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The Greater Blessings Program - One Family, One Community, One Blessing!

By Geri Cochrane, Board Member for the Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing

John Bourque actively and warmly heads the Greater Blessings Program through the Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, of which John and myself are board members.

This past year John has taken on trying to help make a difference for families in the Silver Valley. I'm trying to be his partner in crime! So, when he saw a need for a fellow co-worker and her husband, he felt it would be the perfect opportunity to help them with a very necessary and big project.

John drives a special needs bus for the Kellogg School District and his Bus Aid, Tammy Claflin and her husband, Carl had a serious and dangerously collapsing front entry porch. Carl was battling terminal cancer and so very sadly lost his fight late this summer. However, not before he saw that the project that John encouraged Tammy to submit an application for was completed.



John Bourque and Geri Cochrane

John received Tammy and Carl's application mid-April. Just In time to be able to make the necessary preparations for this important project to happen. This is a good moment to share with you, the community how, that It takes time to make a project like this come together. That the Silver Valley Fuller Center For Housing & The Greater Blessings Program are manned by many volunteers. Although some Board Members are retired, many have full-time jobs, families, and busy lives. The volunteers working behind the scenes for the SVFCH and Greater Blessings programs often have limited time, which can result in certain tasks taking longer to complete. However, their dedication is what ultimately makes these community projects possible.



The dangerous and degrading porch prior to repair

Tammy and Carl's Greater Blessing application then needed to be taken to the next SVFCH monthly board meeting to be approved. Now it was time to roll up everyone's sleeves! Board members Frank Culhno, Bob Whitman, John and I met at the Claflin's home to see what materials would be needed and to make a gameplan to get the project started.

All of this was just in time to be able to utilize the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventurers to be able to help with this undertaking. There were thirty-one volunteer bikers that cycled from Seattle to Washington DC from May 21st to August 4th - a 4,000-mile journey across the nation, helping many communities and families such as the Claflin's. Stopping in Kellogg along the way!

But there are many more people to thank and acknowledge for their time and commitment to make projects like this happen. John went to the Kellogg School district to ask if they could let the Bikers stay at the old Kellogg

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"If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures."

-Job 36:11

The Greater Blessings Program, Continued

Middle School gym, while they were here working. What a perfect place for them to stay! There were also many coworkers from the Transportation Department who donated money to help with the purchase of all the building supplies for Tammy & Carl's porch. The Silver Valley Fuller Center just can't thank the community enough for all of their time and commitment to that weekend. It took the many churches and community businesses donations and sponsors to make this happen!

The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventurers rode into Kellogg, Thursday, May 30th. They split up into various groups to help with the few community projects that the SVFCH had going on spreading out from Mullan, to Osburn to Kellogg. There were several men from the Biker's group that helped to get Tammy and Carl's front porch started. They worked specifically to rebuild the dilapidated and partially collapsed flooring of the porch to be reinforced and safe again.

It now took John and myself through mid-July to finish the interior of the porch. John and I would work in the mornings to beat the intense heat of the day. We could only go a few days a week and or a day on the weekend to try to finish the porch. The porch repair included replacing the sheet rock and windows, installing vinyl flooring,

painting, finish work, and installing a new screen door. In mid-July, Ray Guthmiller, another SVFCH board member, enthusiastically volunteered to help us re-frame and install the screen door. A few days later, John and I went back to do the final clean and touch ups of the porch. The following day, July 20th, Carl lost his fight with cancer. I would like to think that Carl was watching over us!

There were many days that Carl was able to come out and have great conversations with us and watch the progress we were making. I only wish that I thought to take a picture of Carl and Tammy before we lost him. However, I know that Tammy's wood shed is full, and the porch is completed and safe. What a wonderful community we live in!



Frank Culnoh of the Silver Valley Fuller Center meets with the Bicycle Adventurers at the old Kellogg Middle School Gym to make plans to work on the porch and other Greater Blessing projects throughout the valley.



Bicycle Adventurers help to cut out, reinforce, and patch the collapsing porch floor



A Bike Adventurer and John inspect the porch walls and ceiling



Geri, John and Ray after installing the new screen door



John and Ray work on the door frame

Continued on pg. 3

The Greater Blessings Program, Continued



The finished porch with new screen door



Inside the new finished porch

So far in 2024 besides Tammy & Carl's porch the Greater Blessings Program has helped families with emergency/frozen water pipes, a broken water line, installed a privacy fence and are now helping an applicant in Wallace work with a contractor make her chimney safe so she can use a wood stove to reduce her winter heating cost. Remember all of this is done with local contractors and volunteers!

The Fuller Center Greater Blessings Program repairs or renovates homes with a cap of \$5,000.00 The beneficiary of those repairs has an opportunity to repay the cost of those repairs over time on terms that they can afford, without a loan agreement. Re-donation payments are made monthly, providing a beneficiary the opportunity of receiving a Greater Blessing of giving, not just receiving.

As we reflect on the success of projects like Tammy and Carl's porch, we are reminded that none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. However, the need for helping hands is ongoing. The Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing is actively seeking volunteers to assist in several crucial areas.

We are in need of someone to help manage and revamp our website, moving it to a more user-friendly platform. This is a vital role, as an accessible and engaging online presence allows us to reach more people, including those in need and those who want to help. If you have skills in website design or management, we would greatly appreciate your assistance.

In addition, we are always looking for more construction supervisors and volunteers. Whether you have extensive experience or are simply willing to lend a hand, your time

and efforts can make a real difference. Projects like porch rebuilds, plumbing repairs, and even the simple act of painting a home can transform lives and bring hope to families in our community.

If you are ready to be a part of something bigger, to give back and see firsthand the impact you can make, we would love to have you join us. Together, we can continue building a better future for the families of the Silver Valley.

For more information on how you can volunteer, please visit [SVFCH.org](https://svfch.org) or contact us directly. Let's continue this incredible work together!

To receive a Greater Blessing application, Go to [SVFCH.org](https://svfch.org), click on "Apply for a home repair" and then select "Application".

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people work together in unity. Be encouraged. There is something special about a team that works together with the same heart and vision for the church."

Psalm 133:1



Tammy with her newly repaired porch



Geri and John stand outside the finished porch

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Thank You, August Donors



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Greater Blessings Fund

Judy Blalack, Chris & Alice Belt, Josephine Davis,
Linda Judd, Christina & Josh Mace

A Heartfelt Thank You to TD Construction

We are incredibly grateful to TD Construction (Todd Delinger) for their generous donation of a beautiful glass-top stove to the Fuller Center. Shortly after receiving it, we were able to pass on this gift to a member of our community who had been cooking on a camp stove for quite some time. Your contribution has truly made a difference in his daily life, providing comfort and dignity through a simple yet essential necessity.

thank you

Thank you, TD Construction, for helping us support our community and for being a part of our mission to improve lives one step at a time.

Help Needed: We are looking for a **volunteer to adapt our website** for easier access - please contact Tahnee at 208-512-9869 if you can assist!

Here's Help for SVFCH...

I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.

- Here is my pledge for \$ _____ per month for one year.
- Here is my gift of \$ _____.
- I have a house and/or land to donate.
- I can make a no-interest loan for \$ _____. Please call about working out the details.
- I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. • P.O. Box 338, Smelterville, ID 83868 • 208-682-3240

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Upcoming Events

October 1st — Newsletter mailing workshop
at St. Rita's in Kellogg 9:00 AM.

October 8th — Board and Committee
meetings, 5:30 PM, Pinehurst Lions Hall,
Pinehurst

Wish List

Specific Needs:

- Construction Supervisors – need not do the labor.
- Construction volunteers to work with the Supervisor.
- PR Chair
- And others –

Call Tahnee at 208-512-9869 & leave a message

Keep an eye out in next month's newsletter for Walk-A-Thon fundraiser article and photos –
the walk was hosted 9/21

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