

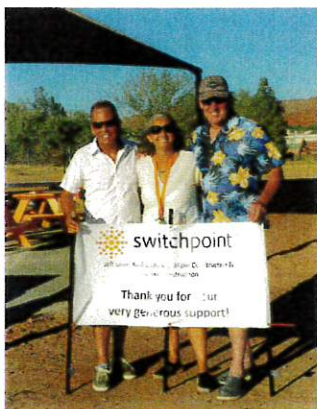
making a difference



Rod Ludlow & Jeff Love

A number of years ago Rod and I decided that rather than give Christmas gifts, we would donate food and money to Dixie Care and Share, the homeless shelter in St George. When Carol, the executive director, took over and opened Switchpoint we were amazed and inspired by her vision and commitment to create more than a shelter, but rather a complete resource center to move people out of poverty to more self-reliance. We knew we wanted to be more involved and began volunteering at the food pantry, which has become the second largest pantry in the state of Utah.

We were fortunate to meet the people we were serving and realized that we had a lot to learn and perhaps had misjudged the reasons for their circumstances. It was amazing to see how Carol and the Switchpoint staff treated each individual with absolute respect; how they could see the person behind the need without the judgement of what brought them there. In turn, we watched people rise up and return to hope, abilities and confidence. We also witnessed that people are very generous during the holidays, but forget the many needs year-round for these families, both for donations and service hours.



Switchpoint resource center and shelter rely on 300 volunteers monthly to manage the many aspects of the operation. It is how they have accomplished the incredible outcomes of:

distributed 3.5 million pounds of food served 3,195 through shelter housing logged 201,000 volunteer hours permanently housed 2,726 people

The mission of SwitchPoint is to empower homeless families and individuals in Washington County by addressing the underlying cause of

poverty. Switchpoint provides each client with an individualized, comprehensive plan that supports them on their journey to self-sufficiency and the opportunity to contribute to the community.

Switchpoint has a unique model because we individualize a client's plan to fit the need and find a solution to break the cycle of poverty. We offer over 17 classes a week (anger management, personal finance, how to be a good tenant, parenting, addiction recovery, SMART goals, etc). We then hold them accountable to follow the plan and move forward.

This approach has allowed us to move over 2,700 people into permanent housing in our first three years of operation.

We asked Carol Hollowell, Executive Director of Switchpoint, what her greatest needs are currently.

The critical need now is to **build a 55-unit affordable apartment complex.** We have raised the \$8.6 million needed and hope to break ground in September of 2018.

In Washington County there is less than a 1% vacancy rate, which makes renting very difficult. Most of our homeless in Washington County have income - they are our working poor. This 55-unit apartment project is critical in helping house families who can't find anywhere to live. This year there are over 1022 homeless children compared to last year's 879 according to the Washington County School District.

Like the people we serve, Switchpoint has a goal of becoming self-sufficient. You can help by making a **Planned Legacy Gift** and donation to our **Endowment fund.** We have opened a thrift store as a source of income and to serve as employment training for our residents. We need **donated items and volunteers** to make it successful. In March 2017, we launched Bed N Biscuits, a doggie daycare, grooming and boarding facility to do the same thing. **We need your doggies!**

Please consider volunteering and donating to our projects.

Visit our website www.switchpointcrc.org or come for a tour at 948 N 1300 W, St. George, UT 84770



Are you involved in a cause? Tell us about it by emailing desertlivingstg@gmail.com.

