South Chico Free Clinic

I have a vision for a faith community to spring up around a free clinic for mental health services and spiritual direction in Chapmantown and greater South Chico. Specifically, I see the clinic using a location in our South Chico neighborhood for office space, to meet one-on-one with people seeking help, to gather groups for spiritual direction and worship, and as a drop-in desk for questions, advocacy, accompaniment or prayer. In addition to traditional counseling, the clinic will utilize community-based settings, like the 14th St. Garden and the Jesus Center Farm, for creation-based recovery and vocational opportunities.

As volunteers in the clinic and participants in the faith community, we will do this work without payment. The clinic is designed to contribute to the neighborhood and our community’s needs by providing behavioral health and spiritual services for free (or on a basis of “pay what you can” gifts to the ministry). All may contribute, but the goal is to erase economic barriers. This kind of generosity is key to the spiritual gifts we seek to offer from our hearts.

In order to cover my own costs of running the clinic and on behalf of those who join me in volunteering, I will pray for God’s “grace to give” and expect that he will provide better than we can imagine. I will tell about the goodness of his love and by doing so lead with my example to help others connect with him too. When I have needs, that is, for housing or healthcare or other types of physical necessities, I will trust God and lean not on my own understanding. This, again, will point others (including those we help) to the One who is clearly providing for us by meeting us where we are. God may lead others who see the value in what we do and are inspired by it to contribute (Luke 10:4-9), but I will take a vulnerable approach by bringing those concerns to God in prayer versus making specific public appeals for donations. We believe God supplies it all in an abundant way, with or without our strategies in fundraising. When our hearts are willing and eager to give, we feel incredible strength and hopefulness. In essence, we feel God’s Spirit giving to us even as we relinquish control of our stuff. We sense his presence guiding us and making it plain that we can depend directly on him.

I would ask you to join with us in “practicing his presence” as a community of disciples seeking to obey Jesus’ new commandment to love as He loves, freely giving to the poor, even becoming poor ourselves, and following in his steps.

Thank you,

Jason Winton