

PROJECT PATH

4th Quarter Report, FY 24-25



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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-request 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

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.

Staffing Overview

During this quarter, we maintained five (5) hourly staff members providing support in both staff assistant and site support roles. Additionally, our mid-day shuttle service continues to operate at 12 hours per week, ensuring reliable transportation during peak hours.

Staffing Adjustment

To address a temporary staffing gap resulting from a medical leave of absence, we hired an additional hourly employee. This individual initially served in a volunteer capacity and has now transitioned into an on-call role. They will remain available to provide coverage for staff absences due to illness or vacation, as needed.

Phoenix Overnight Operations

The Phoenix overnight program remained active throughout the quarter, operating nightly from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM, seven days a week. Staffing levels have been maintained with one (1) officer on-site during each overnight shift.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Stepping Stones Alliance remains committed to cultivating strong community and regional partnerships that support our mission and enhance the services we provide. This quarter, we continued to collaborate with a wide range of organizations, both new and existing, to share our resources, exchange ideas, and create meaningful opportunities for our guests and members. The following highlights reflect the growth and strength of these partnership and the collective impact we are building together.

Donation and Sponsorships

Financial Donations

- We received between \$25-\$200 from Community Donors.

Groceries and Meal Donations

- Hermiston Altrusa Club.
- Oasis Vineyard Church.
- Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe.
- Veg Out.
- Community Members.

Gala Sponsors

- **Bedrock Sponsors:** Atkinson Staffing and AWS donated \$5,000 each.
- **Hearth Sponsors:** Kiwanis donated \$1,000.
- **Cobblestone Sponsors:** ABR, Wheatland, Sanitary Disposal, ITC, and UEC donated \$500 each.
- **Riprap Sponsors:** Hermiston Generating, Kirby Nagelhout, Rogers Toyota, and AWS donated different dollar amounts.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Our media outreach has remained consistent this quarter, with regular “Thankful Thursday” posts, weekly grocery list updates each Friday, and periodic targeted messages such as special shout-outs and specific calls to action. We have also continued to distribute monthly newsletter updates to subscribers via our website, ensuring steady communication and engagement with our community.

Community Outreach Updates

Social Media Posts

- 30 total posts on Facebook and Instagram.
- **Facebook:** 46K views, 9K reach, 402 content interactions, and 901 followers.
- **Instagram:** 1K views, 146K reach, 64 content interactions and 179 followers.

Community Engagement

Attended the following meetings and events

- Hermiston Faith-Based Advisory Council.
- PATH Advisory.
- Local Planning Group.
- Meetings with Ducote, AWS, CAPECO, Umatilla City Staff, Marlette Staff, and Phoenix Protective.
- Schnitzer Care grant award ceremony.
- Proud River Leadership dinner.

Hosted the following organizations and representatives:

- Crossroads Community Church Members.
- Umatilla County Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- Brooke Matthews from the ROCC/OC3.
- Robbin from CAPECO.
- Judy from Hui-Pasquini from Oregon Housing & Community Services.
- AgWest representatives.
- AWS representatives.
- CCS Supported Employment Division.

Presentations given to

- Crossroad Community Church in Stanfield.
-

NAVIGATION CENTER & MEMBER PROGRAMMING

Health and Community Engagement

- Partnered with Umatilla Health to host an STD testing day in April.
- Participated in the ***I love my City event*** by hosting free haircuts on site and coordinating transportation for homeless individuals.
- Continued monthly outreach in collaboration with OWhN to provide resources and information at local homeless camps.
- Staff completed QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training through CCS.

Member Services and Activities

- Monthly member birthday celebrations are held to help foster a sense of community and recognition.
- Bi-weekly member meetings are held to provide updates, share community news, and address ongoing challenges.
- Daily wellness and ISU cleanliness checks are conducted for each member.
- Ongoing support is provided in employment, housing, health, and essential needs.
- One-on-one check-ins with members have been introduced to strengthen engagement and support.
- Classes are now offered regularly, focusing on both educational topics and recreational activities.



FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS

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

- Roundhouse – \$2,500 for transportation staffing.
- AgWest Farm Credit – \$2,500 for parking lot improvements.

Pending Applications

- Wildhorse Foundation \$30,000 for outdoor coverings, awning on Sleep Center and outdoor common space.

Annual Gala Fundraising Event

“Enchanted Garden”

- Date: Saturday, October 11.
- Location: EOTEC.
- Time: 6:00–10:00 PM.
- Sponsorships and ticket sales launching soon.



CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PURCHASES

Completed Projects

- Installed bathroom fans in the Sleep Center.
- Added three new outdoor water spigots.
- Improved the area between asphalt parking lot and Lind Road.
- Raised garden beds were built by Hermiston High School's construction class.

Pending Projects

- Adding an awning to the Sleep Center.
- Ordering an outdoor common space shelter.
- The construction of a new four-unit shower/bathroom building, including an ADA-compliant unit.

Appliance Upgrades

- Schnitzer Care funds were used to purchase new commercial-grade washers and dryers for both the Sleep Center and Navigation Center.

Technology Investments

- Upgraded the Sleep Center's computer and monitor used for security camera monitoring.

Inventory and Resource Replenishment

- Purchased mattresses, bedding, and storage items to improve comfort for members.

Garden Purchases

- Purchased plants, planters, and gardening materials to support the raised beds constructed by Hermiston High School's Construction class.

GUEST NUMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

ISU Occupancy

- **April:** 411 guest stays, 13 new guests, 4 ISU transitions, with all 21 ISUs fully occupied.
- **May:** 438 guest stays, 16 new guests, 3 ISU transitions, with all 21 ISUs fully occupied.
- **June:** 414 guest stays, 13 new guests, 6 ISU transitions, with all 21 ISUs fully occupied.

Meals Served This Quarter

- 91 total meals.
- 54 meals donated by volunteers/community.
- 37 meals prepared by staff.

Volunteer Trends

Sleep Center Volunteer Shifts

- **April:** 22 shifts.
- **May:** 24 shifts.
- **June:** 21 shifts.



Additional Photos



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What is SS Looking forward to this next quarter?

Stepping Stones Alliance is excited about the continued growth and progress across our program and facilities. Upcoming projects and developments include:

- Offering more classes for members, especially outdoors, to enjoy the weather and use new recreational items.
- Moving forward with the next phase of ISUs in partnership with Marlette/Clayton Homes, as our numbers continue to grow.
- Continuing participation in community events to share information and support public education about homelessness.
- Supporting members as they make steady progress toward their personal goals.
- Improving the Navigation Center kitchen and outdoor common space through CDBG funding.
- Adding an awning at the Sleep Center to help protect guests from extreme weather during evening check-in.
- Installing an outdoor common space shelter before winter.
- Hosting a screening of No Address at the Hermiston movie theater, sponsored by AWS (details coming soon).
- Creating a donor recognition wall and planning a memorial garden to honor members we have served who have passed away.
- Installing three new visitor parking signs in the parking lot, which have already been ordered.

