
Project PATH

3rd Quarter Report, FY 22-23


PILOT PROGRAM CONTACTS**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

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CITY MANAGERS

Dave Stockdale, Umatilla

Byron Smith, Hermiston

Ben Burgener, Stanfield

Dave Slaght, Echo

PROJECT CONTACT

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STEPPING STONES CONTACT

Jesalyn Cole



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 initial report provides an update on site preparations, community outreach, strategic plan, budget, and general services. More detailed materials are available upon 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 intended to serve as a high level update of the services provided and the general progress we have made thus far.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Stepping Stones hired an executive director, navigation director and a third night staff:

Jesalyn Cole is the full-time Executive Director and has worked nine years in non-profit organizations. She has spent time serving on several non-profit boards, including five on a school board. Experienced in advocating for legislative changes, DEI initiatives, and underserved populations. She is bilingual in Spanish and a longtime resident of the Columbia Basin area. She also has a BA in education and a MA in Curriculum and Instruction and holds a certificate in professional fundraising.

Carolina Delgado is the full-time Navigation Director and is the conduit between guests and the community resources needed. Prior to this role, she worked for nine years as a peer support specialist and community health worker in the area. Carolina is bilingual in Spanish.

SITE UPDATE

Site construction has been temporarily postponed due to an unexpected requirement to conduct a cultural resources study. In addition to this study, Blue Mountain Consulting was hired to perform a Geotech report and analysis at the site as well. The archaeologist found no materials at the location and we have submitted those findings to the State Historic Preservation Office and await their approval prior to our commencement of work on the site, estimated around the 20th of May.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Atkinson Staffing has continued to donate the use of a company vehicle and a driver for the twice daily shuttle between downtown Hermiston and the Sleep Center. Staff applied for two grants specific to transportation and purchasing a 15-passenger vehicle with a wheelchair lift and staffing that for the shuttle and later for use through the navigation center and guest appointments.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Created and built upon our social media presence, with a higher emphasis on Facebook with posts in both English and Spanish. Our social media connections/readership is over 1,100% and had reached nearly 18,000 in the 1st quarter, with over 100 new page likes/follows, and over 1,200 page visits.

Started Instagram page (too early for data).

Updated website with contact information (each staff now has phone and email).

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Carla McLane was contracted to assist in the drafting and creation of the strategic plan. A draft plan has been reviewed by the board and presented to each partners' elected body. Finals revisions to the plan will be reviewed to the Advisory Board in April with anticipated adoption of the plan to occur in May/June.

SERVICE REPORT UPDATE

Project PATH received approval of our membership request with our local Rural Oregon Continuum of Care. Stepping Stones is hosting a community open house on May 3, 2023 with local service partners expected to be present to help answer questions regarding the future of Project PATH and needs.

The state operated software of HMIS –Homeless Management Information Systems process has started for the data management of all guest.

SLEEP CENTER

January saw a daily average of 16.2 guests, 61 unduplicated/new guests, total of 502 overnight stays. Volunteers served 31 meals and completed 124 shifts at the Sleep Center.

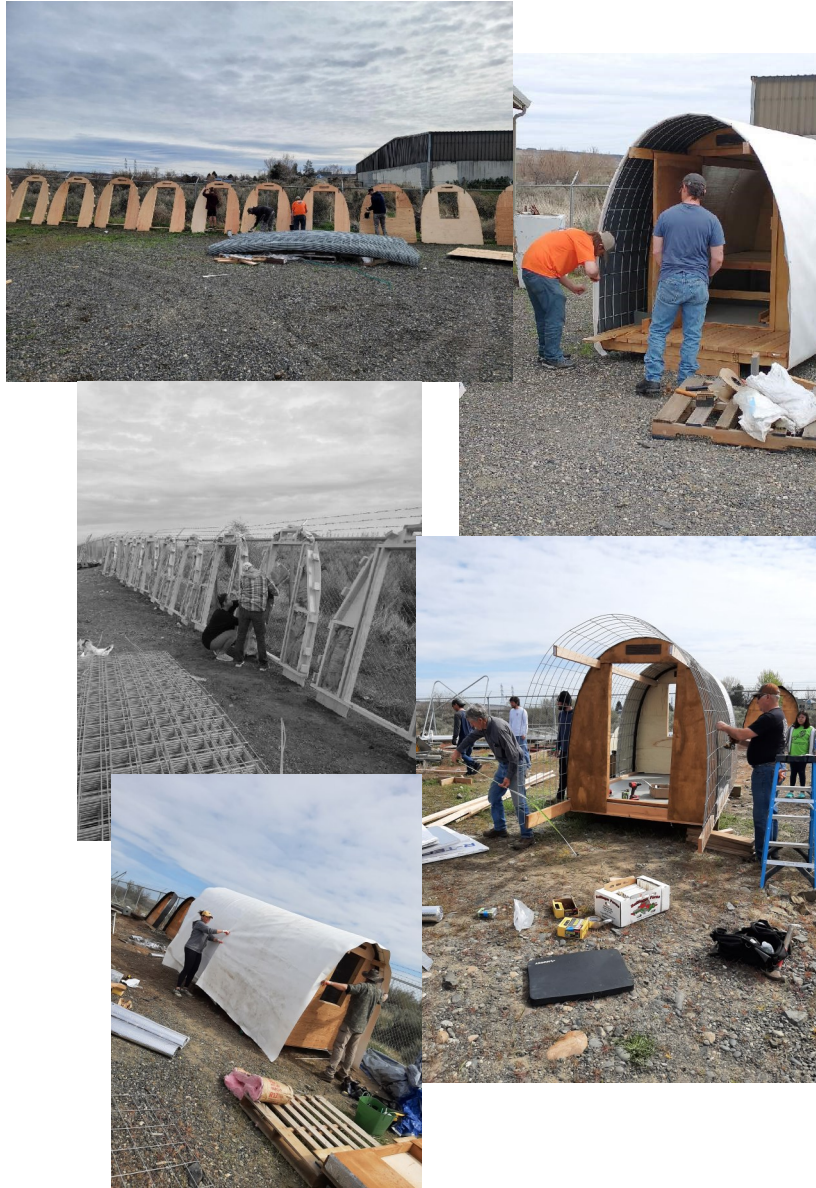
February saw a daily average of 12.2 guests, 5 unduplicated/new guests, total of 341 overnight stays. Volunteers served 28 meals and completed 112 shifts at the Sleep Center.

March saw a daily average of 8.2 guests, 4 unduplicated/new guests, total of 255 overnight stays. Volunteers served 31 meals and completed 124 shifts at the Sleep Center.

Open house on March 23rd brought in 25 volunteers for appreciation, re-training, and new orientation.

Individual Shelter Units

Stepping Stones has worked endlessly in gathering volunteers to help build the ISU's. Over 82 volunteers have showed up on Saturdays for construction. A total of 298 volunteer hours not counting hours that Marlette has donated to the project. There are 14 units completed and 11 are in different states of completion. See below for pictures of the construction days.



Looking Forward....

1. Stepping Stones board retreat scheduled for April 22nd that will include strategic planning.
 2. Continued Partnership Building.
 3. Volunteer Recruitment.
 4. Fundraising.
 5. Adoption of Strategic Plan (May/June 2023)
 6. Individual Shelter Unit construction completion June 2023.
 7. Site Construction (May 2023) and anticipated site opening (June/July 2023)
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