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P. O. Box 4233, Pocatello, Idaho 83205

ENCAMPMENT 2024: DEC 7-8 HOMELESS AWARENESS & FUNDRAISER FACT SHEET

Over 40 years ago... tragedy struck our community with the death of a young homeless man and another who lost his foot to frostbite during the winter of 1983-1984 because no shelter services operated in Pocatello at that time. Through a grassroots response by this community, Aid For Friends emerged to offer safe lodging to those in need.

Following a tradition that began with the faith communities and concerned citizens, the 18th Annual Encampment is being planned in support of homeless awareness and the services that Aid For Friends provides to our community. This special event is held at Caldwell Park in Pocatello and begins at 10:00 am on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 and ends at 9:00 am on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024.

Participants raise money by securing pledges from individuals and businesses. Spending the night in a cardboard box impacts participants by increasing their understanding of what the homeless often endure, both physically and emotionally, especially in the harsh winter cold.

Those spending the night will be asked to assist in building shelters out of cardboard boxes and tarps similar to what someone experiencing homelessness might construct as a makeshift dwelling overnight. These boxes become an “emergency camp” much like what is found under bridges in communities that do not have an agency like Aid For Friends to provide safe haven. Participants are asked to break down the camp in the morning and help clean the park of all debris to leave no trace.

There will be a food drive for “Camp Food” such as cans of chili, tuna, ham and soup, sponsored by the Modern Woodmen of America.

- All participants will be trained on winter weather survival, proper clothing and equipment, health safety and emergency preparedness. Attendance is required for all participants.
- Training will be taught during lunch on Saturday.
- A local Scouts BSA Troop will serve a “Soup Kitchen” dinner Friday, and a hot breakfast will be provided Saturday morning.
- A zero-impact fire in a 55-gallon drum as a heat source will keep participants warm.
- Evening music will be provided at 6:30 pm on Saturday in the Central Christian Church.
- Warm drinks and snacks will be served on site at the Canteen. All safety precautions will be adhered to, with on-site fire extinguishers; portable toilets.
- American Legion Riders’ will provide security throughout the night, patrolling the park for safety.

Over \$230,000 has been raised since 2007.

Contributions may be sent to Aid For Friends, P.O. Box 4233, Pocatello, ID 83205 – Please add “Encampment” to memo on check.

All proceeds of the event support Aid For Friends, a local non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) tax status / EIN ID # 82-0408063. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.