



switchpoint™

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017

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:
Mark Bourget

Diversion Specialists:
Sherri Dominguez
Lex Saena

Case Managers:
Stephen Beck
Chris Bullock
Brooke Thurgood
Melanie Reber

Board of Directors:

David Dangerfield
Bruce Jenkins

Tim Martin
Jim Roberts

Bob Nicholson

Gai Bowler

Mary Helen Stricklin

Matt Loo

Jimmie Hughes

“It Takes All Of Us”

Jessica's Story

They say it takes a village to raise a child. You have all impacted my family's lives in so many ways. I remember sitting in your office, in tears, so scared of my future. In an instant, my world changed and I was homeless, penniless and had three children that were counting on me to protect them. The burden of that was unbearably terrifying. You put a deposit down so we had a home, got me food from the food pantry, clothing and hygiene items, and awesome life skills through the Cir-



cles program. You were there to cover the basics so I could get a job, go to school and get my family out of poverty. This journey has not been easy, and I still struggle everyday. But I look back to where I was, and see

where I am today and feel so grateful. I see my kids happy and thriving because they didn't have to worry about where they were going to sleep or go to school hungry. I know the outcome of their lives would be very different if it were not for your help and support. So thank you, from the bottom of my heart. This sweet girl of mine is graduating and has a smile that lights up a room. You have all had an impact in that. Love you all so much. Thanks for being my village!

- Jessica Steele

Master Lease Housing Program

Did you know that two-and-a-half years ago Switchpoint started a master lease housing program to assist individuals and families who had difficulty obtaining housing on their own either due to financial or background difficulties?

So far we have assisted over **140** individuals and families with housing through this program.

To date, the state and federal grants we have received to help families with children get into housing have helped **413** families keep their housing through a temporary crisis right here in Washington County!



Letter from the Executive Director - Carol Hollowell



Welcome to the first in a sequence of quarterly newsletters. We would like to shape the content of the newsletter to meet your expectations so we invite you to send suggestions, and to provide feedback.

What a wonderful community we live in! Every day Switchpoint is graced with volunteers and donations. Switchpoint Community Resource Center is nearing our third year and we have helped thousands of individuals because of people like YOU!

Over the past few months we have not only had a successful golf tournament thanks to the efforts of Nick Bujanovich, an amazing lola-pavilion fundraiser thanks to Jeff Love and Rod Ludlow, but we have an amazingly bountiful and beautiful garden thanks to Fred and Ian Bohman. None of the things we accomplish would be possible without the work of talented and dedicated staff and volunteers here at Switchpoint. Nor would they be possible without your support. Please know that I remain grateful for both.

As we move into our third year, we are focusing on developing affordable housing. Most of our clients we serve have income, they just can't afford to rent in Washington County. We need your help as we move closer to starting our 55-unit affordable apartment complex.

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
Joseph Witham,
St. George
News, May 27,
2017

Fall Tour de St.
George, St.
George, Utah
Photo courtesy
of Red Rock
Bicycle

ST. GEORGE —

Participants in this fall's biannual "Tour de St. George" will not only be able to take in the epic sights on offer in the Southern Utah bicycle tour but will also be helping to fight homelessness.

Red Rock Bicycle Co. and Switchpoint Community Resource Center have teamed up for the second year in a row to raise money for the Center with the October 2017 Fall Tour de St. George acting in part as a fundraiser.

The tour is themed "Breaking the Cycles of Homelessness," and organizers have set a goal to raise \$30,000, a substantial increase from last year's \$17,000.

"Not only will you ride in good temps, not only will you get to ride with friends, not only will the Tour be a great way to finish out your season, not only will you do something good for yourself, but you will

also get to do something good for people in our community," reads a preview on the tour website.

Switchpoint acts as more than a simple overnight shelter. It also includes a food pantry and thrift store, provides assistance with applications for government benefits, helps with employment search, transportation vouchers and offers a daycare for dogs.

"The athletes that participated in this great event helped 695 individuals in Washington County obtain food, shelter, GEDs, replace identification documents, receive bus passes to get back and forth to work, and helped individuals with rental deposits so that they could move into their own apartment and become self-sufficient," Carol Hollowell, Switchpoint executive director, said in reference to the 2016 tour. Some of Switchpoint's major accomplishments were listed in a news release:

Provided 3,200 households with over 2,672,000 pounds of food. Received \$4.4 million in monetary donations.

Received over 160,584 hours of volunteer service.

Assisted over 2,000 people with emergency shelter.

Assisted 640 families through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant funding.

Assisted 370 families through Continuum of Care grant funding.

"Switchpoint's motto is 'It Takes All of Us' to end homelessness and it's really true," Hollowell said in the news release. "Someone who is entrenched in poverty and homelessness is just struggling to get by one day at a time. It's not just Switchpoint's job to help lift and support them as they work to get back on their feet – it takes the entire community to help stabilize them."

Bicycling enthusiasts who would also like to be part of the community effort to help Switchpoint can find more information at the [Tour de St. George website](#). Other ways to contribute can be found at the [Switchpoint website](#).

Red Rock Bicycle Teams with Switchpoint to Help End Cycles of Homelessness



Switchpoint Staff Spotlight

CASE MANAGER SUPERVISOR, STEPHEN BECK

Stephen Beck is the Case Manager Supervisor at Switchpoint Community Resource Center.

When Stephen was a young child his mother always told him that he needed to learn a trade and get an education. So following in his father's footsteps he learned the trade of lock smithing. He says, "I used to be good at picking locks, nowadays I mostly just pick peoples brains."

Stephen has been married almost 8 years and has three young boys ages 7,5, and 2. Stephen says that their favorite pastime is to wrestle each other - all-day long. He says it keeps him young.

He received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wyoming (go Pokes!) He currently has his Certified Social Worker (CSW) license from the State of Utah and will be attending the SOAR leadership training, regarding social security, for Washington County.

Three years ago Stephen's brother was shot and killed by someone who felt they had nothing left to live for, and took their hurt out on someone else.

"I love working at Switchpoint because I get to put hope and happiness into everyone that I meet. I get to help people that otherwise would feel like they had nothing to live for. I get to help heal some of the pain and show them that not everyone they meet is there to take advantage of them. I love Switchpoint because as a community "It Takes All of Us" to make a difference."

Funding for Non-Profits in Jeopardy



As you may be aware, President Trump is initiating changes to the Federal budget and the reports are this will greatly affect grant availability for non-profit agencies like Switchpoint. We currently have over \$1 million in grant funding so we are thinking outside the box for ways to offset those

anticipated losses. The good news is **YOU** can help in **TWO** ways.

1 - Please support our local businesses:

- **Bed 'n' Biscuits dog daycare & boarding**
- **Switchpoint Thrift Store**

2 - Make a donation to Switchpoint

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and 100% of your donation is used to benefit Washington County residents!

Our success depends on generous individuals and companies who are willing to continually support us in our efforts to change people's lives for good.

"It Takes All Of Us" is our motto and we are grateful for supporters such as yourself who realize that we can each do something to help others!

5th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser a Success!



"The funds raised go toward insuring the continued operation of the Community Soup Kitchen..."

The Fifth Annual Community Soup Kitchen/Switchpoint Golf Tournament presented by Sand Hollow Resort was held on Monday May 15, 2017 at the beautiful Sand Hollow Golf Course in Hurricane, UT. The event was a resounding success with 134 players helping raise more than \$23,000 for much needed program supplies. "The funds raised will go toward insuring the continued operation of the Community Soup Kitchen Monday through Friday, the expansion of the Soup Kitchen outreach efforts and for kitchen improvements which will enhance efficiency and maintain sanitary conditions." said Nick Bujanovich, Director. Switchpoint will also benefit many ways from the funds raised.

The Community Soup Kitchen and Switchpoint wish to share their most sincere appreciation and gratitude to the event's donors, sponsors and players. "It is important for our community and our supporters to know that their contributions are impactful and strategically allocated for betterment of the lives of many." explained Nick. "We were excited to include so many players and sponsors this year. Without their generosity, we would not be able to continue to serve high quality, delicious meals to the most vulnerable in our community."

Lending Switchpoint a Helping Hand

The Switchpoint Thrift Store officially opened it's doors May 20, 2016 to a larger and more inviting space at 935 North 1300 West in St. George, just across the street from Switchpoint Community Resource Center.

The thrift store not only allows Switchpoint another way to raise money to match grants, but also offers valuable job training for shelter residents.

One such resident who is working through the on-site job training program is doing remarkably well.

"He has been able to save and secure an apartment and has moved out of the shelter. He loves to help sort, clean and work the front check-out area. He is very polite to all the customers and will complete his training in the next couple months. He has

gained a tremendous amount of self-confidence he didn't have before as well as a solid skill set to help him wherever he goes. Of course, we will be writing him a glowing letter of reference," stated Chris Bullock who oversees Switchpoint's on-the-job training program.

Currently, the Switchpoint Thrift Store is buzzing with a record number of donations and shoppers.

"The best part about donating to the Switchpoint Thrift Store is that every donation stays right here in Washington County and helps friends and neighbors who are struggling," stated Rick Taylor, current manager of the Thrift Store.

"We had a young lady come in from the Dove Center and after spending a fair amount of time shopping, left with some very nice clothes. She returned on Friday to tell us our clothes



have made her feel of value again and she feels that she can move forward and not be afraid of what people might say about her and what she has been through. She had a new spring in her step and her head was held high. These are the small and simple things that come from helping others and why I love working here," said Taylor.

Right now the Switchpoint Thrift Store is in need of volunteers.

"There is always something to do at the thrift store," stated Taylor. Whether it's sorting, tagging, interacting with shoppers or accepting donations, there is something for everyone here."

"...our clothes have made her feel of value again and she feels she can move forward..."

Walmart Foundation Grant Helping Those in Need

Recently the Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program awarded the Switchpoint Food Pantry \$25,000 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 two-and-a-half years, the food pantry has grown from around 900 clients a month to the now over 3,000 clients needing emergency food assistance.

"The Utah Food Bank works tirelessly to ensure that we have fresh fruits and vegetables to provide to our clients through their grocery rescue program. We would not be able to serve so many families, veterans and individuals without their help," said Seely. "With the growing amount of individuals seeking emergency food, it is hard to keep up. The Walmart Grant was a blessing to us 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.

Bed 'n' Biscuits a Tail-Waggin' Success

Cheers were had and tails were wagged during the grand opening of Bed 'n' Biscuits dog boarding and daycare. Bed 'n' Biscuits is located just up the street from Switchpoint Community Resource center at 1206 West Sunset Boulevard and not only provides funding for Switchpoint but is also part of their on-the-job training program.

As a non-profit, Switchpoint is looking to other means of

funding besides the federal government as grants can be hard to obtain and the dollar amount that comes with them can fluctuate. Switchpoint is trying to be as self-sufficient as possible and that means macro enterprises.

Those interested in using Bed 'n' Biscuits services will find three big advantages over other K-9 boarding and daycare sites.

- 1 - Bed 'n' Biscuits provides 24/7 security for pets left overnight.
- 2 - The business is open Sundays allowing visitors and others to leave their dogs somewhere safe on a day they may otherwise have to take them along.
- 3 - Bed 'n' Biscuits accepts "bully breeds" including the American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire bull terrier, boxer, Boston terrier and bulldog.



Bed 'n' Biscuits also partners with an on-call Veterinarian to provide low-cost vaccinations.

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

Day of Giving Scheduled for 10.8.17

"If (each person) gave just \$20, Switchpoint could raise the necessary funds to finish RiverWalk."

Switchpoint and the RiverWalk Village Affordable Housing project needs your help. We are asking communities, local organizations and churches to put their efforts together for the first "Day of Giving 2017".

What exactly is a "Day of Giving" you may ask? It is a day to help your friends and neighbors in Washington County who cannot afford housing, who are struggling to become self-sufficient and who desperately need a chance to be successful.

Switchpoint has been recognized and praised by the state and on the federal-level for its work helping the homeless and impoverished become independent. Part of that independence involves helping clients move beyond temporary housing at Switchpoint and into more permanent, yet affordable housing.

The RiverWalk Village will provide supportive services for those who are able to take advantage of the housing there once the complex is built and open, which officials hope to be in 2018. Apartment units at the RiverWalk Village will be a mix of one-, two-, three- and four-room apartments to provide something for everyone.

Why, you may ask, is Switchpoint so concerned with building an affordable housing apartment complex? Well, finding Switchpoint clients affordable housing hasn't been easy, even for those who work full-time. They, along with others who may qualify for affordable housing or may simply be looking for an apartment to rent regardless of circumstances, are not having much luck in the current market, according to a report from commercial real estate firm NAI Excel. Vacancy for multifamily housing in St. George currently stands at less than 0.1 percent, according to the report. Demand has outstripped supply and the average rent for an apartment has also gone up. In 2010, monthly rent for a two bedroom, two bath apartment was \$690, which has risen to an average of \$848 today.

"This is a really needed project," Councilman Jimmie Hughes said. Hughes, who also sits on the St. George Housing Authority, said the group has issued low-income housing vouchers that are typically filled as people are able to find housing. However, that hasn't been the case lately.

"People who are awarded these vouchers are unable to find properties that fit that low-income range because there is such a shortage," Hughes said.

However needed affordable housing is, financing the \$10 million RiverWalk Village project has been challenging. Switchpoint has been able to secure grant dollars to cover almost the entire project. But they still need to secure 1 million to make the project move forward. That is why Switchpoint is asking for help.

What would it take for everyone in our community to help make this happen? If 50,000 people gave \$20, Switchpoint could raise the necessary \$1,000,000 to finish building the 55-unit affordable housing project.

We have chosen **October 8th** as our community giving day. We need your help to reach our goal! Please visit our website at switchpointcrc.org to learn more about how you can help Switchpoint build this much needed RiverWalk Village to help lift our friends and neighbors in Washington County.

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.

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!

Joseph Fratto Jr.
Gail Fulde
Larry E. Fulk
Anthony G. Giles
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Jackie Goode
Grace Episcopal Church
Leonard A. Grasha
Kathleen Gueymard
Ronald G. Gustafson
Kim Hackett
Victoria A. Hall
James W. Haney
Brandon D. Hansen
Donald Harper
Tiffany Harris
Ben & Nan K. Hendrickson
Jim Heugly
Dell Higginson
Sharon M. Hodson
Carolyn Hollingshead
Trent J. Hughes
William Ingols
Insurance Solutions
Rick Ith
Nile L. Jackson
Steve Jenkins
Clyde J. Johnston
Clarelynn Jones
Judith Kapuschinski
Deborah Keller
Scott H. Keller
Moya R. Kessig
Patricia Kittock
Klenke Properties
Knights of Columbus Vic Giasson
Council
Kara Kriston
Jerry L. Larson
Leavitt Group Enterprises Inc.
Gary Leavitt
Bronwen Lee
David J. Levine
Jillisa Lindo
Rocky Lipsman Lips
Diann Lucas
Gregg Ludlow
Mabel Carroll Leone Revocable Trust
Marianne Mansfield
Marilyn F. Spafford Family Trust
Tim Martin

Alan D. Matthys
 Thomas F. McCoy
 Dimon McFerson
 Suzanne L. McHugh
 Danny L. McKee
 Connie C. Milford
 Thomas F. Miller
 Tyler G. Miller
 Gail Milligan
 Dana L. Moody
 Jeanette Morel-Westbrook
 Garry P. Morris
 Frank Mulder
 Sonjia Naron
 New Promise Lutheran Church
 Leroy N. Nisson
 Valerie Olson Montoya
 Origins Pharmacy Solutions LLC
 Rod Orton
 Joyce Otnes
 Matthew Pappas
 Thomas J. Pappas
 Linda G. Parker
 James D. Patterson
 PK Real Estate Utah South
 Jerry Puzey
 Pauline Raleigh
 Randall R & Lonnie S Warner Rev
 Trust
 Julie Rawl
 Raymond Nephi Miller Family Living
 Trust
 Ernest R. Reese
 Carl M. Requa
 Ruby a. Ricks
 Jim Roberts
 Rock Tite Construction Co
 Laura Rodelander
 Leonard Rosenbloom
 Lisa A. Rutherford
 Sandhollow Resort
 Becky Schutz
 Richard J. Sellers
 Donald C. Shepherd
 Roxie Sherwin
 Brent & Cindy Smith
 Dale F. Smith
 Devin Snow
 Katherine Snyder
 Maria Solorio Solo
 Southern Utah Home Builders
 Association
 Spirit of the Desert

Squatty Potty LLC
St. George Auto Repair
Linda Stay
Jane Stevens
Dolly Stoner
SunRiver Pottery Club
SunRiver SG Realty LC
Sun Tree Hospice LLC
SunRiver SG Bridge
SunRiver SG Management
Susan F. Talley
Craig Tassainer
Steven Temple
The Ironman Foundation Inc
The Saltmarsh Family Trust
George B. Thomas
Alex Thurman
Frances D. Tonkin
Mary Anne Traughber
Trinity Lutheran Church &
School
Utah Family Foundation
Tuncer Uysal
Mark E. Vernon
Dennis A. Votaw
Stephen L. Walker
Robin Wall
Washington County Medical
Alliance
Jack Waters
Janalee Waters
Susan B. Weiner
Kenneth H. Weisbacher
Ann S. Welber
Gary Weseloh
Janis Wick
Linda Kae Wilkinson
Randy Williams
Phyllis J. Winkler
Kathleen Winningham
Thomas H. Witt
Zions Management Services
Company





switchpoint™

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435-628-9310
Switchpointcrc.org

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY 2017

Sunset on the Square,
July 14 & 28 Starting
at Dusk



Georgefest,
July 7th, 6 - 11 pm

Grand Opening of
Switchpoint Pavillion,
July 31st

August 2017

Sunset on the
Square, August 11 &
25 Starting at Dusk

Santa Clara Movie
Night, August 4th,
Gubler Park



Georgefest,
August 4th, 6 - 11
pm

September 2017

Sunset on the Square,
September 8 & 22
Starting at Dusk



Georgefest,
September 1th,
6-11 pm