

**APRIL 2008 REGULAR SESSION OF THE
CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE**

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION NO. LR08-09

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SIDNEY W. FITZPATRICK, JR., AND THE CROW
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
ENTITLED:

**“A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STREET OUTREACH
SHELTER INC. ITS PURPOSE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF SERVICE TO AND
FOR FAMILIES, ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN BECOMING INDEPENDENT AND
PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.”**

WHEREAS, the Crow Tribal Legislature is authorized to adopt resolutions, regulations and guidelines for the governance of the Crow Tribe of Indians pursuant to Article V, Section 2(a) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Crow Tribe of Indians, and

WHEREAS, the Crow Legislature is empowered to adopt legislation, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which is necessary in exercising the duties conferred upon the three branches of government;” ID at b, and

WHEREAS, the health, welfare and safety of all Crow Members is an essential duty and responsibility of the Crow Government to preserve, promote and protect, and

WHEREAS, the Street Outreach Shelter Inc. requested a Legislative Resolution supporting their public service entity, and

WHEREAS, the Street Outreach Shelter, Inc. is a non-profit entity created to provide services to families, adults and child in becoming independent and productive citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature enthusiastically supports entities and/or programs that provide services to Crow families, adults and children, and

WHEREAS, Street Outreach Shelter Inc., has made progress in service to Crow families, adults and children, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE CROW NATION HEREBY THIS ACTIONS, DOES PROCLAIM SUPPORT FOR THE STREET OUTREACH SHELTER INC., ITS PURPOSE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CROW FAMILIES, ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN BECOMING INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS..

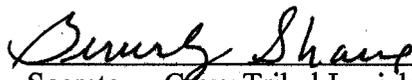
THIS PROCLAMATION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY THE LEGISLATURE AND SIGNATURE BY THE LEGISLATIVE SPEAKER AND THE SECRETARY.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this LR 08-09 "A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STREET OUTREACH SHELTER INC. ITS PURPOSE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF SERVICE TO AND FOR FAMILIES, ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN BECOMING INDEPENDENT AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS." was duly approved by the Crow Tribal Legislature with a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained and that a quorum was present on this 9TH day of April, 2008.


Speaker of the House
Crow Tribal Legislature

ATTEST:


Secretary, Crow Tribal Legislature



APRIL 2008 REGULAR SESSION

LR 08-09 "A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STREET OUTREACH SHELTER INC. ITS PURPOSE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF SERVICE TO AND FOR FAMILIES, ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN BECOMING INDEPENDENT AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS."

Street Outreach Shelter, Inc.

21 East 4th Street
Hardin, MT 59034

Background

The mission of Street Outreach Shelter, Inc. (SOSI) is to promote self-reliance and interdependence for the underserved population in Hardin, Montana by providing safe space and connections. Hardin, the county seat of Big Horn County, has a population of 3483 and lies along the border of the Crow Indian Reservation, 50 miles southeast of Billings. Big Horn County has a median household income of \$27,719 (data from year 2003), and approximately 24% of the population lives in poverty¹. The county has had historically high unemployment rates, and in 2000 had the highest rate in the state at 14.4%. In 2005 the rate was 8.5%². "Border towns" that lie adjacent to Indian Reservations have historically suffered from crippling forms of racism^{3,4,5,6}, and Hardin has been no exception. While prevalence rates of homelessness have not been quantified, anecdotal evidence suggests that there are moderate rates of transient homelessness, often related to issues of violence, alcoholism and substance abuse.

Many individuals and families in Big Horn County suffer from a litany of ills: lack of housing, lack of transportation, mental health issues, addictions, violence, unemployment, and others. Too many community members have fallen through gaps in the existing safety nets, and are in need of individualized support from external sources. However, often these families and individuals are not able to access resources that are available in the county for many of the very reasons previously articulated.

¹ US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/county.html>, accessed on 11/8/06

² Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Unemployment/RDLst2.asp?ST=MT> accessed on 11/8/06.

³ "Conference explores racism in cities near reservations", Michael Moore, the Missoulian, 4/7/06, <http://oreaddaily.blogspot.com/2006/04/conference-tackles-racism-in.html> accessed 11/8/06

⁴ "Border town racism subject of forum", Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola, The Independent, 11/1/06, http://www.gallupindependent.com/2006/nov/110106ehb_racismfrm.html accessed 11/8/06

⁵ "In Navajo country, racism rides again", Evelyn Nieves, Salon.com, 9/2/06, http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2006/09/02/navajo/index_np.html, accessed 11/8/06

⁶ "Border town racism abundant in Montana", Norma Bixby, Tribal Report for the Cheyenne People, June 2006, <http://www.nchevyenne.net/newsletter/June%20Report%20Web.pdf> accessed 11/8/06

Our goal in SOSI is to create systems of mutual support that will empower individuals and families to become interdependent and productive citizens of Big Horn County. We will achieve our specific objectives (see Appendix A) through the creation of a Day Center, which will provide a point of connection for community members to the existing network of social support services in the community. The Day Center will serve as our major point of contact in the community. In this setting, we will interface directly with community members, performing asset and needs assessments, connecting individuals and families with available community resources, and seeking to foster a greater sense of belonging and value.

We don't want to be just another service provider in an already vast array of social service agencies. Rather, our vision is to foster healthy relationships with individuals—*one at a time*—and to walk alongside them at their own pace, connecting each to existing community resources that can provide them with personalized empowerment.

History

Our organization was formed in 2002 when several community members began meeting to consider ways to address the issue of street people in Hardin, recognizing that these individuals were symbolic of deeper social wounds in the community. Catalyzed by the relentless visionary, Agnes Halverson, the organization slowly began to take shape over the subsequent years. The early years were characterized by numerous meetings with county and city officials, community members, and others, as the movement slowly took on an organizational structure. More recently, after many minor setbacks, SOSI finally purchased a building in Hardin, MT to serve as a Day Center and the center of our operations. The funding for this expenditure originated from both public and private sources, and represented the culmination of years of perseverance.

Organizational Structure

SOSI is largely a volunteer-run organization. We were incorporated into a 501c(3) nonprofit organization in 2003. Oversight is provided by a board of directors, and a community advisory board provides important guidance and input (see Appendix B). The daily operations of the organization are the purview of the Director, who will receive support from an Outreach Worker. The Director and Outreach Workers will also coordinate the efforts of numerous volunteers.

Appendix A: Goals and Objectives

Goal: To empower individuals and families in becoming interdependent and productive citizens of Big Horn County.

Objective 1: Establish an atmosphere of trust for clients and for the community of Hardin: at least 3 agencies will coordinate efforts with SOSI in developing plan of care for participants.

Activity: Provide interactive relationships through food and fellowship.

- Attend public meetings to inform citizens of SOSI progress and needs.
- Provide rudimentary refreshments to clients.
- Attend interagency meetings.

Objective 2: Refer clients for basic necessities as needed: participants who seek more than socialization will be assisted in obtaining necessities.

Activity: Assess each family or individuals as to their needs.

- Refer clients in need of proper nourishment to agencies already existing in the community such as WIC, Food Bank, USDA commodities etc.
- Transport or refer to transporting services for medical care, appointments with other agencies etc.

Objective 3: Clients will establish a plan of action to reach their goals: participants who ready to seek and set goals will be assessed and plan of action will be established.

Activity: Assess each family or individual for their goals of becoming independent and self-reliant.

- Provide referrals for counseling for substance abuse and mental health issues.
- Provide access to spiritual counseling for those desiring such.
- Coordinate with other homeless advocate entities in seeking appropriate shelter/housing.

Objective 4: Coordinate with other agencies to provide ongoing services as needed: volunteers will attend at least one interagency meeting quarterly.

Activity: Meet with other agencies to enhance services and minimize duplication of services.

- Provide outlet for employment of Working Partners' clients.
- Provide job experience and referrals of individuals.
- Encourage volunteerism and sense of ownership within community.
- Network with other homeless advocate entities.

Appendix B: Organizational Structure

Board of Directors:

- Bill Stobaugh, *President*
- Joseph Reyes, *Vice President*
- Cheryl Lynn Wauben, *Secretary*
- Rose L. Iron, *Treasurer*
- Dennis Big Hair
- Larry Roberts
- Glenda Reyes

Alternates:

- Myra Left Hand
- Henry Pretty On Top
- Agnes Halverson
- Faron L. Iron

Advisory Board:

- Beverly Roberts
- Jerry Gauy
- Bonnie Graber
- Carol Siegle
- Joy Buckley
- Kristen Mark
- Sam Laci ?
-
- Angie Conroy

Director:

Outreach Worker: Faron Iron

Community Volunteers: