

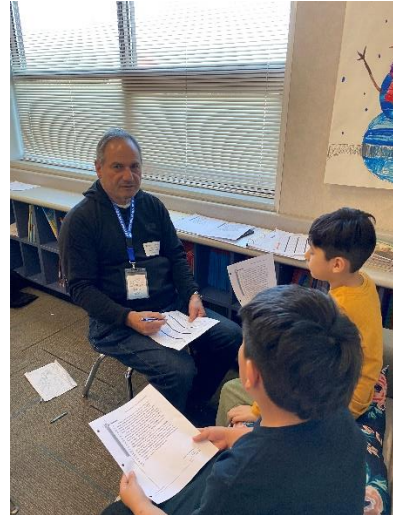
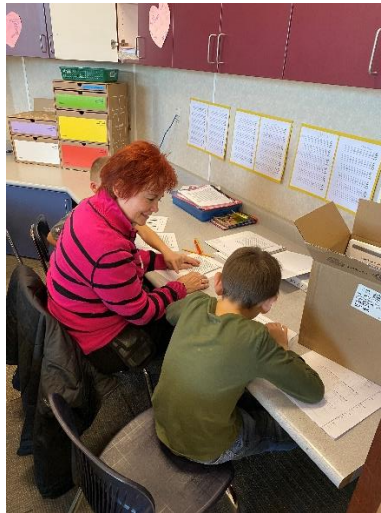
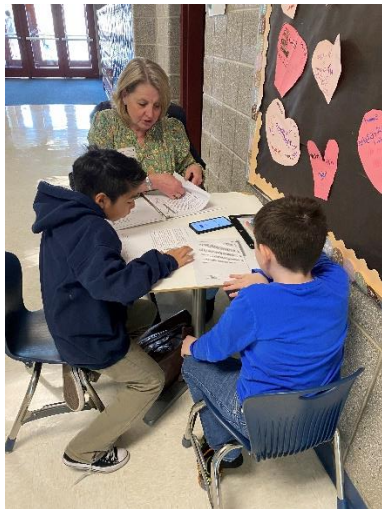
Around The Town

News from My Hometown Northwest

January – February 2024

Backman Elementary Reading Program

Thanks to MHT volunteers Liz and Gaylen Zentner, Backman Elementary now has a working, functioning PTA. It has been several years since the school benefited from such a program, and recreating it has already boosted school morale. Now the challenge is to bring Backman's student population up to recognized state standards. To accomplish the task, as many as fifty man-hours will be needed every week. Volunteers can apply at the school or reach out to the Zentners. Volunteers, please consider this a high priority.



A House rebuild and transformation

Long time Rose Park resident and single parent Terry Hope had raised three sons and recently paid off her house loan. Then, within months, her house caught fire and was almost gutted. Unfortunately, she did not have insurance at the time. Undaunted, she began hunting for discarded lumber she could use to reframe her home. She found paneling and other needed essentials, and located storage sheds she could use to store valuables on site while the work began. Enter My Hometown. Chris Haynes, a volunteer serving with the DOS committee and her husband John took up the cause. So did Jody and Mike Farley, also of MHT. Neighbors pitched in, too. Others provided some financial aid. Within weeks, and with the help of hours of volunteer effort, things began taking shape. Terry's resourcefulness and determination was inspiring. And so was some timely assistance from her new found friends at MHT. See the progress below. It's a miracle in the making.



Jayhawks Jazz game

In January, MHT treated 20 members of the Jayhawk/West High School Girl's Basketball team to a Utah Jazz game at the Delta Center. Almost all of them had never attended a Jazz game according to Lisia Satini, who oversees the program. An added bonus for these gifted young athletes was the chance to watch the Jazz players' pregame warmup. Looks like they had a pretty good time.



A helping hand for a physically impaired young man and his family

Twenty-two-year-old Eugene Beradje and his family were desperate for help. Eugene, suffering from complications from a snake bite as a young boy in his African homeland is wheelchair bound and unable to move himself. His father can no longer lift him. So MHT volunteers, under the direction of Jared Parker, Damon Perdue and Robin Egan and many others, installed a ceiling track and harness to help lift this valiant young man and literally slide him from room to room in their Rose Park home. He can even take a bath with the help of this unique device. Designing and installing the welcome feature took months of thoughtful discussion before this engineering feat, possibly the first of its kind, was completed--and a young man's burden was lifted.



Youth Program

Doug and Becky Farley have been busy building youth comradery in Rose Park with dances, activities and all kinds of events. At the forefront of their efforts has been developing a core of youth who now manage a viable and very active Rose Park Youth Committee. They plan and oversee events under the tutelage of the Farleys. Recently, they planned a successful Sports Night at the CRC that attracted over 50 young men and women and will now be held monthly. Rose Park area youth are also participating in “Chill” which is an opportunity for teens to learn how to snowboard. A motivational seminar at each “Chill” event is also included.



Computer Classes

My Hometown volunteers Kendrick and Kris Bytheway started holding a weekly computer class for beginners in January. Students could use any number of computers in a designated classroom at the CRC. No previous experience on a desktop was necessary. Classes were very well received. Special thanks to course instructor Steve Sturzenegger and his able assistant, wife Connie.



Girls Volleyball

Lisia Satini recently rescued a girls' volleyball team that needed a place to practice and now workout at the CRC building twice each week. And you should see them play. This isn't just a group of girls getting together to have fun, it's an all-out, competitive, championship caliber team that has won several tournaments against some of the best players in the area. The Faalogo family began what is called Minoi Volleyball as a gift to their community. Head coach Banks Faalogo oversees this heralded program along with his daughter, Chelsea (who played for UVU) and son, Cy (who played for BYU). They are more than welcome at the CRC! And so is any young woman who would like to learn and play.



Family Portraits

On Saturday, February 10th, MHT volunteers Kris and Kendrick Bytheway, with the help of a volunteer professional photographer, created photographic heirlooms for 20 families by taking staged portraits and framing them on the spot for the delighted recipients. Each family could select a photo from dozens that were taken and watch as it was framed. One woman, 90 years young, had her photograph taken so she could match it with a photo of her mother at age 90 as a gift to her children. And an emotional young mother gushed over this very special opportunity. In fact, each family expressed their gratitude multiple times. Priceless event.



Pickleball Clinic

About 16 eager participants attended MHT's first ever Pickleball clinic on Saturday, February 24th. The CRC building has 3 painted courts which were fully utilized from 9–11 am. A clinic for beginners was also provided along with paddles and balls for any who needed them. It was fun to watch this group, neophyte to expert, take to the courts and develop new friendships. Going forward, pickleball players can use the CRC building for open play every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning through May beginning on March 9th. Maybe we can keep this going throughout the summer, too! Contact Tamie or Mike Snarr for more information, or better still, just show up!



Folk Dancing, anyone?

My Hometown has also provided the CRC as a home base for a group of dedicated folk dancers, who use the facility periodically. Anyone is happily welcomed. No rhythm necessary. Contact Kendrick or Kris Bytheway for more details.



ESL Classes

Joan and Craig Anderson have worked tirelessly to launch the now very successful ESL (English as a Second Language) courses complete with visual aids and almost a dozen volunteers who instruct enrolled students. Last fall between 25 and 30 people learned the basics of the English language during bi weekly sessions for 12 weeks. Then, on February 27, about 35 people came to the opening class of the second semester. Bridging these two semesters was a smaller class designed to help students stay current with the curriculum. It's a great credit to the Andersons, who have researched and planned these courses for months, and who have created a wonderful, welcoming environment for all who attend.



Summary

Over 40 My Hometown volunteers are currently serving in the Rose Park area. Recently the group met for dinner and some informal training, headed up by Cathy and Carlton Christensen, new Co-Executive Directors of My Hometown Northwest. Committee members share a great comradery.



