



switchpoint™

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2018

SWITCHPOINT'S MISSION:

- To empower homeless families & individuals in Washington County by addressing the underlying cause of poverty & providing each client with an individualized, comprehensive plan that supports them on their journey to self-sufficiency & the opportunity to contribute to the community.

STAFF:

Executive Director:
Carol Hollowell

CFO:
Sonjia Naron

Executive Assistant:
Kristen Clark

Volunteer Manager:
Julie Duckett

Shelter Manager:
Randon Syphus

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“It Takes All Of Us”

Mark Bourget, Sr.

Mark Allan Bourget, Sr., 59, passed away on Thursday, November 30, 2017 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He was born November 25, 1958 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to Robert A. and Shirley Turner Bourget. He married Esther L. Garo on June 29, 1985 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was happily married to his "Bride" for 32 amazing years.

Mark was raised in Tooele, Utah, where he graduated from Tooele High School. After graduation he enlisted in the Navy, where he served on the USS Tripoli. Following his discharge, he was employed at Tooele Army Depot until the closure of the base. He was later employed at St. Marguerite's Catholic Church in the maintenance department. He was currently working at Switchpoint Community Resource Center. Mark felt deeply connected to Switchpoint, a place where he was able to bring much joy to those who were most vulnerable and share his light with the staff he worked with.



On November 30, 1997, Mark was ordained to the order of Deacon at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, Utah. In his calling as a Deacon, he has touched many lives and will be remembered for his infectious personality, his ability to listen to others without passing judgement, and his sense of comical humor. On the day of his passing, he celebrated 20 years of devoted service to God. Mark was a volunteer at Purgatory Correctional Facility, where he would take the Word of God to the prisoners. He also performed SCAP services at Zion National Park to the

many visitors from around the world. He affected so many and he will definitely be missed by all. At the time of the accident, he was doing the things he loved most...He was riding his much-loved Harley Davidson while on his way to bring communion to a homebound parishioner.

And so it was with Mark—his life was dedicated to serving those around him. If you were lucky enough to know Mark, you knew how many countless acts of service he performed everyday to friends, family, coworkers and complete strangers.

He was always ready to extend a helping hand, lift up a lost soul or just diffuse a difficult situation with his infectious sense of humor.

Mark epitomized the motto of Switchpoint, *It Takes All of Us*. He took it upon himself to make the world a better place one person at a time. He was our friend and our example. He will be sorely missed.

Letter from the Executive Director - Carol Hollowell



What an amazing and busy time of year we have had! Beginning in November with the generous donation of 1300 turkeys from Adam's Construction to our emergency food pantry, to our Home for the Holidays RiverWalk campaign and just a few weeks ago with our SOUPER Bowl of Caring and food packaging event to Tackle Hunger in Washington County! There is never a dull moment at Switchpoint.

We couldn't do all we do without our amazing volunteers! Every day Switchpoint is graced with a community of caring individuals who donate their time and their talents to help those most vulnerable. As Switchpoint Community Resource Center is nearing our fourth year, we have been able to literally help thousands of individuals because of people just like YOU!

As we step into our fourth year, we are moving forward with the development of the affordable housing RiverWalk project. Most of the clients we serve have income, they just can't afford to rent in Washington County due to the less than 1% rental vacancy rate and skyrocketing housing prices. We need your help as we begin construction on our 55-unit affordable apartment complex this spring!

I encourage you to share our mission with your friends, family and neighbors. We need volunteers and donors to move the needle on breaking the cycle of poverty. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Switchpoint in the News!

*Written by
Spencer Ricks,
St. George
News, February
13, 2018*

*Photo courtesy
of Spencer
Ruickis, St.
George News*

Volunteers at Dixie State Bag 100,000 Meals for Local Food Banks, Switchpoint

ST. GEORGE — Hundreds of volunteers converged on Dixie State University Tuesday to package thousands of meals for local food pantries.

As part of the fourth annual food packaging event at Dixie State, 100,000 meals, which included 50,000 oatmeal meals and 50,000 macaroni meals, were packaged by volunteers from Dixie State, United Way Dixie, local grocery stores and the community. Volunteers working in assembly lines inside the Gardner Student Center ballroom opened bags of bulk dry foods, packaged them and packed them into boxes to be donated to the Utah Food Bank, which will then distribute the food to food pantries including Switchpoint Emergency Food Pantry.

There were about 400-500 volunteers at the event, said Dillon McKinney, vice president of service for the Dixie State Student

Association. This is the second year they've had the goal of packaging 100,000 meals at the event, McKinney said.

"You know it's all going local, it's supporting people and helping them get back on their feet," McKinney said.

One in 8 Utahns and 1 in 6 children in Utah are at risk of missing a meal on any given day, according to the Utah Food Bank. Statistics like these are what inspired Indigo Klabanoff, event coordinator and community outreach coordinator for United Way Dixie, to come together with so many volunteers to try to make a difference.

"It makes my heart so happy that we get to influence and help these community members that are struggling," Klabanoff said. Businesses and community members came to the event in 10-person food packaging teams to help along the assembly lines. Volunteers were also encouraged to

bring a \$10 donation or 10 food items to donate as well.

Dixie State President Richard Williams was among one of the hundreds of volunteers packing bags of macaroni into boxes.

"I love it," Williams said. "It gets you out of the office and you get to help other people."

The food packaging event is part of Dixie State's goal to boost community engagement efforts, Williams said.

"We want to give back as much as the community gives back to us," Williams said.



Volunteers package 100,000 meals at the fourth annual food packaging event at Dixie State University Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 | Photo by Spencer Ricks, St. George News



Switchpoint Staff Spotlight

VOLUNTEER MANAGER, JULIE DUCKETT

Julie Duckett is the Volunteer Manager at Switchpoint Community Resource Center.

When Julie was a young child her father was always looking for ways to help those in need. He gave his children the opportunity to help him deliver food and clothing to neighbors and those experiencing hard times. Julie learned early on about the importance of service and how the smallest act of kindness can mend broken hearts, lift damped spirits and bring people and communities together.

Julie was born and raised in northern Utah. She moved to the beautiful red mountains of St. George in 2005. Julie says that their favorite pastime is to go for hikes and to be active with her family. "It's amazing what you can learn from people when you're out in nature."

Julie has always been volunteering. As a teenager she volunteered as a candy striper at UVRMC and cared for children at the Women and Children's Crisis Center. It was during this time that Julie decided she wanted to be in a helping profession. Julie was fortunate to reach her goal when she was offered a position as the Foster Grandparent Coordinator for Five County Association of Governments. She loved working with the senior population and gained so much fulfillment working along side them for nine years.

In September 2014 she began working at Switchpoint Community Resource Center as the Volunteer Manager and Circles Coordinator. She has a passion for helping others and is truly touched to see others strive to improve their lives.

Exciting New Classes at Bed 'n' Biscuits

Bed 'n' Biscuits is pleased to announce **NEW** and exciting classes to their already fantastic daycare and boarding services.

SATURDAY SOCIALIZATION is designed to offer owners and their pets a chance to learn together. It is taught twice a month at 10 am. Sign up today to ensure your spot!

TRICKS OR TREATS offers one-on-one guidance for

individual dogs or can be taught to a group of dogs. It is scheduled every Wednesday at 5 pm. Your dog will have a blast and you will be so thankful when they come home with new tricks to show you!

BASIC OBEDIENCE is a class for anyone who ever wished their dog knew how to obey basic commands like, "sit" or "stay". Maybe your dog has behavioral issues that

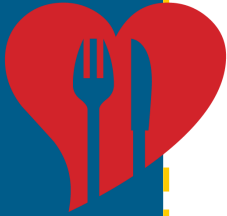
you don't know how to resolve? This class is for your pet! Taught every Thursday at 5 pm, our trainers will equip your dog to be the best well-behaved pooch on the block!

Our two trainers have over 20 years of experience with basic, intermediate and advanced training techniques not to mention specialization in the Joel Silverman technique.



Bed 'n' Biscuits uses gentle and kindness training methods to create an obedient and loving companion for you and your family.

For more information or to schedule a reservation, please call **435-429-4122** or visit bednbiscuits.org



"Over the past year, 34,000 meals were served ... 15,359 volunteer hours were logged..."

Christmas Dinner to Aide Homeless a Success!

In 2016, the Grace Episcopal Soup Kitchen located on 900 South in St. George, became part of Switchpoint Community Resource Center. With the same goals, often the same clients and the same compassion to help the community, it only made sense to put the two together.

Over the past year, the Switchpoint Community Soup Kitchen served nearly 34,000 meals. They logged 15,359 volunteer hours. And for the third year in a row, in partnership with the Elks, the Community Soup Kitchen served a Christmas meal at the Elks Lodge. The turn out was wonderful. 350+ people who might not have had a Christmas at all, were given a full Christmas feast. There was live music, a Santa and plenty of gifts on hand for the children thanks to Toys for Tots. This was only possible because of the 150+ volunteers who so generously gave of their time and energy, not only on Christmas day but in the weeks leading up to the planned meal.

We at Switchpoint are continually blown away by the generosity and giving nature of our community. Switchpoint is so proud to be a part of this program which strives every day to ease the burden of hunger for the most vulnerable in our community.

Changing Lives One Outfit at a Time

The Switchpoint Thrift Store has only been in operation a short time, but since May 20, 2016 more and more customers continue to return to the store and share their success stories with manager, Rick Taylor.

"We had a young single mom with 2 young sons (5 & 8) come into the thrift store with a voucher from one of our partners at the Dove Center," stated Taylor. "She was very uneasy and just kept looking around as if expecting someone to be there she didn't want to see. We assured her that while in our store she was completely safe and no harm would come to her."

"In the course of a few hours while helping her and her sons, she told us that she had escaped from an abusive relationship with only the clothes on her and her son's back. Over the course of a few hours while helping her find what they needed, she was able to relax and actually enjoy the time in our store. We were able to provide the clothing that they needed to start a new life," Taylor said.

Taylor stated that it was not normal to see those clients again but a couple of months later, she came back to the store and wanted to share her new journey with the staff.

Taylor went on to say that after her time at the Dove Center, she was able to find a place to live and gained the confidence to go out into the workplace. She told him she was experienced in the legal profession and had obtained employment with a local attorney. She then related that once they offered her the job, they went on to tell her that she was chosen not only for her skills but also because of how she was dressed.

"She was smiling ear to ear as she said, 'I looked like I belonged in an office setting. I looked very professional.'" The interview clothing that the staff at the Switchpoint thrift store helped her obtain made all the difference. Her quote, "Thank you for helping me get my life back!"

Taylor stated that she also explained that the items that we helped her get for her son enabled



him to go to school and not be embarrassed by what he wore. Her son fit in easily and even made new friends. She was very happy that no one knew that their clothing had been obtained from a thrift store.

Taylor is thrilled this customer still comes in on occasion to shop and has referred several people to the store.

"Clothing can and does change a person's outlook on life and if they look good, they will present themselves in a positive manner," Taylor stated. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to see the change and happiness that we bring into the lives of others in the community by providing quality items at a lower price.

If you would like to volunteer, please email

Julie.duckett@switchpointcrc.org

"...Thank you for helping me get my life back..."

Walmart Foundation Grant Helping Those in Need

Recently the Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program awarded the Switchpoint Food Pantry \$50,000 to help with supplying emergency food to Washington County residents.

"The Switchpoint Food Pantry is very unique in the fact that it is staffed almost exclusively by volunteers who help sort food, stock shelves, unload deliveries, and help clients as they shop. They are amazing and our food pantry couldn't function without them, stated Chlarson Seely, Switchpoint Food Pantry Manager.

Over the past three-and-a-half years, the food pantry has grown from around 900 clients a month to the now over 3,300 clients needing emergency food assistance.

With the help of this Walmart Foundation grant, United Way Dixie and the Switchpoint Emergency Food Pantry will be partnering with the Washington County community to package 100,000 meals that are nutritious and easy to prepare to help stock the Utah Food Bank and smaller pantries in Washington County as well as the Switchpoint Food Pantry.

"With the growing amount of individuals seeking emergency food, it is hard to keep up. The Walmart Grant is an amazing help to our county and we are so thankful for their kind support," stated Seely.

The Switchpoint Food Pantry has provided to date over 3 million pounds of food to individuals who are working to make ends meet in Washington County.

"We know that there is tremendous need here in our area and we are always looking for volunteers who can come and help for a few hours a day," Seely stated.

If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Julie Duckett at 435-628-9310 or email julie.duckett@switchpointcrc.org.

Support Switchpoint in Life-Changing Ways



Donation \$285

You've finally gotten the key to your own place—one you can actually afford. But where will you get the money for the basics: towels, dishes, silverware, glasses, pots and pans? Help a formerly homeless family turn a new apartment into a real home.



Donation \$500

Homeless individuals are beyond hungry; they're also malnourished and unhealthy. Food isn't the complete solution; healthy, nutritionally balanced meals are. Treat 4 families to good breakfasts and dinners for an entire month and give the gifts of food and health.



Donation \$1,225

Electricity, heat, water, sewer, and personnel: without these behind-the-scenes basics, not a single homeless individual could live in our emergency shelter. Be a hero - keep our shelter ready to welcome families transitioning from homelessness to hopefulness.

The Circles Approach

Circles is a long-term approach to **end poverty permanently in our community**. Each week, local families working to overcome poverty (Circle Leaders) meet with community volunteers (Allies) over dinner and programming. Over time, incomes improve, debt and public assistance decrease and necessary relationships are built.



Allies Commit To:

- Attend at least two Circles meetings each month
- Pass a background check
- Complete Ally Training
- Befriend their Circle Leader

I entered

the Circles fellowship scared, broken, overwhelmed, exhausted and very suspicious of the 'middle class' leadership and presence. I left the first night with a **boost of hope** I had never before experienced in my struggle to end poverty. I also felt a strong connection to others and was able to honestly admit how alone and vulnerable I had been.
—Rebecca,
Circle Leader

The Benefits of Volunteering

There are many benefits to volunteering as a Circles Ally. By serving as an Ally, volunteers will have an opportunity to work closely with one family and make a real difference in their own backyard. Allies have the unique chance to build meaningful relationships across class lines and witness the impact of their work first-hand. Allies become a part of the Circles community and can serve as individuals, couples or families. **Dinner and childcare are also provided** for all volunteers and their children at each Circles meeting.

The Role of an Ally

Circle Leaders are most successful when they have people in their lives who support them. Allies empower their Circle Leader by:

- Being an intentional friend
- Helping Circle Leaders evaluate and clarify their goals into manageable steps
- Meeting at least twice each month with their Circle Leader
- Offering emotional support as needed
- Sharing life experiences and advice when asked

We need **YOU!** If you are interested in becoming a Circle Ally, please **contact Julie Duckett at 435-628-9310, ext. 3** or email julie.duckett@switchpointcrc.org

Successful Allies have...

- The ability to lend a listening ear
- Experience in applying for and attending higher education
- Work experience
- The ability to help with career exploration or networking
- Knowledge of basic financial goal setting

Thank You to Our Donors!

Switchpoint would like to recognize all those in our community for leading the way in addressing your community needs and taking up the challenge of solving homelessness in Washington County! We thank you for your support!

George A. Adams
Betty J. Adamson
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switchpoint™

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IT TAKES ALL OF US



Switchpoint is going green! Please contact Sonjia Naron to update our records with your email address: sonjia.naron@switchpointcrc.org or call 435-628-9310, ext. 201.

Switchpoint Welcomes New AmeriCorps VISTA Program

Switchpoint is excited to announce their new AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer program.

Beginning January of 2018, Switchpoint opened its doors to three AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. Each will focus on separate needs specific to our area.

VISTA's purpose is to supplement efforts to fight poverty in low-income communities by engaging Americans from all walks of life in a year of full-time service.

VISTA members support the program's purpose through three primary objectives: 1) encouraging volunteer service at the local level, 2) generating the commitment of private sector resources, and 3) strengthening local agencies and organizations that serve low-income communities.

There are currently over 5,000 VISTA members serving in over 1,000 projects throughout the nation.

Brenley Salmon will focus on increased awareness of homelessness and intergenerational poverty and the impact it has on our community.



Althea Gill is focusing on health awareness of vulnerable populations in Washington County.

Indigo Klabanoff is working to increase community awareness for the United Way Dixie program and the non-profits it supports.

