager position. She was young and still a few months away from getting her bachelor's degree from Washington State University, but her skills, compassion and backbone were obvious. We hired her immediately. For the next two and a half years, she was a fierce advocate for the participants in our transitional housing program, and became a cherished member of the Sojourner family.

In the fall of 2010, she moved on to pursue a Master of Social Work degree at Eastern Washington University. We were sorry to no longer have her around the office, but we watched happily as she excelled and grew into a vibrant, passionate woman.

Rose loved her family and friends, animals, and baking delicious goodies. She was tireless in her commitment to helping others, and quick with a kind word when she saw someone in need of comfort. Her internal fire and drive were an inspiration to many.

Our dear friend, thank you for being such a wonderful part of our lives, we are all the better for having known you. You are deeply missed.

Rosarita, until we meet again.



Top, Rose Stauffer. May 2012.

Above, a happy family photo: (left to right) Elaina Pierson, Mary Walsh, Steve Bonnar, Rose Stauffer, Tom Clayton and Jim Gale. November 2009.

At left: Rose and Security Monitor Tom Clayton with friends. September 2008.



Sojourners' Alliance

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This issue of *Sojourners' Alliance News* was edited by Elaina Pierson.

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Mission Statement

Sojourners' Alliance is a private, non-profit organization working toward a community vision of dignity and equality for all people.

Our mission is to promote the personal growth, empowerment and self-sufficiency of people in transition by providing basic services, and education in interpersonal and life skills.

From the Director's Chair

This has been a very interesting year for our organization and staff. We have had our fair share of ups and downs but have weathered the challenges one at a time. Decisions had to be made that in hindsight were the right ones at that time. Yet, today, we are healthier and more invigorated than we have been at any time during my entire tenure. We have attempted a number of ways in which to foster a healthier financial portfolio, sometimes they work and sometimes they don't. Let me tell you, I've come up with lots of ideas on how to raise money or awareness for our organization. A few of those brainstorming ideas have come to fruition while many other ideas are just that. One idea that I've had has stuck with me for quite some time and I think it will actually become a reality.

My grandfather, James King Bonnar, is a famous painter. I didn't know that until a friend of mine did a Google search and showed me all of the websites about him. Well, I've had one of his paintings for 30 years! How I kept it in my possession is a mystery. I had the picture scanned and auctioned off a print at our Gala eight years ago. My thoughts then were to sell limited edition prints for my own financial gain. And that is where the idea was stuck until last week. It came to me that I can sell them and donate 75% of the proceeds to Sojourners' and 25% to the Newton Art Association that my grandfather started. When this revelation came, I instantly knew that this was the long-awaited answer. I have been given a chance to do something good for others without any financial gain. Whether any sell or not will be revealed after I start advertising them January 1st.

I don't have much more to offer personally in the way of financial support for our organization. I give what I can because I believe in the work we do. I believe in Sojourners' and I believe in the people who come through our doors and that they too can succeed. We all do the best we can. I just hope that what I give to our organization and community can make a difference. I appreciate and value all of the support we receive and the belief you, our supporters, have in our organization. I just hope that we can continue to do good work.

A final thought that captures the essence of what I am trying to convey, "Faith without works is dead." Thank you!

—Stephen Bonnar

Current University Partnerships

- Service Learning with English Class for Grant Writing
- Service Learning with Sociology Class for Diversity & Stratification
- Guest Presenter to WSU Economics Class on Non-Profits
- Guest Presenter to WSU Homeless Awareness Week
- Dr. Derringer's U of I class
- A U of I intern since May 2013
- A WSU intern beginning January 2014
- Numerous one-time interviews with students

Community Involvement

- Chair Person – Poverty on the Palouse Forum
- Chair Person - Regional Coalition Committee (Region II)
- Chair Person - Idaho Strategic Planning Committee
- Regional Representative - Idaho Homelessness Coordination Committee
- Board of Director – FEMA (Latah County)
- Board Member - Moscow Affordable Housing Trust

Thoughts from our Case Managers

What is Success?

For some, it's owning their own business or excelling in their career. Others may feel they're successful after raising a family and watching their children grow up to be healthy, happy, adults.

For our participants, HUD defines a person as successful if, when leaving the program, they have increased their income and have moved into permanent housing. Yes, that is our ultimate goal, but I see success in so many other ways: 112 days sober, getting a GED, passing a driving test and getting a license, or finding the right combination of medications.

Over the past year as a Case Manager for Sojourners' I have had the privilege of witnessing many personal successes with our participants. I feel that one of the biggest barriers to success for our participants is trust. They must trust in themselves and in those that are devoting their time and energy to help them.

When I meet someone coming into the program, I try to get a feel for where they want their life to go, but it's not until we develop trust with each other that I see the real potential in a person. It's wonderful when that happens, and then we can start to make progress on the barriers they have to living stably and independently. Sometimes, sadly, we just never get to that point.

When you look only at the numbers HUD recognizes the successes are few, but in almost every case our program did make a difference in their lives. We provided shelter when they could find none, treated them with respect and dignity and gave them council and support that we hope they can use in their lives as they move on.

Being able to celebrate the small successes with our participants is what keeps me going. I'm always hoping for the next one and am always sad when that doesn't happen for whatever reason. I've learned that success is measured differently for our people. Using this different measuring stick has not only helped me survive burn out, it has helped me recognize when success happens.

—Tanya Salada



Transitional Housing Case Manager Tanya Salada and Project Warmth Case Manager Mary Walsh

Leaving it at the Desk

In the nearly six years of working in our community as a professional helper, I've gleaned a few hard and fast principles while working in this field. It is not possible to sit behind a desk and have countless numbers of clients pour out their troubles and not have it leave an impact on my own moral/emotional being. Sharing in the burdens of oth-

ers is in fact a part of the privilege of helping; but this shift only occurs once we've learned that an element of hope needs to be interjected into their journey. The expectation of there being that "glimmer of light" once barriers are lifted, wounds begin to heal and growth can take its first desperate gasps of breath towards something new; it is only forcible motivation that can make it worth it.

The tricky part in being a healthy helper isn't in the learning how to reframe other people's circumstances, but rather to remember to return to your own. I recall being taught in undergrad courses that as a professional, my best resource would be my own self-awareness; and although that certainly has helped at times, I would venture another claim. I have found that while working with those who have been written off (having burned almost every bridge), leaving them to resort to being literally homeless, these individuals face a steep incline towards what most would consider a baseline level of "normal."

Self awareness will only get a professional so far. I can be fully aware that these people are suffering, and how my own prejudices are affecting my perception of them, I can be aware of my sympathy to their discomfort and the urge I may feel to alleviate a problem. However, none of that is going to bring me back to the potential in my own life. Coming to learn what to do with all that you are aware of is key. Self Care is needed; for the sake of honoring the autonomy between our realities, yet still respecting the humanness shared among every person, helpers must be healthy enough to help. Trudging alongside of another is always a privilege, and sometimes a thrill. Most often it is a journey; my part is small, but it is important. I get to trust that their story is good.

—Mary Walsh

Volunteer Snapshot

◆ **Deb Rupp** (current Board Member) managed our Troy Foodbank for several years and stayed on during the transition to Adventist Community Service. She was deeply committed to ensure that all of the households accessing food were treated with dignity and respect. She averaged 80 hours a month, including driving to Lewiston to pick up food on her dime. We appreciate and value her contribution to our organization. Thank you, Deb!

◆ **Cindy Magnuson** (former Board Member) was a volunteer at our Troy Thrift Store for five years. She came up with an idea to raffle a handmade Pennsylvania Dutch Quilt and made the time to sell raffle tickets at various events. She has been involved with our Yard Sale since its inception, spending hundreds of hours sorting and pricing items. She was also integral in helping make the Home & Garden Tour a success. Thank you, Cindy!

◆ **Elisabeth Berlinger** was a volunteer at our Troy Thrift Store for four years. She was involved with the Yard Sale spending hundreds of hours sorting and pricing items. The idea for the Home & Garden Tour was hers. She coordinated all of the homes and gardens with the owners. Thank you, Elisabeth!

◆ **Cindy Lou Ament** has been involved from the very beginning with the Yard Sale, one of the core members since the beginning. She has put in hundreds of hours sorting, pricing, and coordinating the event. Thank you, Cindy Lou!

◆ **CeCe Connors** has been involved with the Yard Sale from the beginning. She has worked tirelessly at making the event a success through her coordination and involvement. Thank you, CeCe!

◆ **Ginger Rankin** (current Board Member) was a volunteer at the Troy Thrift store for four years. She has been involved with the Yard Sale since the beginning, also putting in hundreds of hours sorting and pricing items. Thank you, Ginger!

◆ **Carol Shrewsberry** has been volunteering in our office for over five years. In her first few months, she coordinated with Safeway to receive donations of bread, produce and dairy products which she has been picking up each and every week since. She also works directly with our office manager, assisting with donation organization and general office tasks. Thank you, Carol!



As part of Make a Difference Day, these students from the University of Idaho's Center for Volunteerism and Social Action visited Sojourners' on October 26 to help clean up and prepare our gardens for winter. Thank you!

Avenues for Hope
Housing Challenge

Starting **Tuesday, December 10 at 7 a.m. (PST)**, the goal of Avenues for Hope is to strengthen housing-related nonprofits throughout Idaho by encouraging donations to help prevent homelessness and improve affordable housing options.

Each unique gift of \$25 or more made through the Avenues for Hope website qualifies the receiving organization for a variety of additional challenge grants, including regional match funds up to \$8,000 and a Grand Prize of \$10,000!

Last year, our organization received over \$3,000 in donations and grants! Please consider supporting **Sojourners' Alliance** through this effort in 2013! The Challenge ends December 31st!

Visit **avenuesforhope.org** to donate and for more details.



Home Partnership Foundation
Brought to you by the

Sojourners' Alliance would like to thank the following for providing invaluable assistance in the last year

- ◇ Mary Circle at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- ◇ United Methodist Church of Colfax
- ◇ Moscow Food Co-op's Impulse Giving Program
- ◇ Moscow Cares
- ◇ Princeton Nazarene Church
- ◇ Alpha Gamma Delta Alumni
- ◇ Moscow Rotary Club
- ◇ State of Washington Combined Fund Drive
- ◇ Intolerista Wingding
- ◇ The kind individual who paid for Sojourners' to become a member of the Chamber of Commerce
- ◇ Schreck Family Foundation
- ◇ Palouse Cares
- ◇ United Way of Moscow/Latah County
- ◇ Sacred Heart Parish
- ◇ Tri-State
- ◇ Latah County Fairgrounds
- ◇ Avista Foundation
- ◇ Idaho Community Foundation
- ◇ Wells Fargo Foundation
- ◇ AmericanWest Bank
- ◇ Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse
- ◇ Church Women United
- ◇ St. Mary's Catholic Church
- ◇ St. Augustine's Catholic Church
- ◇ First Presbyterian Church
- ◇ Latah County
- ◇ Eagles Auxiliary #2277
- ◇ Eagles Ladies Auxiliary
- ◇ Safeway
- ◇ Winco
- ◇ Pizza Hut
- ◇ All of our donors, great and small

Many thanks go to the **University of Idaho!** Last December, we were the recipients of the proceeds from the drive at the Christmas Concert. In 2013, we were given the opportunity to hold our Yard Sale on the concourse of the Kibbie Dome, as well as sell programs at all the home football games. Additionally, we have been the happy recipients of food and household products from the **UI Library, ROTC,** and the **College of Natural Resources.**



Shortly after our newsletter came out last December, we started receiving packages from Amazon.com. They were simply addressed to Sojourners' Alliance with no note of who had sent them. Over the course of a few weeks, we ended up receiving in the mail most everything we had asked for in that newsletter's wish list. It was a wonderful surprise. Thank you to our Secret Santa!

Numerous memorial gifts were made to Sojourners' Alliance in the names of:

**~William Medlin
~Theresa Sharrock
~Nicholas Broenneke
~Rose Stauffer**

A very special thank you to the **Army of Volunteers** whose help, in groups and individually, made each of our fundraisers this year successful. Some massive operations were made quick and painless thanks to you. We could not have done it without you!

Fundraising Efforts

- ⇒ Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse (December 2012) - \$1,200
- ⇒ Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge (December 2012) - \$3,730
- ⇒ Pennsylvania Dutch Quilt Raffle (Early 2013) - \$1,250
- ⇒ 8th Annual Academy Awards Gala (February 2013) - \$6,200
- ⇒ 1st Annual Home & Garden Tour (June 2013) - \$3,000
- ⇒ 3rd Annual Yard Sale (August 2013) - \$6,100
- ⇒ 4th Annual Fall Breakfast (November 2013) - \$1,000
- ⇒ Vandal Football Program Sales (Fall 2013) - \$800
- ⇒ Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse (December 2013) - \$ To Be Determined!
- ⇒ Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge (December 2013) - \$ To Be Determined!
- ⇒ 9th Annual Academy Awards Gala (March 2013) - \$ To Be Determined!
- ⇒ Sojo Dogs @ the Renaissance Fair (May 2014) - \$ To Be Determined!



An Overview of our Financial Situation Through 2013

- ◆ Staff pay cuts lasted for 18 months.
- ◆ Jim Gale, Maintenance Person laid off in March.
- ◆ Troy Thrift Store & Food Bank sold to Adventist Community Services of Deary.
 1. Paid off a secured loan on the building for \$14,000.
 2. Eliminated an annual loss in operations of \$5,000.
- ◆ A supporter left \$25,000 in their will for our organization.
- ◆ Identified an accounting error on my part that allowed us to backbill \$16,000.
- ◆ United Way of Latah County - \$5,000
- ◆ AmericanWest Bank - \$2,000
- ◆ Unitarian Universalist Church - \$1,654
- ◆ Schreck Foundation - \$1,000
- ◆ Wells Fargo Foundation - \$3,000 (repairs and maintenance)
- ◆ Gladys E Langroise Advised Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation - \$1,611 (purchased 12 single beds)
- ◆ Avista Foundation - \$1,000 (purchased two refrigerators)
- ◆ Latah County - \$10,000
- ◆ Tri-State - \$1,000
- ◆ Moscow Cares - \$1,000 (20 \$50 gift cards from Winco for Participants)
- ◆ Hundreds of individual donors

A Month in the Life of the Executive Director

November- 1st Week

- Breakfast fundraiser at the 1912 Building, Saturday the 2nd. Started at 5:30AM. Board members, WAMI students and housing participants helped cook, serve and clean. Left at 10:30 AM, dropped off participants at Sojourners'. Returned at 11:30 AM to pick up more participants to sell programs at U of I football game. Day ended at 3:00PM.
- Set up interviews for Journalism students to interview our folks in regards to food stamps (SNAP), transportation issues, homelessness process. Three students from a Sociology class come in weekly for service learning regarding diversity and stratification.
- Met with ServiceMaster in regard to having a carpet removed that was severely damaged by companion animals; had to move one of the participants out of the bedroom and triple bunk them due to the overwhelming animal waste odor.
- Spoke to Alternative to Violence volunteers Thursday night.



Executive Director Steve Bonnar, in a quiet moment

November – 3rd Week

- Went into the office on Saturday the 16th to write a sub-contract with Family Promise Program. Had a work party of six students from WSU in the afternoon.
- Guest presenter on KUOI Sunday night.
- Program Committee meeting, Finance Committee meeting followed by Board meeting.
- ServiceMaster came in and pulled carpets and painted Kilz on floor.
- Met with attorney to discuss tenant/landlord issues.
- Met with Family Promise finance committee to discuss billing.
- Spoke on panel at WSU Homeless Awareness Week.
- Had phone conference meeting for State of Idaho Strategic Planning Committee, followed by the evening event for City of Moscow Commission awards.
- Superior Floors came in and installed new carpet.

November – 2nd Week

- Picked up participants on Saturday the 9th to sell programs at the last home game.
- Payroll and bills compiled for bookkeeper.
- More student interviews and service learning.
- Sat on FEMA board to decide which organizations would receive funding.
- Missed phone conference call for the Avenues for Hope campaign due to a participant crisis.

November – 4th Week

- Saturday the 23rd was at the office completing two grant renewal applications. In the afternoon, received a household of donated items from the father of Rose Stauffer, our former case manager.
- Writing articles for newsletter.
- Coordinated meals for participants' Thanksgiving.

Life is Like a Box of Chocolates...

To use a line from the movie *Forrest Gump*: “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re gonna get.” For me, as a Volunteer at Sojourners’ Alliance, it’s the same way, being an important part of my life for over five years - as my boss Steve reminds me now and then. Most of the time we are busy and full at the shelter; I’ve seen and gone through many changes here. I just wish people would be a little more understanding and take the time to know what it is like to run a place on a shoestring budget, to really see that it is not

easy keeping the building together, and realize that you are dealing with people from all walks of life. And that it isn’t just the homeless that go through this, but also the staff, our “dysfunctional family” that goes through this together. We all want the best for our programs and the people that need them. I have seen people be successful just by having another chance in life, whether it’s a chance with a new job, getting help with a drinking problem, a new haircut, or just having a place to stay and food to eat. That is why we as a team eat lunch together in our “dysfunctional family,” through the years we noticed it made a difference with our communication, as well as just being together and solving problems that may occur throughout the work week.

I also want to thank Safeway for our weekly donation of bread, distressed veggies, fruit, and sometimes milk; it has helped through the years. And Pizza Hut for the mistake pizzas we get now and then. But most of all I want to thank the community for their help with food, powder laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, warm coats and warm blankets that are sometimes even home-made. It makes a difference in a person’s life, even the small things to help a person along the way to be successful and get on their feet again. Because, life is like that box of chocolates, you never do know what you might get.

—Carol Shrewsberry (The Bread Lady)



Carol Shrewsberry and Rose Stauffer, holding the office mascot Ralph. April 2009

Success and Commitment to Change

I have always found it interesting to consider the percentage of success versus failure as it pertains to the participants at Sojourners’. What it really breaks down to is just how committed the individuals are to what Sojourners’ can offer. It is a fact that we are somewhat limited financially, but it is also a fact that what we do offer is quite extensive. If an individual really wants to turn his or her life around, we offer a mighty fine port in any storm. We offer shelter, food, clothing and the chance, in some cases, to regain their self respect. Sojourners’ offers direction for gainful employment and keen insights into the problem areas which may be hindering the advancement of many gifted individuals. Thanks to some of our outstanding local volunteers, there is the chance to continue their education (GED, high school diploma or even higher education). All one has to do is commit and a whole new world is within reach.

Thankfully, many participants take advantage of

the many avenues open to them; sadly, some do not. One thing is clear to me: Sojourners’ is constantly renewing and adjusting to ensure the highest percentage of success possible.

—Tom Clayton



Security Monitor Tom Clayton is on the job

My Life as an Intern

Hello Friends of Sojourners' Alliance!

My name is Megan Dicken and I am an intern here at Sojourners' Alliance. When Steve asked me to write an article for the newsletter I jumped at the chance to introduce myself and talk about my experiences over the past few months.

I grew up in Moscow, and I attend the University of Idaho. I graduated with my degree in Child Development and Family Relations from the University of Idaho in May. I knew I would have to take a year off of school before applying to graduate programs, so I could take a couple of pre-requisite classes. I also knew I wanted to explore the world of social programs that were available in town. I was hoping to get some insight into what it is like to work in a transitional housing program and see if it would be a fit for me. I contacted Steve in April about internship possibilities, we had a meeting in May, and I started in June.

Since June I have been coming in about 12 hours a week. I have been able to experience many aspects of running a transitional housing program. I have shadowed Tanya, our Case Manager. I have been able



Intern Megan Dicken overseeing the big desk

to sit in on case management meetings with participants and help brainstorm about different solutions to their various barriers to housing. I have also shadowed intakes on Tuesdays. I have shadowed Mary, our Case Manager for Project Warmth, and have been able to learn the differences between our programs. I have been able to assist our Office Manager, Elaina with organizing donations. I

have also worked directly with Steve researching grant opportunities, helping write some grants, and assisting with the Fall Breakfast. I have seen participants leave in both successful and not so successful ways.

I have been given the opportunity to create some fact sheets to help the participants navigate the ins and outs of the different services that are out there. I have also created some different fact sheets about job searches, and I am available to help those who are interested in writing a strong resume. I was given the opportunity to run a Men's House Meeting about budgeting and money management. Right now I am working on revamping our brochure, and helping prepare for a Poverty Forum in December.

I am so happy I have been given this opportunity. In initiating this internship I was hoping to find out if I would enjoy a career as a Social Worker, and I have been given the confidence that this will be a good fit for me. I will be applying to some Masters in Social Work programs this fall. It has been wonderful getting to know the amazing staff, and participants in our program, and I am excited to see the new challenges and opportunities the New Year will bring! □

Wish List

If you can help by contributing any of these items, they would be greatly appreciated.

- Food*
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Large bath towels
- Large garbage bags (30+ gallon)
- Hand soap & sanitizer
- First aid supplies, band aids
- Deodorant
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Razors
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Cleaning supplies
- Sanitizing/disinfecting wipes
- Mops & mop buckets
- DVD players/VCRs

*Though we no longer operate the food bank in Troy, we still have a small pantry on-site to supplement the needs of our housing participants. Thanks to your contributions, we haven't had to purchase food to stock the pantry in over five years. Every little bit helps!

Our needs are always changing. If you are unsure about particular items you would like to donate, don't hesitate to give us a call at (208) 883-3438. Thank you!



Sojourners' Alliance Bringing the Pieces Together

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Ongoing Maintenance Issues and Some New Developments

The four buildings across from our office house two families, the women's unit, and five low income rental units. The buildings are World War II-era barracks that were purchased and originally located as a motel where Howard Hughes Appliance currently sits. The buildings were moved to their current location sometime in the 1960s. Our best understanding is that the buildings are close to 70 years old.

Two years ago a representative from the Office of Inspector General inspected our buildings. A recommendation was made to have them further inspected by a certified building inspector and to follow all recommendations. The report identified a minimum of \$142,000 in repairs, not including the replacement of the original, now-deteriorating water lines to the four buildings. The rough guess is that the overall cost for repairs will be closer to \$200,000. The question then became what would the money used for repairs purchase in new building. The current cost for new construction is \$125/square foot which would build a 1,600 sq. foot building.

This has begun a discussion with Idaho Housing & Finance Association (IHFA) about whether to sink more money into what is perceived as a money pit. We currently have \$560,000 in federal loans linked to our buildings. The loans require that the housing be available for use during a 15 year affordability period. After the period ends, the housing can be taken off the market. The idea we are exploring is to replace the old buildings with new ones once the affordability period ends in June 2015. Right now we need to take care of some basic electrical safety issues that will cost approximately \$19,000 and covered by IHFA. We also need to address some issues for the basic Housing Quality Standard that will cost our organization approximately \$10,000.

We have some time before we either sink in thousands of dollars for repairs or transition into new buildings. Time will tell.

—Stephen Bonnar