



The Center of Hope, Inc. is a homelessness prevention program and 100% of your contribution is used in direct service to the poor.

A TIME FOR FAMILY

By George Dinkel, Executive Director COH

Without doubt this time of year, from Thanksgiving through Christmas, is a very special time for families to come together and spend time with each other. At a time when our nation has seen unprecedented financial crisis, this is also a very special time for families to come together and help one another.

The family in our nation has been under attack by many forces that have resulted in a splintering and often a total breakdown in the family unit. We see the effects of the breakdown in the family in most of the people we assist at the Center of Hope.

When times are prosperous, the effects of the breakdown are not immediately evident as individuals can go their own way and the negative effects on children often do not surface until the children are adults. When times are at a downturn, the effects of the breakdown in the family are much more visible.

We are very thankful and very blessed at the Center of Hope that we have been able to meet the needs of many of the families that come to our door for assistance during these troubled times.

When I first came to the Center of Hope, we were providing assistance of approximately \$35,000 per month. These past two months of September and October, we have provided assistance in excess of \$80,000 each month, as the needs have been so great. Not only are there more families coming to our door for assistance, but the families coming to our door are in a much more serious situation.

We strongly encourage you to take this special time of Thanksgiving and Christmas to renew and regenerate your families. It is so important that the family unit be guarded and protected. I truly believe in the old adage that the family that prays together stays together, so please pray as a family unit and pray for the family unit.

Our Lord Jesus taught us a prayer in which we call God, "Our Father" and in Scripture Jesus calls us "His brothers." I encourage you to reach out to your extended family, the poor in our community who are in most desperate need. To be able to help these families in need is a most noble cause and by doing so you follow the example of our Lord Jesus who came to help all of us. May God's blessings and peace be with you!

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

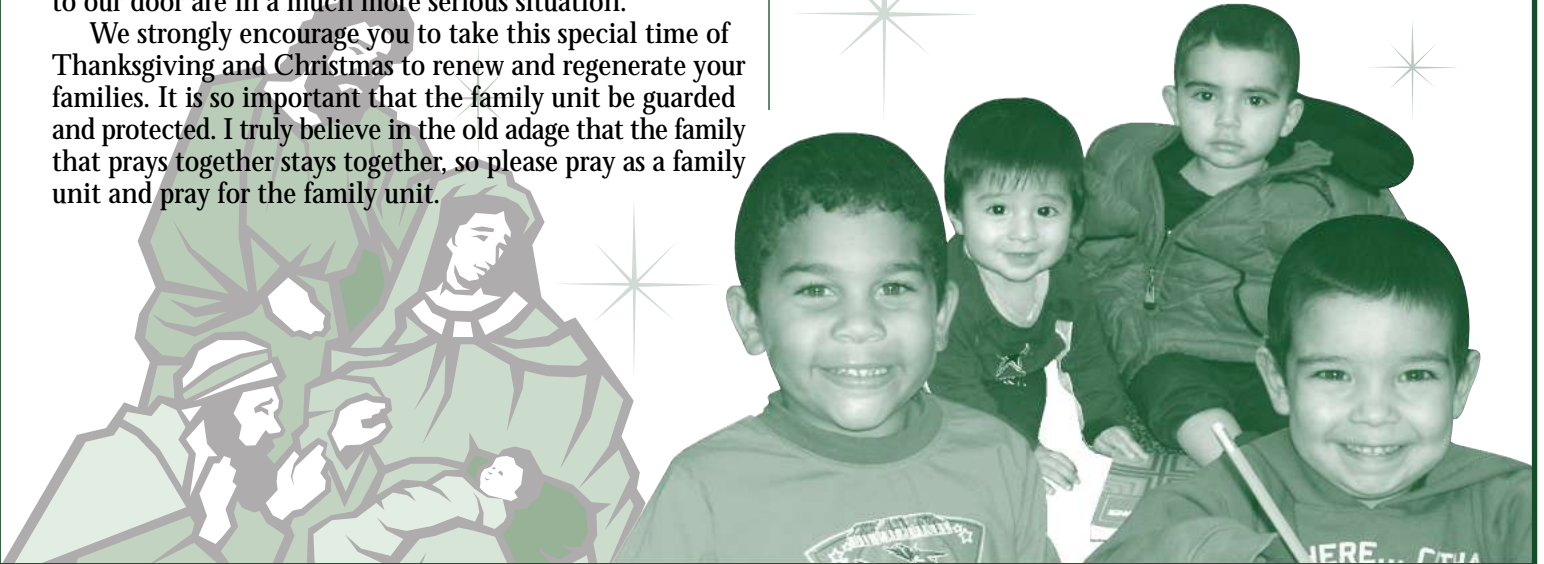
By Donna Harris

*Heavenly Father,
through the Intercession of the Holy Family
Help us to treasure the gift of family...
where the love of Christ is reflected in the self-giving
love of each member.*

*Help us to uphold the institution of family
where members can unite and cooperate in work,
prayer and play in Your Name.*

*Help us to support men and women
in their efforts to keep families together
in difficult times.*

*Help us to acknowledge that our future depends
on this love and on Your
Providential care for us.*



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Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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www.centerofhopeinc.org

IRA Charitable Rollover Could Benefit COH

In October, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act became law. This law extended the IRA charitable rollover provision for 2008 and 2009 making it possible for individuals to make a direct gift from an IRA to Center of Hope or any other charity of their choosing.

Those with an IRA who reach the age of

70 1/2 must take a minimum distribution from this account. The money is taxed as ordinary income under normal circumstances. However, by making the donation directly from your IRA investment to Center of Hope, you would avoid this tax.

The distribution must come from an IRA, not from any other retirement account such as a 401(k). You must contact your IRA custodian or representative to arrange for this direct gift donation. Your IRA representative will have the information concerning this IRA charitable rollover for this year and next and can help you with this contribution and answer any questions you may have concerning this type of donation. The check issued from your IRA must be made payable to Center of Hope.



Prayer Requests

Below are brief profiles of recent Center of Hope clients. Just these quick snapshots of situations that brought people to COH demonstrate the desperate plight of so many of our brothers and sisters in our community. Please pray for them all.

- A is a 26-year-old mother of a two-year-old and pregnant with her second baby. Complications with her pregnancy necessitated a reduction of work from 40 hours to 29 hours per week. Although her monthly income was almost \$1,000, it barely covers childcare costs of \$400, rent of \$350, a car payment, insurance, gas, food and utilities. The father of her children moved out of state to be with a woman he met on the Internet. "A" did consider having an abortion or placing the new baby for adoption, as she was afraid she could not support the family on her current income. Please pray she chooses life for her child.
- N is a 26-year-old woman who recently lost her job because of illness and is currently pregnant. She owes \$680 in utility bills and over \$1000 in payday loans. Her monthly interest on these loans is \$250.
- R is a 46-year-old single woman who is disabled and on dialysis. Her only income is \$696 per month, hardly enough on which to survive. To make matters worse, she had to take out a payday loan to pay for car repairs this past month.
- K, a 27-year-old mother of three, missed two weeks of work due to problems with her pregnancy. Additional stress came from surgery for her 4-year-old deaf daughter who will require a hearing aide.
- D is a 30-year-old woman with four children who recently lost her aircraft job. Her only income is \$292 per month child support, which barely covers half of her \$475 per month rent. She does not know how she can provide for her family, even with strict budgeting.
- T, a 22-year-old mother of an infant daughter, has major heart problems. The father of her child abandoned them recently. Although employed, her health issues cause much missed work. She owes over \$3500 in credit card debt, \$10,000 in student loans and \$2000 in medical bills.
- T is a 43-year-old woman with thyroid cancer and suspected leukemia. Her daughter, who lives with her, is having a problem pregnancy and cannot work. The family's only income is \$135 per month SRS cash assistance.
- M, a 22-year-old mother with a 2-year-old, has been struggling with depression and has not been able to work since her husband was shot and killed recently. He was driving home from work when someone in a passing car shot him.
- B is a 32-year-old man who lives with his three young children. He had a stroke three months ago and has not been able to work.

December Story

An eyewitness relates this tale. It happened on a cold day in December some years ago in New York City. A little boy of about 10 years of age was standing before a shoe store. He was barefoot, peering through the window and shivering with cold.



A lady approached the young boy and said, "My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!"

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel.

He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, you will be more comfortable now."

As she turned to go, the astonished boy caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her, "Are you God's wife?"

COH Website Updated

Are you a surfer? A web surfer? Then check out the new and updated Center of Hope website at

www.centerofhopeinc.org

to get a good look at the history of Center of Hope, how people can get help through this ministry, how to contact Center of Hope via email, how to volunteer and how to make donations at any time.

Since the early 1990's, Paul Farmer has graciously hosted the COH website through his FAMHOST and continues to do so as one of the many ways he and his family have supported Center of Hope throughout its 25-year history.

New board member Craig Plank took on the challenge of developing the creative concept and worked with Sean Genosky of The Multimedia Room on the project. Sean's experience in developing websites and his access to and knowledge of the equipment needed, produced the interactive, colorful, informative website you see.

What a tremendous gift to Center of Hope from these men! We greatly appreciate their talents and hard work in bringing the story of Center of Hope to the Internet.

If you know of anyone who has an interest in what COH does, refer them to our website.

SPECIAL OCCASION AND MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

HONORARIUMS

Sr. Jeannine Bahr Birthday
George Dinkel Birthday
Melvin & Joan Kahn Birthday
Bobbe Rosell
Sr. Stella Rosenhamer Birthday

MEMORIALS

Pat Bujarski Betty Dawson
Kay Carney Lex Hilger
Dan Close Shirley Howse
Norma Daniels Doris Jaax
Valerie Maneely

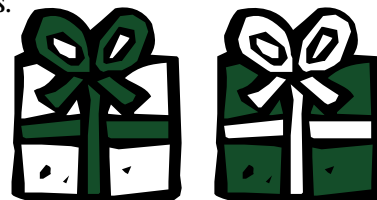
Two Gifts for the Price of One!

It's time for the holiday commercials to start pushing seasonal merchandise. You'll probably find several versions of "Gift with Purchase" or "Two for the Price of One" ads out there. Well, have we got a deal for you!

You probably have several people on your gift list who've been there for years and have everything in the world they could want, but you still feel a need to express your appreciation and love for these individuals. By making a donation to Center of Hope in their names, you remember these special people and that donation goes a long way toward keeping an individual or family from homelessness. This gift is also 100% tax deductible!

It's simple to do. Send your donation to Center of Hope, 400 North Emporia, Wichita KS 67202. Indicate that you are making a donation in the name of your family or friend. Center of Hope will notify the honorees so they will be aware of your gift.

For some, this has become a holiday tradition and we are thankful for their generous and thoughtful actions.



Center of Hope, Inc.

400 North Emporia
Wichita KS 67202-2514

Return Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 142
Wichita, Kansas

“Life is a gift that God gives to the universe and to humanity.” Acts of the Adorers’ 18th General Assembly

CENTER OF HOPE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

The Center of Hope listens to the cries of the poor with compassion and love, and without judgment, seeing all who present themselves as Children of God. A loving presence to those in need and advocates for the powerless, we offer hope to families, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or gender, as they deal with life’s daily challenges. We help them with emergency financial support for rent and utilities, provide case management toward resolutions of ongoing difficulties, and assure the dignity and self-respect of each individual.

VISION STATEMENT

Offering hope for tomorrow through assistance today

CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 25 years of service to the Wichita community

Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill

The past three months, Center of Hope prevented 678 families, which included 1,845 persons (a 30% increase over last year) from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 1,035 children.

The breakdown of funds dispersed include:

- \$188,879 for rent
- \$ 44,709 for utilities
- \$ 7,163 for other emergency needs (55% increase over previous year)

On average, \$355 was spent per family. In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food and other per-

because
you cared

sonal care products from our storeroom, provided budgeting assistance and counseled for special needs. This is a significant

increase over the prior year, which we may not be able to sustain in future months unless we receive increased contributions. The need is great, please be generous!

Many thanks go to all the parishes, businesses and individuals who brought canned and boxed food, paper products and personal and home cleaning products. Most recently, St. Cecilia Parish, Maxine Coppel, Kyle Jacobs, Hometown Buffet, Sr. Loretta Thome and Marcia Morales have blessed us with 85 bags of food and supplies.

If anyone gives even a cup of water to my little ones, he shall not lose his reward.

Matt. 10-42

