

Good morning BEC!

Today's BECON goes a little something like this...

Rod had today's invocation - Thanks Rod! Glad you are back with us!

Speaker/Guest: Matt Lundgren, Executive Director of Friendship House and Montana Rescue Mission.

Announcements: Luke Combs concert was a success! We did some great business and are very happy with the results. Bruce Jensen personally thanked and recognized everyone that worked Tuesday night. It was a looooooong night and everyone worked their tails off! THANK YOU!!

Lisa Jensen introduced our guest speaker this morning, as she sits on the Board for the Billings Leadership Foundation. Matt Lundgren is the Executive Director for Friendship House and Montana Rescue Mission and shared about their work in our community as well as their future project that is going to bring great change to Billings.

The Rescue Mission has been serving the Billings Community for 75 years. They have served:

1,461 Men  
802 Women  
234 Children

They average 99 people/night up to 183/max. (Bed Nights 28,900)

They've donated 238,500 clothing pieces

They've served 108,803 meals

Their Key Programs are:

1. The shelter - Women, Men, Families, Children, Other
2. Mission Diner - serving the public and guests
3. Bargain Center - Social Enterprise, clothing - This earns money to support their programs.
4. Job Skills-Training, Hiring Partnerships with community businesses, Coaching
5. Mental Health/Substance Abuse Counseling
6. Mission Apartments - Rebuild Rental Credit Housing

2 out of 3 leaving with positive stable housing

80% to stable employment

All hear about God's Love for them

With the pandemic:

30% rise in homeless population

10% unemployment - low wage earners looking for help

Decrease in home ownership

A look into the Future:

A Unified Campus (In the building where Grannie's Attic is)

-The people that come to them will stay on campus for their first 90 days to help them rebuild their lives.

-This will also help the community in many ways

- This is not a hand out, but a hand up
- There will be supported, low income apartments on campus
- There will be affordable apartments (29?)
- There will be a Life Changing building-daycare for 0-3 year olds (kids 4 and over go to the friendship house)
- Medical Clinic -To help them get the primary care they need to avoid future more serious conditions and subsequent ER visits.

The total project costs: \$17,912,469 (96%) to goal

Thus far they have earned: \$16,712, 500

Left to go: \$1,200,000 (6% left)

Each of their rooms will house 4-6 people with a bathroom in each room - this is dignity

Questions:

It is true that other communities in MT send homeless folks to Billings with \$83 in their pocket (DeerLodge) or send them on a bus.

Every day a bus drops people off from Crow in Billings

How many of them that come want the help? Matt stated that those who want help go to see them on their own. They are not the ones lying in doorways downtown or panhandling for money.

**\*\*\*If you would like to volunteer or donate to this wonderful project, the information is attached to this email to get involved.\*\*\***

Have a great weekend!