Jessica Sides will be the new manager at Bed 'n' Biscuits and brings with her a career of experience when it comes to dogs and training. Jessica began her career 13 years ago as a part time kennel attendant. She jokes about those humble beginnings, “picking up dog poop and supervising groups of dogs” with fondness. She learned quickly by watching and participating, taking seminars with Brian Killcommons, Jennifer Vickery and getting certified in canine CPR and First Aid. It wasn’t long after, she began to get her own clientele that would request her for training.

Jessica looks at every dog and owner differently and takes into consideration the dog and owner's needs. Jessica has experience working with dogs and owners with disabilities as well as training basic obedience, intermediate and advanced techniques and dogs with behavior and aggression issues.

Jessica believes that one must always continue to learn new things and looks to advance in the field of dog training and care. Stop in today and have your dog meet our new manager and trainer. We know it will be “puppy love” at first sight!
Laid off in the News!

Switchpoint Community Resource Center, Washington County’s organization that provides much-needed services for our homeless community, has created a match made in heaven by offering cyclists the opportunity to have fun and support Switchpoint’s work by participating in the October 2017 Fall Tour de St. George.

Washington County, along with four other counties in Utah, has a significant intergenerational poverty problem. Intergenerational poverty is different from temporary “situational” poverty, which is a big problem not only for the individuals and families but for society generally.

Switchpoint and Red Rock Bicycle Company have teamed up for a second year to offer cyclists not only a great outdoor activity but a chance to raise much-needed money to support Switchpoint. With a goal to raise $30,000—nearly twice that of last year’s $17,000—this year’s effort titled “Breaking the Cycles of Homelessness” is poised to be one of our area’s most significant events.

That’s not to diminish the purpose of other recreational events, but the end result of this one seems to bring more “human” value not just economic.

Money raised by participating cyclists in 2016 helped 696 individuals obtain food, shelter, GEDs, replace identification documents, receive bus passes to get back and forth to work, and contributed to rental deposits on housing—all activities that helped them become self-sufficient.

What’s needed is for cyclists—and this community has many!—to get involved and sign up early for this event. Need a little encouragement to get moving on this? Here are just a few more examples of what Switchpoint has done so far:

- Provided 3,200 households with over 2,572,000 pounds of food.
- 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.

I’ve been volunteering at Switchpoint for five months and I’ve seen how important the service they render is for folks who really need it and appreciate it. While many in our community are out enjoying the great vistas and recreational opportunities this area offers, many others are just trying to make ends meet, find employment opportunities and put a roof over their heads.

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