

@Boulevard



*A joint publication from the Boulevard church of Christ
and Eagle Recovery Center*



A Monthly Newsletter Issue No 32 —

October 2015

Jots from Jeff



God continues to bless us at *Boulevard* and *Eagle*, and He is using so many of you to do it. We all thank you deeply from the heart!

We have now been taking meals to the homeless in downtown Oklahoma City for six weeks. We have met over sixty people, many of whom we see each week. We are gradually earning their trust and learning their stories, many of which are just heart-breaking. One night we met a gentleman who had just spent his first night on the street. More than hungry, he was cold and asked for a blanket. We had none, but one of our college students insisted we go find one, and we did. The gentleman was so grateful. Which got us all thinking how amazingly blessed we all are to never have to worry about a warm place to sleep at night. Everyone of us had extra blankets at home, many which we no longer use. So we have collected a few to have on hand. Along with coats and jackets. Perhaps you have some gently used clean blankets and jackets you could live without. If so, would you consider donating to us so we can make them available to these precious people? We know their names, their pet's names, and the little piece of ground where they sit while waiting for us on Wednesday nights. We are distributing an average of 45 meals per night. So far, we have been



able to cover these expenses. **Ivan Gonzalez** has done a masterful job organizing the efforts and making sure quality nutritious meals are being provided. Last week, we served a hot supper for the first time consisting of pulled BBQ chicken donated by a local restaurant. The local donut shop always provides us with donuts to include for dessert. There are some items which do not perish which you may be able to donate to help us out. A partial list is bottled water, individual juices, breakfast bars, single serving chips and cookies, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, fruit cups, apple sauce, Jell-O, Pudding, Vienna sausage, single serving tuna packs, peanut butter and jam (large jars for making PBJ lunches) and dog biscuits or single serving dry dog food (or anything else along these lines).

We have been averaging about 30 participants in this ministry each Wednesday, including those who teach our children while we go mingle with the homeless. Last Wednesday we had over 50, with at least 25 college students joining forces with us. And all of our *Eagle* residents who are not at work are right there working with us. It has already been a great exercise in loving others for us as a church family. More importantly, we hope we are leaving the impression with those we serve that they are important and significant. We listen and pray and exchange hugs. Hopefully, we will also be able to bring these people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

October 24, 2015 will mark the five-year anniversary of the *Boulevard church*,

which began as a dream of two people to provide a place to worship, serve and heal for anyone who wanted to belong, regardless of past or current hurts, habits or hangups. We want to invite you to come celebrate with us on **Sunday, October 25, 2015**. From 9:30-10:00 am we will have a reception featuring coffee donuts and amazing fellowship, followed by dynamic and encouraging worship from 10:00-11:30 am. Then we will have a good old fashioned pot-luck to round out the celebration. There will be a special children's presentation and a commemorative video about the *Boulevard church*. We would love for you, our supporters and encouragers, to join us for this celebration.



Current enrollment at *Eagle* is 13 and **Donna Myers** and **Lora Williams** continue to do an amazing job helping our residents to get their feet firmly planted on the ground and the firm foundation of Jesus Christ. Please continue to be prayerful for all of them.

The ministries of *Boulevard* and *Eagle* always struggle financially. Many of you faithfully support us financially, and we can never adequately express our gratitude for your support and trust. I have been exploring ways to raise more funding or reduce our deficit. I have been extra burdened and prayerful for the past nine months. Be careful what you pray for; sometimes the answer is not what you expect.

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About Us

Boulevard church of Christ is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in reaching people with messed up lives. We believe Jesus is the great Healer physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. And we all need to be healed of something.

Eagle Recovery Center is a Christ-centered, structured, sober-living group home for the purpose of empowering women to successfully re-enter society and live victoriously over drugs and alcohol or any other destructive habit. All residents are valued members of the Boulevard church family.

So about seven weeks ago I received a message from a former technology client of mine (what I did before *Boulevard* full-time was manage information systems), asking if I knew of anyone who was trustworthy who might be interested in an IT Manager job with their company. I said, "Maybe." And the rest is history. After more prayer and discussion, they offered me the job and I accepted, beginning October 1. *Nothing is changing at Boulevard!* I am still preaching and teaching and mentoring **Ivan**. *Boulevard* still needs your prayers

and financial support when possible, because we still struggle with a deficit. It is just a little smaller now since I have taken a reduced salary, which will save the ministries \$30,000 over twelve months. So now instead of an \$8,000 monthly deficit between the two ministries, it's closer to \$5,500. It's a start, right? But we still need your help.

I have less free time now. I am having to learn to use time more efficiently and watch a lot less football. Shocking, I know. But so far, so good. **Ivan** is our "boots on the ground" guy

and is doing a stellar job taking care of the day to day things which must be done in order for ministries to be relevant. The entire *Boulevard* and *Eagle* family is supportive and encouraging.

I am asking for extra prayer for us all right now as we get used to the new scheduling of resources. It's all for Jesus! And I am honored to be part of it.

We hope to see you on **October 25, 9:30 am**. Mark your calendar, right now before you forget! We love you!

—Jeff Gardner, evangelist

Donate online at <http://www.gofundme.com/eaglerecovery>

Yes, I would like to partner with the *Boulevard church* and *Eagle Recovery Center* to help bring Christ to and heal those who are struggling to overcome addiction by making a donation of...

\$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ or Other \$ _____ (donation enclosed)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to **Boulevard church of Christ** and send to:

1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107

www.eaglerecoverycenter.org

Other Ways to Help:

- Female or Husband/Wife teams to help with transportation for a day
- Donate good clothing suitable for work
- Godly women to develop mentoring relationships with an Eagle resident
- Grounds keeping assistance (mowing, limb cutting and removal, painting and repair)

Please contact Lora or Donna at one the numbers listed below to volunteer.



Facility Minister — Donna Myers

Phone — (405) 760-9086

Email — donna@eaglerecoverycenter.org

Eagle Contact Information

Director — Lora Williams

Phone — (405) 737-5383

Email — lora@eaglerecoverycenter.org

Address — 3701 East Reno

Oklahoma City, OK 73117



Boulevard Contact Information

1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 943-3578

Shepherds

**Jim McWhirter
Charles Custer**

Assembly Times

**Sunday — 9:30 am
Wednesday — 7:00 pm**

Evangelist:

Jeff Gardner • heal@blvdchurch.com • (405) 550-7658

Associate Minister:

Ivan Gonzalez • ivan@blvdchurch.com • (405) 923-4964

***Boulevard church of Christ* and *Eagle Recovery Center*®, a DBA of Eagle Christian Ministries, are both 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.**