

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes October 6, 2011

Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Lenna Watson at 12:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Tawny Espinoza
- Lenna Watson
- David McInay
- Scott Coleman
- Bart Dickson
- Dr. Scott McBrayer
- Dr. William Findlay
- Jim Doody (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent:

Parks & Recreation Staff Present:

- Rob Schoeber, Director
- Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist
- Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent
- Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent
- Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent
- Mike Mendelson, Head Golf Pro

Item 2: Approve Minutes

David McInay moved to approve the September 1, 2011 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Tawny Espinoza seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 7 0 No

Item 3: Golf Update

Head Golf Pro Michael Mendelson thanked Doug Jones and Rob Schoeber for allowing him the opportunity to work for the City, and provided a brief synopsis of his background. Mr. Mendelson expressed his excitement to work closely with the VCB on expanding and growing the business. In addition to working with the Recreation Division's STARS program, he intends to work with the local schools in the community to begin providing golf programs for the youth. The golf in the schools programs allow for teaching the basics of golf, in which they use birdie balls that are restricted in flight. Doug Jones discussed the recent reduction in junior fees, in an effort to encourage the juniors to come play. The golf courses are also now offering a new cost saving program, in which a kid can play free on the weekends with a paying adult.

Doug Jones reported the rounds at Lincoln Park are down 3,200, but are up 5,500 rounds at Tiara Rado. Due to the poor economy and the area now having more golf courses, the rounds are nowhere near what they were years ago. Mr. Jones also discussed other reasons for the low numbers, including the numerous rain storms during the weekends, and the fact that many of the golfers are the energy workers

who have now moved away. The 2012 fee structure is being decreased at Lincoln Park, in order to further separate the fees between the two courses. New programs to generate additional business are being discussed, such as a couples “Dine and Nine” package. Rob Schoeber expressed the City’s appreciation for Mike Mendelson and Doug Jones, stating they are the best combination of a Golf Pro and Golf Superintendent he has seen.

Doug Jones provided an update on the new irrigation system, stating the old system utilized 900,000 – 1,000,000 gallons of water a day; the new system is averaging around 700,000 gallons per day.

Jim Doody asked about the trees that have died at Lincoln Park. Mike Vendegna responded that this has been an ongoing battle for the Forestry crews, due to the fact the water source for the trees has completely changed since the time they were originally planted (40-50 years ago), which is making it very difficult to keep the trees alive. Staff is consistently planting new and different trees in an ongoing effort to replace those that are dying.

Item 4: Hawthorne Park Update

Rob Schoeber reported on the Hawthorne Park neighborhood picnic, stating staff received very good feedback from the residents. Comments included that there is a much better feel for the park now, due to the efforts being made by the City. Staff intends to continue working with the neighborhood to help make the park a good experience for everyone who visits.

Item 5: Lincoln Park Renovation Project

Mike Vendegna reported on the upcoming Lincoln Park renovation project, stating the planning has begun, due to the gracious contribution from City Council to be allocated to bringing the parks facilities back up to safety regulations. Lincoln Park is currently very run down and desperately needs a renovation, as it is one of the most heavily used parks in the system. The renovation process will begin with a couple of community meetings and partner meetings, in order to determine what the needs are of the users. The final plan will be a combination of the community input and the staff’s design, in order to serve the community better. Areas that will not be included in the renovation are the golf course and the swimming pool. Staff’s current recommendation includes the construction of two new restroom facilities, and possibly a new playground and shelter roof repairs. Tawny Espinoza stated she is a strong advocate for building a “family” restroom at the park. Traci Wieland stated the process will be very similar to the design process for Rocket Park, in which staff gave the community the opportunity to brain storm, then applied for a GOCO grant. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council members will be receiving invitations to the community meetings. Lenna Watson expressed the importance of the Board members attending the meetings, and suggested Joe Prinster be invited, stating he has a vested interest in the area. Tawny Espinoza mentioned this might be an opportunity to involve students from Colorado Mesa University, as there may be some interested in helping with this type of community project.

Item 6: Project Updates

Traci Wieland reported on the Lincoln Park waterslide, stating the contractor was in town last week for the CPRA conference, and was able to go down the slide and see many of the problems for himself. He is now working with the multiple subcontractors that were involved in hopes of finding a resolution. The slide was installed in late 2008 and was running in 2009, but is now closed, due to the safety issues

resulting from the numerous mistakes made during the installation. Traci Wieland stated the City Attorney is now involved.

Mike Vendegna stated Parks Crews are in the planning stages for numerous playground upgrades, a major pump renovation at Canyon View Park, and approximately 8-10 other projects that he will present to the Board at a later date. Staff is very excited to be able to repair many of the existing safety issues and/or replace the non-working equipment.

Rob Schoeber reported the stadium project is going smoothly and is still ahead of schedule. To date, the two stair towers and the elevator tower have been completed, and the dugouts, which are twice the size of the old ones, are in the process of being constructed. Mr. Schoeber stated the architect and contractor are working out fantastically and have worked around the City events flawlessly. The speaker, that was tested a few weeks ago, was found to have excellent sound, unfortunately, the quote came back much higher than originally discussed and it is no longer an option.

Rob Schoeber briefly discussed the minor league baseball team contract, stating City Council has given Laurie Kadrich authorization to move forward with negotiations.

Item 7: For the Good of the Community

Scott Coleman reported he had done quite a bit of research regarding the homeless population in Mesa County. Mr. Coleman found that the Police Department, Department of Human Services, and the Catholic Outreach do not keep any statistics on the homeless population, stating he received the majority of his information from the Grand Valley Coalition for Homeless. (See attached report) The Catholic Outreach did tell him that their day center used to see approximately 40 people a day and are now seeing over 100 people a day. Homeward Bound reported of the 768 homeless identified in 2011, 50% are considered "chronically" homeless. When Mr. Coleman asked if there was any trending data, none of the agencies had a solid answer. The Board thanked Scott Coleman for following up on this research. Jim Doody reported there is currently discussion taking place with the Grand Junction Housing Authority regarding the purchase of a hotel that could possibly be used as a public/private operation for single resident units. The hotel would have Case Managers to help the homeless make the transition into society, while promoting sobriety and good health.

Dave McIlroy discussed the recent newspaper article about the potential purchase of private land between the Lunch Loop and the rest of the trail. Rob Schoeber stated the request has come from the Trust for Public Lands, in hopes of securing 130 acres near Tabeguache Trail. The proposal would provide an opportunity to preserve the area for open space.

Item 8: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tressa Fisher
Administrative Specialist

**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS
Survey Date: January 24, 2011**

**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS**

Survey Date: January 24, 2011

*There were 396 surveys returned. Households ranged in size from 1 – 9 persons.

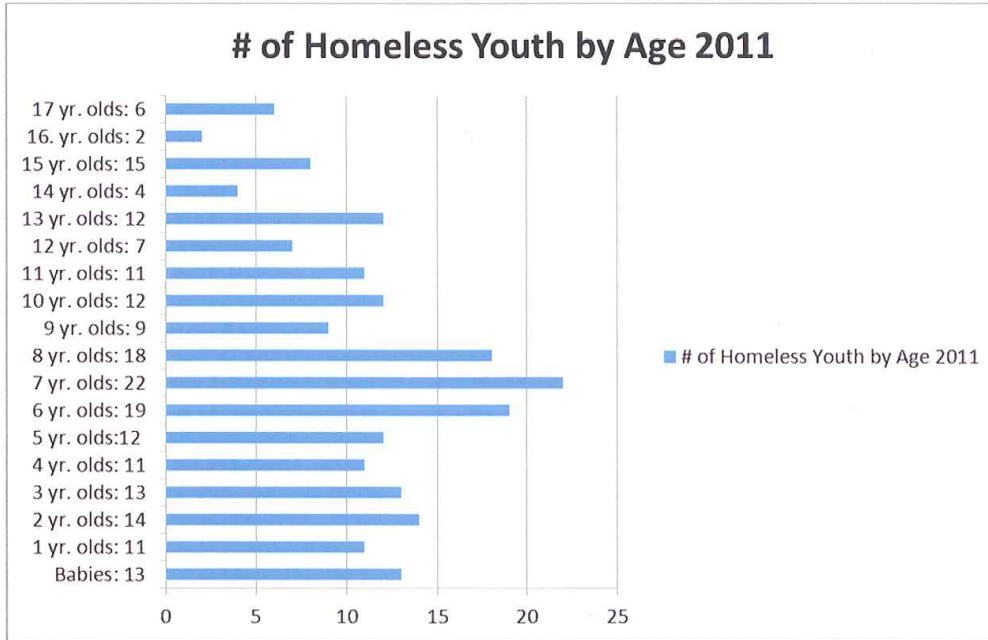
1. Today how many people are in your household/family and **currently living with you?**
The adult/youth ratio is 540 Adults (18 yrs. and over) and 228 Children Under 18
FOR A TOTAL OF 768 UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS

Note: As HomewardBound has documented service to more than 1,000 unduplicated individuals annually for the past three consecutive years; we feel the total survey count only represents a portion of the Homeless in Mesa County. 50 single men reported by the Rescue Mission; however, these individuals did not participate in the survey and therefore are not included here. It is believed there are other individuals who chose not to be counted or were missed especially in the out lying parts of Grand Junction, Clifton, and Palisade. A secondary survey to be given in the spring 2011 may provide additional data.

2. Please provide the ages of those under 18. There were:

- 13 babies
 - 11 one yr. olds
 - 14 two year olds
 - 13 three yr. olds
 - 11 four yr. olds
 - 13 five yr. olds
 - 19 six yr. olds
 - 22 seven yr. olds
 - 18 eight yr. olds
 - 9 nine yr. olds
 - 12 ten yr. olds
 - 11 eleven yr. olds
 - 7 twelve yr. olds
 - 12 thirteen yr. olds
 - 4 fourteen yr. olds,
 - 8 fifteen yr. olds
 - 2 sixteen yr. olds
 - 6 seventeen yr. olds
 - 23 undisclosed ages
- TOTAL 228**

**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS**



3. Where will/did you sleep the night of Monday, January 24th, 2011? (Please choose one)

134 Emergency Shelter 0 Psychiatric Facility 2 Hospital 57 With family 38 With Friends 8 Hotel / Motel 2 Jail
4 Detox Facility 16 Vehicle 56 Outside 40 Rental House/Apartment (in jeopardy of losing housing in 2 weeks)
2 Rental with Veterans Administration Subsidized Housing Vouchers 34 Rental with Other Housing Subsidy (non-
veteran) 3 No Answer

4. If you have housing today are you in danger of being evicted from your current housing within the next week?

16 Yes 380 No **4% of surveyed households reported being in danger.**

5. Do you consider yourself a resident of Mesa County? 373 Yes 23 No

94% of household consider themselves to be residents of Mesa County.

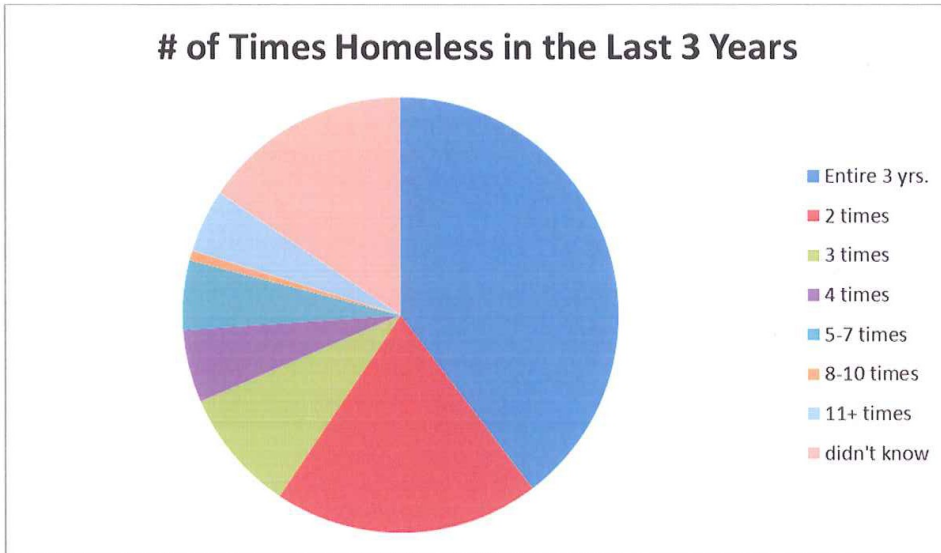
6. When was the last time you had your own place? 106 less than a yr., 67 one yr.,
46 two yr., 17 three yr., 16 four yr., 12 five yr., 11 six yr., 5 seven yr., 4 eight yr.
3 nine yr., 12 ten yr., **33 ten yrs. or longer** 64 unknown

Where was it? 202 Mesa County 61 Another county in Colorado 88 Another State 45 Unknown
Of the 88 from other states the breakdown is 1-AL **5-AZ** 1-AR **12-CA**
1-ID 4-IN 1-IO 4-FL 2-GA **6-KS** 3-KY
1-LA 2-MI 1-MO 1-MN 2-MT 2-NE 4-NM
2-OH 3-OK 2-PA 2-SD **5-TX** 9-UT 1-WA
1-WY

7. Including today, how many times you have been homeless during the last three years? (Please choose one):

(161) 1x(homeless the entire last 3 years) (80) 2 x (37) 3x
(22) 4x (21) 5 to 7x (3) 8 to 10x (19) 11 or more x (53) Don't Know

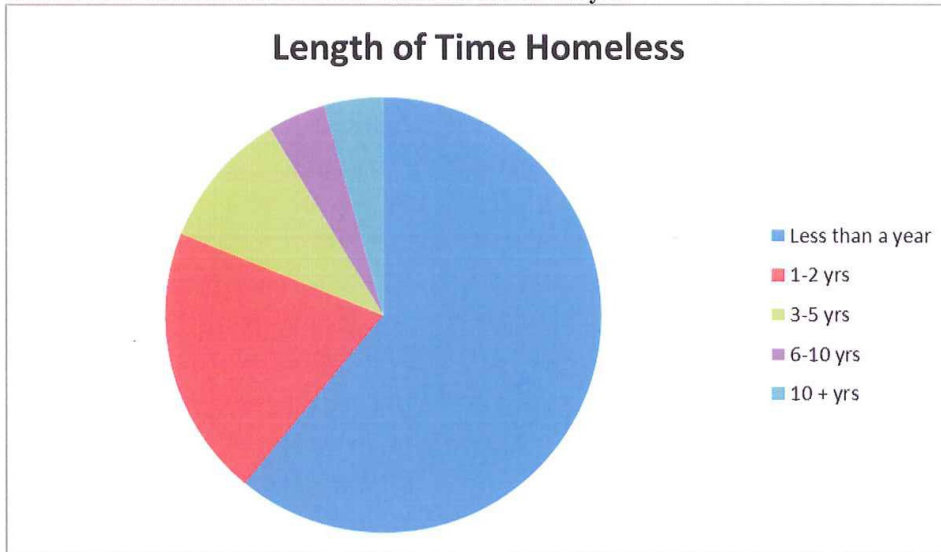
**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS**



8. How long have you been homeless this time? (Please choose one):

(56) Less than 1 month (52) 1 to 3 months (70) 4 to 6 months (48) 7 to 11 months
 (75) 12 months to 2 years (38) 3 to 5 years (16) 6 to 10 years (16) More than 10 years (25) Unknown

57% of these house holds have been homeless less than a year



9. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement?

(77) Yes (281) No (38) Unknown

10. What factors have contributed to you losing and not securing permanent housing? (Mark **all** that apply.)

60 Alcohol 28 Drugs **174 Unable to pay rent/utilities** **54 Mental Illness** 52 Illness 41 Medical Expenses
170 Loss of Job 49 Moved to find work 82 Relationship problems 31 Discharged from jail 32 Legal Problems
 29 Domestic Violence 32 Asked to leave 49 Bad Credit 32 Problems with benefits 4 Choice

**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS**

11. Do you think you have a mental health illness or diagnosis that hinders your ability to get/keep housing?

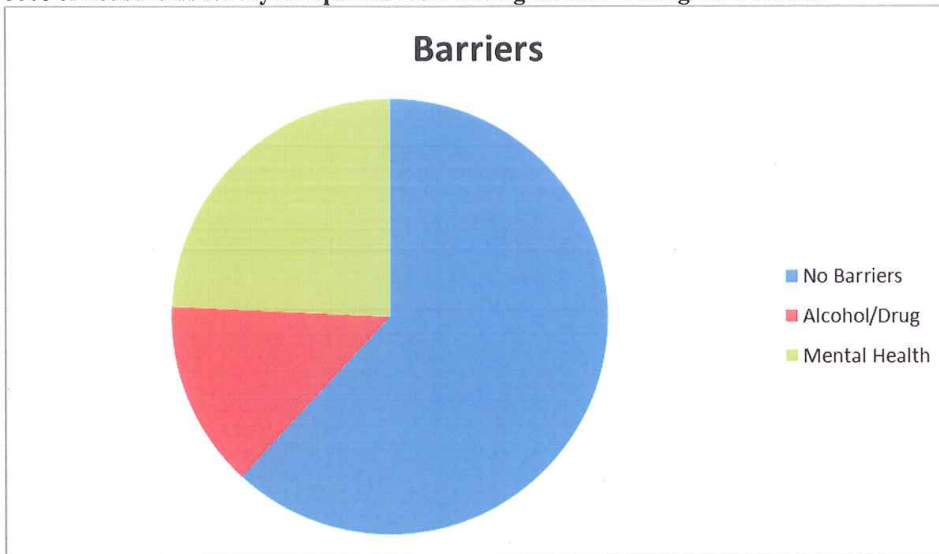
(97) Yes (293) No (6) Unknown

24% of households surveyed reported a mental health barrier

12. Do you think you have an alcohol and/or drug problem that hinders your ability to get/keep housing?

(44) Yes (340) No (12) Unknown

86% of households surveyed reported NOT having alcohol or drugs as a barrier



13. In the past three months how many times have you been to the Emergency Room (ER)? (Please choose one):

244 None 53-1 46-2 16-3 9 More than 3 13 More than 5 10 Don't Know 5 No Answer

14. If you have been to the Emergency Room many times did you go by ambulance? (Please choose one):

36-0 54-1 16-2 5-3 3 More than 3

2 More than 5 11 Don't Know 25 No Answer

15. Are you a military Veteran? 316 No 80 Yes

20% of households reported having a military member

What branch did you serve in? 3 Air Force 17 Navy 29 Army 10 Marines
3 National Guard 16 No Answer

If Yes, Did you serve in a war zone? 50 No 16 Yes, 14 No Answer

Where? 1 Korea, 1 Lybia, 1 Somalia, 1 Everywhere, 2 Persian Gulf, 2 Desert Storm, 9 Vietnam

If Yes, Are you currently receiving services through your local Veterans Administration?

33 No 39 Yes 8 No Answer

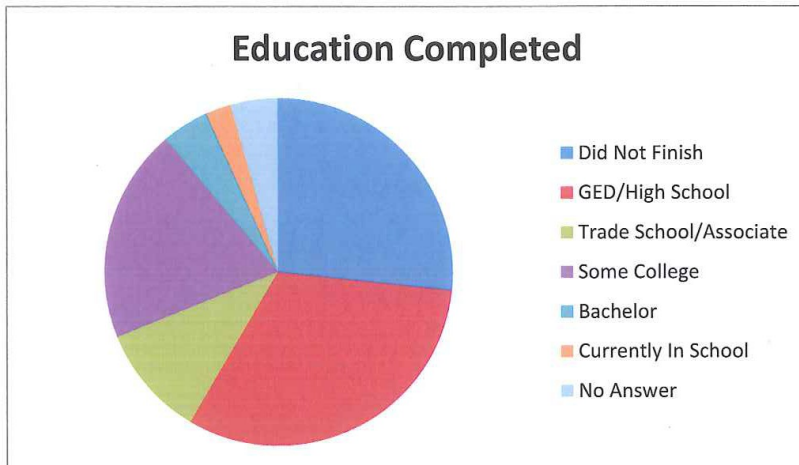
17. What was the last school year you completed?

79 Did not finish school 85 GED 1 09 High School 24 Trade/Vocational School

59 Some College 7 Associate Degree 13 Bachelor or Advanced Degree 7 Currently In School

13 No Answer

**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS**



18. How much income have you received this month or do you receive in an average month?
Average is \$649.26 for those with income. However, 182 households reported having no income. This represents 46% of the households who took this survey having no income.

How much do you think you could afford per month for housing? \$50 - \$1800
 Per HUD, only 30% of income should go towards housing. For those with income, the average is \$649.26 per month, meaning that **affordable housing is \$194.77 a month (including utilities).**

Please check all the places you have receive income from: **60 Employment** 15 Alimony/Child Support 77 Food Stamps 46 Medicaid 11 Medicare 2 OAP 31 SSDI 41 SSI 14 TANIF 5 Retirement
24 Flying Signs/Panhandling 41 Support from Family/Friends 11 Unemployment 2 Recycling 14 Disability
 Of the 60 households that reported employment, 20, or 30% supplement with at least 2 additional forms of income.

19. In the last month, what help did you **need and try to get** but could not get? Comments available upon request
 There seems to be about 8 themes that appeared in this answer. The breakdown is as follows:
72 Housing 22 Job 13 Car 11 Bus 16 Food Stamps 4 VA Assistance
 5 LEAP 20 Medical Assistance

**GRAND VALLEY COALITION FOR HOMELESS
2011 POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS**

Appendix A

HOUSING (61)

- If I could find rental insurance and a big yard or some place for me and the dogs and campers and boat I would. You need JOBS in your community not JAILS and paper trails. Affordable housing and work
- Housing (32 responded this way)
- Did not get housing yet.
- Housing authority still waiting
- Housing and cut food stamps in half due to homelessness.
- Housing for me and my disabled wife. Got 2 job interviews this week.
- I stopped asking for help. The rents out here are prohibitively expensive and the median wages in this "so called Happy Valley" are nothing more than a cruel joke. You have no rent control and tenants rights are practically non existent. Asking \$500 a month for a "room" that is actually somebody's basement is simply greedy. If I could leave this city I would, however I wish to exit with all of my belongings and not leave anything behind. The criminal justice system you have our here is nothing more than "enforced slave labor" and your laws guarantee having a criminal class which you can exploit. This community is no place I want to live anymore.
- Without transitional housing subsidies I feel I would be in a shelter.
- Getting an apartment.
- Didn't know where to go to get housing cuz expensive
- Housing Authority,
- Rental Assistance from churches, clothing, food.
- Low income housing on section 8 list.
- 3 times tried to replace car. Getting proper medical. Finding proper place to live.
- Low income housing.
- Help with rent.
- Help to find a house
- Section 8
- Rental assistance
- WE NEED LOW-INCOME HOUSING & FINICIAL ASSISTANCE FUCK THE BANKS! [*sic*]
- A place to live
- Help with rent and or deposit from canyon view church but applyd and no one will call me back – I went there 3 times left messages no one returned my calls or visits. I applyd in Dec 20, 2010 still not a letter or a call
- Housing There are someplaces that will not take certain kinds of criminal backgrounds, such as domestic violence against an ex; or displaying a knife by not using it
- Help with low income housing Thanx a lot everybody
- I need low income housing Thank you
- Rent
- With emergency rental assistance or and deposit
- Housing they need help on a family shelter only
- Next step voucher: Problems finding a four bedroom and didn't know there was help through the housing authority Latimer house – was raped, but no counseling help Low income housing – long waiting lists

- Housing I sing up back Sept 2, 2010 and sing up in Dec (?) and still not nothing. I sing up at the VA hosp to get help for housing still waiting
- Just need housing
- A living place
- Would like to get my own apartment through housing authority

EMPLOYMENT (42)

- Work (6)
- Office space
- Colorado work force
- Money to start a business. Even \$20 would help start the business
- Job (18)
- Job to Pay for storage
- Work out of town Coud [*sic*] not on parol [*sic*]
- apps or follow-up calls to employers a week for several months now. Results: NOTHING!
- a job. There are no jobs!
- Tried to get a job
- No one wants to hire older people. If they could see me & give me an interview, I'd probably get a job!
- Job seeking unable to get one
- Employment (4)
- Perment [*sic*] job
- Had over 10 Aps from all around the vally [*sic*] and could not get any help
- Do not understand computers for applications

TRANSPORTATION (23)

- Tried to get a car.
- Rides to appointments and shopping, etc.
- Money for vehicle insurance. If I can't drive, no chance of good job.
- Bus Pass
- Transportation (4)
- Gas for van, and trying to go home to see my dad who just pass away.
- Money for gas (3)
- Bus tickets to Yuma Arizona
- bus ticket to Fla
- gas for the job
- A ticket to ride Trip to mars har-har-hey
- Car insurance.
- City bus passes (5)
- Gas voucher

LEAP (8)

- Electricity with Grand Valley Power, LEAP only pays Excel
- Electric. LEAP needs more. Medical. LEAP for details.
- LEAP
- Utilities
- Heat water

- propane to stay warm.
- Assistance for electricity Refer to leap services and gave her the listing
- Gas Propane for heat in the van

DENTAL (6)

- Can't get into Marillac had to go to the ER of St. Mary's
- Jaw (tooth)
- teeth problem
- Merilac card lost card
- Get my dentures
- Dental Emergency @Miralac [sic] = crap

MEDICAL (14)

- Medical (5)
- Prescriptions.
- Applying for benefits that deal with medical, medical from reservation to benefits office here is difficult.
- Medicine as much as needed (2)
- Medication, inhaler for asthma
- Health Insurance
- Help seeing a kidney doctor no one would help with co/payment
- Medications/Medicare Only 63 yrs of age surgery/ gallbladder needs \$1200
- New Hearing Aids
- glass's

FOOD STAMPS (21)

- Food stamps (13)
- Food Stamps. I applied November 29th, 2010 and still I not receive any information.
- I do not qualify for food stamps.
- Need more food stamps but denied due to homelessness Immediate
- Food stamps Made too much for food stamps – can apply in February
- Help with money or food
- I'm fine just need coffee
- Food
- I will attempt food stamps when my unemployment runs out on 01 Feb. 11.

SSI/SSDI (14)

- Hope to get SSDI and SSI/
- waiting on SSI, SSDI (2)
- SSI/SSDI (6)
- No SS card
- Still waiting for my SSI after 1 ½
- Even with a vocher from human resource requesting & dening me against social society office request.
- I had my eligibility interview w/ SSI on 10/25/2010, I have been waiting on a decision since
- a SS card

VETERANS AFFAIRS (4)

- VA Comp increase.
- VA help for meds.

- VA (2)

MENTAL HEALTH (5)

- Counseling.
- There should be more assistance for people with emotional/mental issues
- Mental Health
- Trouble due to (autistic-mental) illness. All papers etc. – missing apptment [*sic*] etc.
- Mental health Can't get to appointment

TANIF (5)

- TANIF (3)
- TANIF. Due to earning 11600
- Waiting on TANF

UNEMPLOYMENT (2)

- Get more money for unemployment but was unable. Reason given, because I was employed then had to quit because I had to help my brother financially with his housing.
- Unemployment

MISCELLANEOUS

- I was told by Catholic Outreach that I could no longer get any kind of service from them because my ex-wife abused the system while I was in prison, this was told to me 3 years ago, and I've never tried again. Also, just for the record AnD benefits have now been reduces to \$140.00 per starting Feb, 2011.
- Someone to verify that I live in Grand Junction, CO.
- Happy churches are opening up to families and individuals.
- COD I can't pay deposit.
- I would like to have a foster family. A very kind and loving one who would try to understand my problems and who would help me to be safe, and healthy, and strong enough to deal with continuing abuse from own family.
- Winter coat and gloves and couldn't
- This place sucks.
- Laundromat no money.
- Only HomewardBound didn't try for more.
- Survey
- Disability.
- Need to get a couch.
- Catholic Outreach.
- I get what I need at the River Camp..
- AnD
- Depends he just got a job. Diapers/ due to loss of the house
- 11,000,000; Money wood [*sic*] be nice
- Child Care/ Could Use ___ (?)
- Help with County services
- Everything thing [*sic*]
- I havent [*sic*] tried
- Pay Bills
- Human services

- God Blesses [*sic*] all the help Thanks P.S. I think you should test everybody to see what they can do. Because a lot just take advantage of what you give. Me I stay until I get work and leave. (I think you should drug test because a lot drink & smoke and as long as you give free they will do it. Everybody has problems but you shouldn't take advantage of other people's donations or time, the only reason why I am here is because I lost my house and job but I will take anything work wise, with "Gods" help I will have my place again. A Better one.
- Well fell on Ice Dec 25 of 2010 & broke my cell phone in half & I use the land line at catholic outreach day center in Grand Junction CO, & my mail got transferred from day center to my new place & I am getting my new cell phone Feb 2011 & I am ok other wise & the cost of living is very high in Grand Junction CO & everyone eat [*sic*] at the catholic outreach soup kitchen, also. Jan 24 2011
- Identification Down As victom of identy theft kidnapping listen in hospital long time after vicios attack my children have been abducted. They wont give my ID. Wont take my fingerprints for ID they way everyone says victim of Identy theft call California where I came from let them know where I'm at.
I just need picture ID.
Almost everything
- Treatment
- Help with rent at a motel
- Shelter
- Thank you for my lunch today I was hungry
- & A&D [*sic*] benefits
- which renders me excluded from seeking employment at all. I don't know how I have survived since my last unemployment pmt. Of \$426.0 on 11/15/2010
Thank God for HomewardBound of the Grand Valley. Because they gave me food & safe shelter, I was able to keep my little dog of 14 yrs. With some dear friends until I can get on my Feet. Losing "Lexi" at this point would have been the breaking point
- & grant
 - Financial help
 - Zero
 - Diapers
 - I need to get a state ID &
 - Voc rehab
 - unemployment
 - winning the lotto
 - Shoes, Nothing in the last month
 - ADAP
 - Clothes Thanks for the shelter
 - I have received multiple help from human service and police department
 - On my drinking and trouble with friend
Best luck, rely on yourself
The reason I'm in Clifton is to avoid the GJPD
 - or a hotel room