



CEO Rev. Bill Roscoe's Response to Idaho Press's Article on Corpus Christi

After reading the article posted by Idaho Press about Corpus Christi's new executive director, I (Rev. Bill Roscoe) have clarifications to be made regarding some inaccuracies about the Mission that were made. The following is my response to the public.

The first is the statement that Corpus is "Boise's only daytime shelter." The Boise Rescue Mission has provided daytime shelter to Guests in need of that service for over 20 years.

Second, to state that Corpus is "the first shelter that members of the homeless population turn to" is undoubtedly an overstatement. Since Corpus isn't a 24/7 operation and does not provide overnight shelter, it's highly unlikely that they are the "hub" on which homeless people depend. The Rescue Mission's two full-service homeless shelters are 24/7 operations and receive people all day and night. Furthermore, with trained staff on duty, the Rescue Mission can immediately address the needs of homeless persons when they need assistance.

I also take issue with the notion implied that Corpus and Interfaith are the only answers to the "feeling of hopelessness." that a homeless person may have. The Rescue Mission provides, and has provided, a multitude of services and programs to assist people in recovering from homelessness, and we have seen literally hundreds of people, year after year, move from the shelter to independence. We also offer Transitional Living programs to help people take the next step from homeless to independence.

Finally, Ms. Abbott's frequent mention of "partnering" and "coordinating" with "other agencies" serving homeless people doesn't resonate with my leadership team, who have told me that they do not know her and have not been contacted. On the other hand, the Rescue Mission is connected to every agency, public and private, that serves or works with homeless and needy people. In years past, I reached out to Corpus and never found anyone interested in collaborating with the Mission.

Boise Rescue Mission Ministries is the largest homeless service provider in Idaho. It currently provides shelter and recovery programs to over 300 men, women, and children every night and serves over 600 meals (hot, prepared meals) every day.

Sincerely,

Rev. Bill Roscoe

President/CEO

Boise Rescue Mission Ministries