

P.A.T.H. Newsletter

produced by...

Board Member/Event Coordinator

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Edited by,

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Reports On PATH UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

July 5th City Council Meeting. This is very important for everyone to put on their calendar (see article below). It is very important to show up so the City Council can visually see how many people are in favor of the shelter. For more activities visit our website...www.redbluffpath.org.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 5TH AT 7 P.M.

PATH has completed 11 years of sheltering the homeless during the winter months. July 5th is the most important date in all our eleven years. This is the date that will determine if we be able to build a permanent shelter this fall. PATH has never been this close to having a permanent shelter. We have the grant, a land owner willing to sell the property to us, and a bank that is willing to help. The Planning Commission and the City Council have already voted to change the zone at 320 Breckenridge from C-3 to M-2. (A couple of years ago the City made it an ordinance that a homeless shelter can only be built in an M-2 Zone, thus the reason for rezoning.)

Due to opposition, there is an appeal where the City Council is required to hold a hearing to revote. We're told the opposition will be there in full force. We need you there to show your support! Bring yourself, a friend, or two! PATH has looked at all the M-2 properties in Red Bluff, and none have been adequate. The above Breckenridge site, if rezoned, does meet our needs. Drive by and see for yourself what a great location it is!

Come to the meeting early. We will be handing out free T-shirts as long as they last.

We are planning to present a rendition of what the shelter will look like when completed. Our plans are to have several speakers make the initial presentation. After the opposition makes their presentation, the hearing will be open to the public. You're not required to speak, but if you think of point that has not been made, you are welcome to come forward to the microphone.

YARD SALE AUGUST 5TH & 6TH

It's time to start saving all your goodies for the Yard Sale (*See Yard Sale flyer on last page*). We are asking that you hang on to everything until the week of the sale. If you can't bring them yourself to the Sale House, then we will arrange for our guys to pick up what you have. We need lots of volunteers to make this work. You can call, Pam Klein 527-6439 or Jodi Cordial 366-4359 for more information. We need people to sort things on Monday Aug 1, 2, 3 and set up tables. Please help if you are able, there is plenty of work for everyone to do.

REPORT FROM JODI CORDIAL, HOUSE MANAGER

The Sale House has yet another success Story. We had a young mother with a four year old daughter Graduate our program in May. She found full-time employment and transitioned into affordable housing P.A.T.H. was able to help her with household furnishing thanks to donations. P.A.T.H. was also able to assist her with some Auto repairs crucial for maintaining employment.

We have a mother of two young boys who found part-time employment in May as well. We will be assisting her in learning to drive and then a Driver's License.



We had two women successfully complete and graduate an outpatient treatment program in May.

We would like to Thank Red Bluff High Schools "Senior Make a Difference Day" for all their hard work helping to clean up and prepare for our annual Yard Sale.

Our Community Garden is filling in fast. The ladies and the children are enjoying Gardening.

PATHWAYS REPORT

The men have been busy with their recycling program. They just finished working at the Crawdad Festival at the Fairgrounds. They have been requested by the City and other organizations to do clean up jobs and recycling. They will soon be working at the Wednesday night Farmers Market to help set up and clean afterwards. Check our website, www.redbluffpath.org, click on the link tab to see the recent article regarding the men and their recycling efforts. We are very proud that the men have become known for their work.

PATH BANKS

It's not too late to start filling your PATH Bank. The drawing is not until December 1st for a chance at a \$100 gift card to Wal Mart. We have brought in a lot of money from these little banks so far this year. You would be surprised what a few pennies and loose change can add up to. Thanks for all who have been participating. I still have plenty left, just come by Furniture Depot, 235 So Main Street and pick one up soon! Don't forget to also pick up a FoodMaxx S.H.A.R.E.S. card (*It continues to be a successful fundraiser*).

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Just a reminder to those interested in receiving our newsletter by e-mail, it's never too late to be put on our e-mail list. Just e-mail to info@redbluffpath.org and we'll add you to our list.

MIKE'S STORY

A HOMELESS MAN'S SUCCESS

as told by Wes Crane

In the spring of 2008, I was working in PATH's Winter Shelter at one of the local churches of Red Bluff. A shelter guest named Mike Anspach came to me and told me that someone in the shelter had tampered with the thermostat setting. I didn't know it at the time, but that would be my introduction to a man that was to become my best friend.

Mike was a plumber who owned his own business in the state of Montana. He had to close his business due to the loss of two major businesses in his town. Mike could not find work in that area, so he migrated down to California. Ending up in Red Bluff out of funds, out of hope, and hobbling along on a crutch (due to a knee injury), he found his way to the PATH Shelter. There he was given a hot meal and a place to sleep.

Recognizing that Mike had good values, Maile Nail (a volunteer at the shelter) and her husband, Joe, invited him to stay in a cabin in their back yard. Mike lived there approximately two years. During that time they all played a lot of Canasta, a game Mike really enjoyed. He helped Maile and Joe with their yard work and maintenance. Mike also started volunteering at the shelter several nights a week. He was one of our best volunteers, expecting as much from others as he did from himself. He was soon hired as one of our late night staff. This enabled him to purchase his little blue pick-up.

Someone suggested that Mike might be a good candidate to replace the Program Director who had recently left. The PATH Board offered the job to Mike, and he tried it for about a month. Part of his responsibilities was to attend community meetings within Tehama County. He became overwhelmed, and suddenly left town without notifying anyone. We found out later, he went as far away as Florida. Mike did keep in touch with me, when he needed money. I was always able to help him, and I don't even recall if we ever

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discussed repayment of the funds. If we did, I never kept track of it because I had faith in Mike's character.

Several months later, Mike showed up at my door. After he shared a few experiences of his trip, he told me that he'd like to work off his debt. Mike had kept track of everything he owed me, and he fulfilled his obligation faithfully.

It wasn't long before Mike was back in full swing. He jumped right into helping PATH once again, joining the Board, and filling one of the positions as a homeless representative. He was rehired as one of the late night staff at the shelter. I helped him purchase an old small travel trailer, which he moved into a trailer park. Mike fixed the plumbing and made other repairs that improved the trailer immensely. He used his little truck to become the purchasing agent for the shelter, and made weekly trips to the grocery store and Walmart. He delivered all his purchases back to the shelter, and helped put everything away. Mike developed a shopping list to keep track of what was needed, to help avoid over buying. We are still using that list today.

Sometime later, a forty foot/two bedroom trailer was donated to PATH. The Board agreed to offer it to Mike. He accepted it, giving his old trailer to a friend whom he had met at the shelter. His small trailer was then parked in the space just behind his new one. In the years to come, Mike often invited his friends for special occasions, like Thanksgiving and other Holidays . On several occasions Mike invited homeless people to stay in his trailer for short periods time. Some people took advantage of him, but he still kept trying to help others. One time he offered to let a man and his pre-teen son move in, just until the shelter opened. He felt bad that the boy was living on the streets with his father who wouldn't stop drinking. During the time they stayed with Mike, the father left the son unattended. Mike had warned the father, if he left the boy unattended again, he would have to ask them to leave. His hope was that the father would care enough for the son's welfare to change his ways.

Even though this was a tough decision for Mike, the father still didn't change, so Mike had to ask them to leave.

He eventually turned his little spare room into a hobby room, where he spent many hours building model boats. Mike was a very good house keeper, and his yard was immaculate. The same was true of his work tools. He lived on a corner spot at the beginning of the park, and everyone admired how nice everything looked.

At some point, Mike became aware that during the summer, the homeless were not having a meal on Saturdays, so he started loading up a barbeque unit in his truck. He would take it to the park and barbeque hot dogs for them. Some of his friends donated funds to help him afford this venture. I believe he did this for a couple of summers, and then turned it over to a small church group.

Mike was a good man, and many of his friends, including me were very sad to find out in June 2010 that he had esophageal cancer. He fought as hard as he could, but a little less than a year later, on Sunday, April the 3rd, the Lord called him home. Mike was only 66 years old. Mike was loved by many, and will be remembered as a loyal and dear friend. Thus, when the new shelter is built, it will be dedicated to his memory, and will be called:

Mike's House of Hope

A PATH Program

**P.A.T.H.'s
Current Board Members**

Cynthia Cook	Judy Crane
Wesley Crane	Allene Dering
Kitt Condrey-Miller	Elizabeth Keith
Debbie Bennett	Pam Klein
Christine Shults	Mary Stevens

If you have any question regarding the PATH organization, please email...info@redbluffpath.org

BIG YARD SALE

Friday • AUGUST 5TH
SATURDAY • AUGUST 6TH
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

- Mattress Sets • Furniture
- Housewares • Clothing

PATH SALE HOUSE

Gilmore Ranch Rd

(Corner of Sale Lane & Gilmore Ranch Rd)

Live Music

Bar BQ

Drawings



POOR AND THE HOMELESS
TEHAMA COUNTY COALITION
P.O. Box 315, Red Bluff, CA 96080

If you'd like to
donate your
sellable items,
please contact
Jodi Cordial at
366.4359



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TEHAMA COUNTY COALITION

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