

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Application for a Grant from Boise Presbytery

Name: **Ben Cardenas, Elder at Homedale Presbyterian**

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25% of the annual offering goes to mid councils/presbyteries ***to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions.***

1. Describe your idea for a grant from Boise Presbytery:

A mission project/ministry is being supported by my church, Homedale Presbyterian, as well as other local churches in the area. We are attempting to build and run a Christian based community center, specifically for high school students. Homedale is a small rural farming town with a population of 2,500. The nearest towns with activities for high school teens are Caldwell/Nampa/Boise which are a 30 to 50 minute drive away. Many of our teens don't have vehicles. Our community fortunately provides many activities for elementary and middle school aged children but the high school aged teens are often left to wander the town, literally kicking rocks. Excess free time and boredom too often result in our teens forming destructive relationships and finding themselves in trouble with school authorities or the law.

A group of five local community members (myself included) have officially formed a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization called The Rock. What we hope to do with this community center is provide teenagers a warm, welcoming, safe place to gather and support each other. Our vision is a place where students can come and grab a coffee before school, eat lunch together, do homework, read, play games, enjoy movie nights, and socialize. Our vision includes creating a place for community adults to come in and share their talents and gifts with the students (wood working, sewing, guitar, homework assistance, etc). Overall, we see The Rock as strengthening our community by keeping our teens safe and proving to them they matter and have value in our community. The center will be located in Homedale but will be open to all high school teens in the surrounding towns.

While building healthy relationship between teens and the community, always the core emphasis and mission of The Rock will be building relationship with God. Young Life will meet in the building on Sunday evenings and Christian Education, a sanctioned class at Homedale High, will be taught there 7th period. Area churches will have use of the facility for Bible studies and youth activity nights. All in all, our dream for The Rock is to bring God's love to our teens.

The building's projected cost is \$350,000. We have raised \$300,000. The lot has been purchased (just steps from Homedale High) and excavated ready for construction to begin. The amount we are requesting, \$4,500, will be used to purchase a security system for the building. We want The Rock secured for two reasons – insurance against vandalism and theft and the resulting costs of repair and replacement and as assurance to teens and their parents that they are in a safe, secure, and protected place. We feel we have come a long way in the nine months since the project's conception. Each grant received from individuals and caring groups like Boise Presbytery brings us one step closer to our goal of making The Rock "a dream" into The Rock "a reality."

Amount requested: \$4,500

2. Date: 4/25/2019

Please send this grant request to the Stated Clerk of Boise Presbytery:
boisestatedclerk@gmail.com