



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

Open Hearts

George Dinkel, Executive Director

These past few months have been quite a whirlwind at the Center of Hope. I had been anticipating a big surge / wave of those seeking our assistance once the utility companies began turning off utilities and landlords started evicting tenants due to non-payment. Our phone lines have been ringing continually with calls from those in need. We have added an additional phone line and additional volunteers to take calls to help meet this deluge. Many have already had their utilities turned off and many are facing eviction from landlords who are losing their patience. Our funds have been rapidly depleting, but by God's grace we have received some very timely donations to continue our service of homeless assistance.

One of our volunteers came into my office expressing her deep felt sorrow over the many sad stories she hears from those calling in. These families are in much more dire financial consequences than we have seen in the past. Many of those seeking assistance owe over \$1000 on their utility bills and one to two months on their rent.

We have been helping with larger amounts than we normally do as the need is so much greater. Since the amounts owed are so large, we are trying to help in a very significant way that will give them a way to work out of their financial crisis, a small glimmer of hope amid the continuing worry and stress of the effects of the corona virus variant and all that is happening in the world.

Some of these cases are totally beyond the control of the individual seeking assistance and some are partially due to the actions of the individual seeking assistance. We take into consideration the causes in determining the amount we are able to assist with as it is only just and prudent that some standard of fairness be applied in determining the extent of the assistance. In making this determination we also must maintain a compassionate and merciful heart. At times this can be challenging as by human nature it is difficult to not become hardened or judgmental when we see people making bad choices.

We cannot begin to appreciate the struggles many suffer from having no income coming in, domestic violence, addictions, or mental and physical disabilities. In addition, the significant deprivation of living in poverty without the luxuries of life many of us take for granted. The sudden windfall of the stimulus money was often not used with reason

or discretion for things such as food, shelter or utilities.

There truly is a lot of sorrow and anxiety in the world right now, but do we ever consider there are really two sources of sorrow? There is a sorrow for God's sake that leads to salvation but there is also a worldly sorrow that brings death (Corinthians 7:2-16). Truly, St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta had the sorrow that leads to salvation in her ministry to the poor. In

servicing them she was serving Jesus. St Francis, before his conversion, had an aversion to lepers, but after his conversion he had a special love for them, eating with them and cleaning their wounds.

These are important things to consider as we try to discern the state of our souls. We are all called to open our hearts. Nothing so much wins love as the knowledge that one's lover desires most of all to be Himself loved. (St. John Chrysostom)

We may not be able to fix the problems of the world, of all those who have suffered greatly from the effects of the corona virus or all those living in poverty, but we can open our hearts to them, feel sorrow and compassion for them, love them. We can try to help them in any small way we can. We can pray for them and with them.

The sorrow and concern that is felt for the poor is a special gift, a path to heaven. When we see the truly poor, we truly see Jesus, for God stands at the right hand of the poor (Psalm 109:31) He has a special concern for the poor and the suffering.

May we always open our hearts to Him in mercy. Do not be afraid, trust in God. May God's Blessings and Peace be with you always. Your friend in Christ!!!!

We may not be able to fix the problems of the world, of all those who have suffered...but we can open our hearts to them, feel sorrow and compassion for them, love them.

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www.centerofhopeinc.org

Congratulations to New Graduate

Christal Porter, one of Sr. Becky's many success stories, graduated from Wichita State University May 29, 2021 with her nursing degree. You may remember her as a speaker from our April 2019 Annual Dinner. We are very proud of her and her accomplishments and of Sr. Becky's Case Management Program, which continues to be a positive life-changing experience for so many clients.



As the corona virus continues to create much suffering and stress in our lives, we might keep the Via Dolorosa in our thoughts. We know that Jesus fell three times on the way of the cross, but do we ever consider that Jesus got back up three times, knowing He would face more suffering. May we persevere in our journey through these difficult times following His example.

Please Pray for

- D, a 65-year-old mom who is on a fixed income. She had to pay funeral expenses as her son passed away. She owes \$1300 on her utilities and \$1700 on her rent.
- A, a 22-year-old mom with a 2-year-old son. She only made \$345 this past month and owes \$2300 on her rent.
- D, a 35-year-old man who has just recently been able to get back to work. He has been sober now for 117 days. He owes \$2260 on back rent and his gas service is disconnected but he is trying to make a comeback.
- F, a 49-year-old disabled veteran. He recently had a heart attack and has been unable to work. He owes \$2500 on his rent.
- A, a 39-year-old mom with a 14-year-old son. She has had no income this past month as her car broke down and she has no transportation to work. She owes \$1800 on her rent and \$2650 on her utilities.
- S, a 46-year-old man who has no income and has just recently moved into a sober-living house.
- M and A and their two children. M had a severe accident and lost his hand. He worked in construction and is now not able to work. He received his last check of \$618 this month and owes \$500 on rent and \$1100 on their utility bill.
- J and her four children. J works for the school district so typically she can pay her bills, but with being off during the summer months she has fallen behind. She owes \$580 on her mortgage and \$1200 on her utilities.
- C, a 45-year-old mom and her three children. C had surgery and was unable to work. She owes \$1440 on her rent and \$1100 on her utilities.
- L, a 41-year-old mom with four children. L is working but was laid off from her job two times due to Covid. She owes \$2800 on her Evergy bill, \$650 on her gas bill, which has been turned off and \$250 on her water bill.

DIVINE MERCY

Following is an excerpt from the liturgy of the hours in the 17th week of Ordinary Time that was written by St. Caesarius, Bishop of Arles 1500 years ago, but is an especially applicable source of wisdom for us today.

“While all men wish to receive mercy, only a few are willing to give it. How can a man ask for himself what he refuses to give to another? If anyone expects to receive any mercy in heaven, he should give mercy on earth. There is mercy in heaven, but the road to it is paved by our merciful acts on earth.

There is an earthly as well as heavenly mercy—Divine Mercy. Human mercy has compassion on the miseries of the poor. Divine mercy grants forgiveness of sins.

Whatever human mercy bestows here on earth; Divine mercy will return to us in our homeland. In this life God feels cold and hunger in all who are stricken with poverty. When the poor are starving, Christ too hungers. Do not neglect to improve the unhappy conditions of the poor, if you wish to ensure that your own sins be forgiven you, show mercy while you are on earth, and mercy will be shown you in heaven. Give to the poor. Give them whatever your resources will allow”.



New U.S. Citizen

Congratulations Adriana on becoming a United States Citizen! We are proud and honored to have you join our nation.

We are happy to announce that one of our Center of Hope employees recently became a citizen of the United States. Adriana Palma, who has been a part of the Center of Hope Family for the past six years, grew up in the country of El Salvador. She has a degree in Psychology and came to the United States in 2014 with her mother.

She has made a tremendous impact in our service to the Hispanic Community living in the Wichita area. In the past, with many of the Hispanic families not being able to speak English and the fear that if they

received assistance, it might cause them problems with the Federal Government in some way, they were often hesitant to seek or accept assistance even though they had serious needs.

Since Adriana has joined the Center of Hope, our service to the Hispanic Community has greatly improved. They are very trusting of Adriana and really appreciate her kindness and sincere concern for their needs. We trust that God has greatly blessed our little ministry of homelessness prevention and believe that Adriana has been a very special gift for us.

Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

In Honor of

Rev. Pat Malone
Sr. Joann Stuever – Jubilee
Rev. Ken Van Haverbeke

In Memory of

Bethany Chawk
Jerry Larson
Jeanie Rosenhamer
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Center of Hope, Inc.

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*Let us not become
weary in doing good,
for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.*

- Galatians



“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 on-going 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 38 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because You Cared



For the past seven months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,066 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 4,964 persons. \$1,018,807 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$147,524 was provided for 819 households.

We would like to recognize St. Cecilia Parish for their continuing contributions of food and supplies throughout the pandemic and St. Francis of Assisi Parish for again hosting their summer harvest and all the gift cards they donated.

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



Editor, George Dinkel

Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill