

The Many Ways to Give

It's that time of year again when our thoughts turn to giving. Did you know that shopping this holiday season can benefit Sojourners' Alliance? **AmazonSmile** is an easy way to automatically support participating nonprofits every time you shop. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and choose Sojourners' as your charity. Every time you purchase one of the millions of eligible items, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price. You can still use your same amazon.com account, just remember to log onto smile.amazon.com.

While visiting AmazonSmile, please consider checking out our Wish List. At the top right on the Amazon home page click on "Wish List" then put "Sojourners' Alliance" in the search box and our list will appear.

If direct donations are more your thing, **PayPal** is a quick and easy option. You can find a direct link on our webpage, sojournersalliance.org under the "How Can I Help?" tab.

If you shop at **Moscow Food Co-op** another easy way to give is **Impulse Giving**. When checking out simply tell the checker that you want to do impulse giving, X amount, to Sojourners' Alliance. I round up my ticket to the next dollar amount every time I shop and the Co-op sends a check to Sojourners' each month.

A similar option can be found at the **Moscow Recycling Center**. When turning in aluminum cans, you can ask that the money be given to Sojourners', and they will mail a check.



Currently, the biggest opportunity for fundraising is the **Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge**

sponsored by The Home Partnership Foundation. Each donation of \$25 or more qualifies us for additional challenge

prizes, as well as a percentage of regional match funds at the end. New this year, checks of \$100 or more will be accepted. To qualify, the check must be received no later than December 30, made out to "Home Partnership Foundation" with your nonprofit of choice noted in the Memo line, and mailed to Home Partnership Foundation, PO Box 7899, Boise ID 83702.

All donations are tax deductible, and those made to us via the website or by check are passed directly to us in January. Last year, we received \$4,400 in donations along with an additional \$6,800 in regional prize money, making it our biggest fundraiser of the year!

To donate, and for more information on prizes and rules, visit avenuesforhope.org.

—Deb Rupp, Board Member

Wish List

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

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Large garbage bags (30+ gallon)
- Kitchen garbage bags (13 gallon)
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Sanitizing/disinfecting wipes
- Cleaning supplies
- Twin size sheets
- Food

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!

From the Director's Chair

Time flies by when you are having fun, or so the saying goes. I would have to say that the saying is very appropriate from my perspective and the role I embrace here at Sojourners' Alliance. I was a BIG boss 20 years ago in this region for substance abuse programs. The power, accolades, and being called the golden boy went to my head. My job became my identity and with that came problems. I didn't really know how to manage staff without being authoritative. I encountered an ethical dilemma that involved money and overpayment. I did the right thing in reporting the error but it cost me my job. It was one of those moments that my world crumbled but the end result

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Sojourners' Alliance

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

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Support your local United Way



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.

(Director's Chair, continued from page 1)
 was that I learned from those lessons.

I have been blessed with having amazing staff, interns, practicum students, volunteers and board members that have fed our organization to what it has become: a healthy, vibrant, invigorating work place. The lessons learned from long ago have helped me handle the responsibilities my role carries, and for that, I am grateful. This job is by far the best job I have ever had in my professional career.

Maintenance & Repairs We received an on-site visit from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) a few years ago that resulted in an independent building inspector coming to identify issues with our buildings. The end result was that we were able to rectify the issues at an expense of \$33,000. Unfortunately, the repairs wiped out all of the reserve funds we had built up, but thankfully, we were able to satisfy the OIG's office.

Staffing & Budget In the year 2006 when I stepped into the Executive Director's role, we had a budget of \$225,000 with 152 hours a week of employee time while providing housing for 21 individuals. Currently, we have a budget of \$350,000 and 126 hours a week of employee time while providing housing for 48 individuals; in the last year this equated to 16,871 bed nights provided through both of our housing programs. In addition, we administered the Homeless Prevention funds for our region that provided support for 17 households/32 people.

Fundraising Breakfast Fundraiser in November - Shifting the event to Applebee's worked incredibly well from our end. The event was by far more successful for donations than any of the previous ones.

Renaissance Faire - The first year of selling Huckleberry Squares went well, and the visibility of our organization at the two day event was incredibly beneficial. We will be there again this next year.

4th Annual Yard Sale - Although the event brought in fewer funds than previous years, it most certainly helped those seeking a good deal while supporting our organization. The amount of volunteer time it takes to do this event is astronomical. All of those that were involved gave so much of themselves and without them, this event would not have happened.

Organizational Activities We are currently providing office space for the **Moscow Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT)**. This organization is exploring developing affordable housing for those that are lower income. The **Recovery Resource Center advisory group** has been meeting in our conference room for several months.

We are the lead organization coordinating the **Point in Time Count** for our region. This is a yearly event, the goal of which is to identify individuals who are homeless on the night of January 28, 2015.

The developments of the last year at **Syringa Trailer Court** are creating dialogue on the potential housing crisis and how as an organization we are capable of supporting any challenges that may arise.

As ever, onwards and forwards!

—Stephen Bonnar

SOJOURNERS' ALLIANCE PRESENTS THE 9TH



NIGHT AT THE OSCARs

ACADEMY AWARDS GALA

STARS ON THE BIG SCREEN

DELICIOUS DINNER AND DESSERT

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

4 P.M. - 10 P.M.

1912 CENTER, MOSCOW

SUPPORT THE AREA'S ONLY
TRANSITIONAL HOMELESS SHELTER.
www.sojournersalliance.org
facebook.com/sojournersalliance



TICKETS \$50 EACH
CALL 883-3438



Sojourners' Alliance
Bringing the Pieces Together

627 N Van Buren St
Moscow ID 83843

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Avenues for Hope
Housing Challenge

www.AvenuesForHope.org

December 10 - 31, 2014

Presented by Home Partnership Foundation



See Page 1 for details, or visit the website above!