(Using an attachment, describe your *past, present,* and *planned* activities in a narrative. . .)

In 2006 Loaves & Fishes was formed by a bible study group where shortly thereafter other churches became involved. Each of the church’s shared the responsibility through assigned weeks of each month to gather the homeless in one area, provide food for those who attend while consistently sharing the Christian faith in order to change attitudes and behaviors in the city of Reno. One-by-one each of the church’s fell away and a small group continued each week sharing the responsibility. In 2009 a married couple, James and Kristine Wilson, agreed to take over all financial responsibility and make the necessary changes to deal with the problems this outreach faced within the structure.

The problems were that the homeless would arrive for food and not listen to the message of the gospel; many were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol; and, fighting between attendees broke out abruptly, scattering the people without the message getting through to the people. The Wilson’s restructured each week to have a schedule of events; brought Christian men to the outreach to deter and break up arguments at the onset, through counsel of what is expected of them biblically; encourage all to stand within the circle of prayer even if they weren’t offering a prayer; encourage listening by providing hand-out’s of the Bible message; encourage participation by sharing how our lives have changed and their life is changing because of accepting and applying Jesus’ teachings; and, by the Wilson’s and all of the other volunteer’s interacting with the homeless with love, our consistent presence, and forging a family-type atmosphere.

Over time results were seen where even the most hardened of hearts were softened and the homeless began to open up about their lives, entrusting us with their pain, and what is causing repeated failures. With this new breakthrough, the biblical messages were organized to be in sync with their lives and personal spiritual counseling became more effective. The continuance of forging the family-type atmosphere caused the homeless to bond together helping each other, rather than fighting against one another, even through the economic collapse and the hardships presented at that time.

From 2009 to 2014 we saw new waves of people, where many were able to forgive those who harmed them, and move forward in life, and new crowds of people began to attend. With each new wave we had to start again at the beginning by showing love, encourage attendance and participation, discourage fighting, providing a family-type atmosphere, teaching biblical principles for behavior, provide individual spiritual counseling and help them forgive and move forward with success. We were able to see much success but realized our limits which included the time it has taken for change to happen for the lack of daily exposure in their lives.

Because of being homeless many are continuously unable to fill out applications, receive phone calls and mail, lose their identification, take showers and change clothes each day, and ultimately become employed and stay employed. Over time the goal of the homeless is to just survive each day which increases stress and anxiety, fear of being attacked or having everything stolen. The ability for one to help him/her-self declines and services scattered causes one to not seek help out of fear. While Loaves & Fishes has addressed some of the problems, we believe that we are able provide better services.

With anticipation of providing better services, January 2015 became a pivotal time where Loaves & Fishes decided to become a non-profit; becoming recognized, collecting tithes and conducting fundraising events would be acted upon in order to see if we can be more effective in our efforts. From 2015 to 2016 we had a 1.8% increase in tithes and offerings as well as set up accounts with vendors to begin food, beverage and pastry donations. Internships will be encouraged and available to students from TMCC and UNR who need to gain experience in the areas where skills need to be increased by the participant. 2016 will be the year we increase fundraising efforts for the purchase of a building in order to increase services for the homeless and poor.

Services provided will include an intake screening method to thoroughly analyze past and current situations, online screening for personality type, and individual needs by using life skills assessment tools and building a projection of goals. Outside services will be brought in to increase skills such as employment services, educational training, occupational rehabilitation, volunteering; additionally, the chronic homeless will need to begin with the very basics such as facility chores, kitchen duty, light maintenance, laundry duty, answering phones, sorting mail, organizing, filing, and increasing in responsibility as the skill increases. Our website outlines the initial goal as well as future goals within the facility. Transportation to work and sack lunches provided to those who have secured employment but have not begun to receive a paycheck. Sheltering depends on the ability to purchase a building.

Bylaws, Article II pp. 2.01, Purpose:

Loaves & Fishes is a non-profit corporation and shall be operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

Loaves & Fishes purpose is to provide the non-denominational Christian doctrine through the teachings of Jesus Christ (through a similar depiction of Loaves & Fishes as within the Holy Bible; specifically Matthew 14), to reduce crime in the city of Reno, educate, coordinate, and provide aid and relief to eradicate homelessness and chronic homelessness, to ease hunger on a local level, provide a hand-up within the means of any and all donations given to Loaves & Fishes.

We provide education by teaching what is expected from all by Christ Jesus, other public venues as we encounter someone in need, utilizing social media channels and the website to provide facts, statistics, and other related data on causes, current efforts and solutions, as well as provide schedules of events and pictures that provide proof of completed events.

Our programs include sending out ambassadors to raise social consciousness about the cause on a local level, and to hold fundraising events in order to provide immediate relief and assistance to those suffering from hunger and homelessness regardless of their race, ethnicity, or religion.

To maximize our impact on current efforts, we may seek to collaborate with other non-profit organizations which fall under the 501(c) (3) section of the internal revenue code and are operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes.

At times, per the discretion of the board of directors, we may provide internships or additional volunteer opportunities which shall provide opportunities for involvement in said activities and programs in order to have a greater impact for change and growth.