



# Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

## June 17, 2024

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Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Committee members present were Mark Gomolski, Jessica De La Cruz, Jesse Roa, and Alberto Munoz. Also present was Council Representative Maria Duron and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Councilor Roy Barron was not present. The pledge of allegiance was given.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mark moved and Alberto seconded to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Eastern Oregon Mission Information (Agape House & Martha's House)**

Representatives from Agape House, Cathy Putnam, and Martha's House, Stephen Boulton, spoke regarding: Agape House: Limited ours because of their limited staff and volunteers, farm worker program, helping people in need with specific requests, backpack program, and giving information regarding funding stating they are not government funded, the funding they receive is from the community and grants, money raised from their yard sales and sales in their onsite store go back into Agape House for community resources, monthly food boxes that are given, and more (handout attached).

Martha's House: There are 18 rooms total with 7 vacancies. Applicants and residents must be drug and alcohol free and are given UA's, residents are helped with resources and are kept accountable to find permanent employment and housing as Martha's House is not meant to be long-term housing, the typical stay is 3-6 months but can be longer if needed. Single females and families can qualify, but single men cannot. Verbal translation is available, but help is needed translating forms and with their mentoring program.

The Committee thanked Cathy and Stephen for attending and providing all the information. Jessica volunteered to provide written translation services for Martha's House and Jesse suggested they push out more information about their needs on social media and by reaching out to faith-based groups.

Cathy thanked Jesse but stated that many things have changed due to Covid and some of these suggestions have been tried and retried, but various community organizations are gathering to help build a data base of services to better address what services there are and what is needed to help address donations, volunteers, and other needs.

### **Review 2024 Committee Goal Tasks**

- Increase the Latino Vote- Women Voters of Oregon (Project Leads: Mark & Alberto)
  - Mark stated he is working the Women Voters of Oregon to hold a training date for volunteers after July in preparation of the General Election. This training will also allow volunteers to become teachers if they choose. More information will be forthcoming.
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>) Celebration (Project Leads: Entire Committee)
  - Jose stated the Committee will continue the planning process through the Summer and leading up to the event, which is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> at Festival Street. Alberto will be leading this effort.



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### Closing Comments

#### Public Comments

Virgina Rome-Garcia, Hermiston- Thanked all those who helped organize the Cinco de Mayo event stating it was very positive event; spoke regarding the increase in Latino graduates in the area, as well as the number of scholarships students in Umatilla received; invited the community to the Juneteenth event on June 22<sup>nd</sup>; and asked to be involved in the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

Dolorez Veliz, Hermiston- Asked questions regarding Martha's House which were answered by the Property Manager present, and asked Jose and Mark regarding money raised from the Hispanic Business Network Alliance (not a City organization).

Mark stated he did not have this information with him.

#### Youth Representatives

None present.

#### City Representatives

Maria spoke on the following:

- Marijuana Petition Update
- Adopted City Budget
- Recycling Update
- Civic Leadership Academy
- Business License implementation
- Stepping Stones Alliance needs and ways to volunteer or be involved in other ways

#### Committee Comments

Jose spoke regarding Grupo El Puente who will meet June 23<sup>rd</sup> to help people with any and all addiction. The event is in Spanish and entertainment will be provided. Flyer attached.

#### Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16 at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19pm.

**Eastern Oregon Mission** is a non-profit founded in 1986 in Hermiston, Oregon with a mission to strengthen our community by providing opportunities to acquire the basic building blocks of life.

Doing business as **Agape House**, our goal is to assist those in need in Hermiston and surrounding communities with basic services. Agape House provides food, clothing, showers, household goods such as blankets, dishes, or furniture, to our community in need. These foundational items are essential to the dignity and well-being of our community members. Agape house has special food programs available for farm workers, veterans and elementary school children. **We are asking for help with our weekend meals program for elementary school children.** In America, **one in every seven children go hungry.**

In **2010**, an elementary school principal noticed that some of her disadvantaged students were only eating a small portion of their lunches on Fridays, then wrapping the remainder of food and saving in their backpacks to take home. These same students seemed to be struggling in class on Mondays. She discovered these children had little or no food at home. During the school week, children are provided food at school but on weekends, they are lacking food. The principal went to her local church asking for assistance in providing nutritional support on weekends. The church agreed to financially support a years program and reached out to Agape House to coordinate. Agape House saw an unmet need and the **“Backpack” (weekend elementary school children’s food) program** began. This weekend food program started with about 30 children. Our goal was to provide a variety of easy to prepare food items that would provide nutritional value. **Fast forward to 2024... Agape House now provides 250 to 275 weekend food bags weekly. We serve elementary schools in Echo, Hermiston, Irrigon, Stanfield and Umatilla school districts.** The schools let us know their need in the number of children and we provide the food. This is confidential and any child is eligible. The price of food per “backpack” is around \$10.00. These meals help so our children are ready to learn when Monday comes. Our current food items include **chicken noodle soup, boxed macaroni & cheese, canned tuna, peanut butter, instant oatmeal, granola bars, fruit cups, applesauce cups, 100% juice boxes or pouches, raisins, cheese or peanut butter crackers and top ramen noodles.** Donations from individual community members, local churches, businesses, and grants fund our **\$100,000.00 budget for this program.**

## **Vision**

*We envision a community where every individual has access to basic needs and life skills that encourages positive living.*

## **Mission**

*Helping homeless families build a stable lifestyle by providing safe housing, educational opportunities, and loving support.*

## **Values**

*Our actions will reflect the love and gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*We will serve people equally, unconditionally and with respect.*

*We will conduct our business with honesty and openness.*

*We will be good stewards of our resources.*

## **Contact Us**

### **Phone**

(541) 571-3963

### **Mailing Address**

PO BOX 1723  
Hermiston, OR 97838

### **Physical Address**

305 SE 4th Street  
Hermiston, OR 97838

### **Email**

marthashouse305hermiston  
@gmail.com

## **Transitional Family Housing Program**



**(541) 571-3963**

**305 SE 4th Street  
Hermiston, OR 97838**

**[marthashousehermiston.org](http://marthashousehermiston.org)**



## Who We Are

**Martha's House** is a transitional family home opened in March 2013 in Hermiston, Oregon. Martha's House, like Agape House, is an outreach of Eastern Oregon Mission. We provide a safe, secure living environment for families (average period of stay is 3 to 6 months).

Martha's House is an alcohol and substance free program designed to help families get back on their feet and return to being a productive member of society. We serve families in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Our transitional family housing program provides a home-style atmosphere that encourages change, structure, accountability, as well as life changing classes and services. We are a community-based privately funded family transitional shelter supported by local churches, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals.

## What is Transitional Housing?

**Transitional housing** provides temporary housing for homeless families in our area, including the working homeless, with the goal of transitioning into permanent sustainable housing. We are NOT an overnight emergency shelter.

## Our Goal

Martha's House seeks to meet the needs of the whole family. Our desire is to address the underlying causes of homelessness and offer the help that each family requires.

Residents are expected to actively be searching for employment and housing. Residents not employed 32 hours or more a week are required to complete 2 to 10 hours of volunteer work a week at a local non-profit of their choosing.

## Qualifications

- Must be drug and alcohol free
- Must be transitioning back to Umatilla or Morrow County
- Families with children 18 years of age or younger
- Single woman (limited space)



## How Can you Help?

### Home Starter Kits

You can help by sponsoring a "Home Starter Kit" or purchase items towards completing a kit.

Upon successful completion of the program, a family is rewarded by taking these kits to their new home.

### Bedroom Items (Full size)

- Sheet sets (2 sets)
- Pillows (2 sets)
- Blankets (2 sets)
- Comforters (2 sets)
- Zippered mattress covers (2 sets)

### Bathroom Items

- Bath towels (4-6)
- Hand towels (4-6)
- Washcloths (4-6)
- Bathtub rug
- Small garbage can
- Toilet brush/holder/plunger
- Shower curtain/rod/liner
- Toothbrush holder

### Kitchen Items

- Toaster oven/Toaster
- Crockpot/electric skillet
- Dishes and glasses (set of 4)
- Pots and pans (1 set)
- Mixing bowls (1 set)
- Silverware and tray (set of 4)
- Kitchen towels/dish clothes/pot holders (4)
- Utensils (spoons, spatulas, can opener)
- Mop/broom/dust pan/trash can

# GRUPO EL PUENTE

## AA



**CON MOTIVO DE SU 16 ANIVERSARIO, GRUPO EL PUENTE LOS INVITA A SUS DIAS DE UNIDAD.**

**GRUPO –**

**TEMA –**

**COMENZANDO LOS DIAS DE UNIDAD EL 28 DE MAYO Y CULMINANDO EL 21 DE JUNIO DEL 2024.**

**EL ANIVERSARIO DEL GRUPO SE LLEVARA ACABO EL DIA 23 DE JUNIO A LAS 3PM, SE CELEBRARA CON INFORMACION AL PUBLICO ,COMIDA Y BAILE.**

**LUGAR DEL EVENTO:**

**565 W HERMISTON AVE**

**HERMISTON OREGON**

**AGRADECEMOS DE ANTEMANO SU PRESENCIA....**

**FELICES 24 HORAS.**

**CONTACTOS: ROMAN (541) 720-5764**

**JOSE C. (541) 314-2686**

