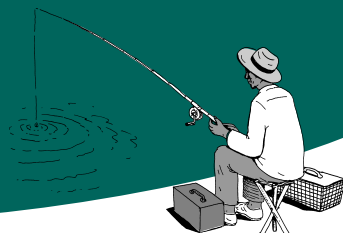




The Center of Hope, Inc. is a homelessness prevention program and 100% of your contribution is used in direct service to the poor.

By George Dinkel, Executive Director

Patience



The end of May we celebrated the feast of Pentecost which is a memorial of when the Holy Spirit descended in the form of tongues of fire on the Apostles. We know the Holy Spirit comes to us especially in the Sacraments (Acts 2:38), but also through prayer (Luke 11:13). In preparation for this feast, many of us may have prayed the Holy Spirit Novena prayer, but how do we know whether we have the Holy Spirit really indwelling within us as we do not ordinarily see or feel Him. We may at times be able to witness His presence through His fruits: charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, and longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, chastity (Galatians 5:22-23). Although it is typically easier and safer to notice these fruits in the actions of others rather than in ourselves, we can be assured they are from the Holy Spirit as they are not of our own fallen nature.

In today's world, there seems to be so little patience. So many things are available instantly. We have immediate fulfilment in such things as food, information, transportation, purchase and delivery of goods, entertainment, social interaction. All these things are literally at our fingertips.

The definition of patience is the ability to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. It is somewhat related to self-control but really is more a manifestation of love and forgiveness, which truly is the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. It is more than just being under control while waiting in line and it is most surely tested when we are under attack or ill-treated. Patience is being loving, kind and forgiving. Patiently accepting the trials that come to us and seeing them as a gift from God can be a source of spiritual growth. Trials or temptations from Satan can be overcome

with God's grace and are an opportunity to come closer to God. If we allow these trials to agitate us or make us angry, it creates so much turbulence within us that we cannot discern the inspirations of the Holy Spirit Who is always present and calling us to a deeper union with God. One of St. Ignatius of Loyola's rules on discernment of the Spirits is that in times of desolation we should not make any changes or rash decisions in our lives. This is in essence another way of advising us to rely on the fruit of patience which comes from the Holy Spirit.

Truly God calls us to be patient. The Israelite community had lost patience when they complained of being in the desert for 40 years and when they built a golden calf to worship while waiting for Moses who was on the mountain for 40 days. St. Monica showed un-

ending patience when she prayed for 17 years for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine. St. Augustine went on to say that perfect patience is to follow Christ faithfully even to death while here the sufferings of the world must be endured.

In our little ministry of homeless prevention, we see the continual battle to keep patience. Our volunteers exhibit utmost patience in taking calls each and every day listening to clients tell their stories of the sufferings in their lives. They kindly work with those struggling with mental disorders, those under much stress and often angry or despairing, or those that have made bad choices in their lives. Our staff work tirelessly with a seemingly unending list of clients needing help with rent and utilities. Those seeking assistance have to call our number continuously, sometimes for days desperately trying to get help to remain in their homes. The constant pressures of not having funding to cover all the requests for

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assistance or the costs of our operations is a continual battle of patience.

Sometimes I try so hard to quickly help everyone that I find myself a little out of control. It helps to stop and think of St. Theresa of Calcutta who said we just need to focus on helping the one person in front of us. To remember that God is in control. It is imperative that we serve through the gift of Charity. For if we distribute all of our funds to the poor but have not Charity, it profits nothing. Charity is *patient*, is kind, is not ambitious, seeks not Her own, is not provoked to anger, thinks no evil, rejoices with the truth, bears all things, hopes all

things, endures all things. (1 Cor 13) God regards more with how much affection and love a person performs a work, than how much he does. (The Imitation of Christ, Chap 15). Wait on God with Patience, join thyself to God. Take all that shall be brought upon thee and in your sorrow endure, and in your humiliation keep patience. (Eccles 2).

May we all be holy and filled with and remain in the Holy Spirit. May we bring His fruit of patience to a world in much need of the gift of patience. Through our patience, may the world see the presence of the Holy Spirit within us all.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for K, a 30-year-old mom with 3 children. She is currently in grad school and works 70 hours a week at her job but is not able to keep up with her expenses. She owes \$700 on her rent and over \$1600 on her utility bills.

Please pray for J, a 44-year-old mom who lives with her husband, her daughter, and her granddaughter. J lost her job and has had no income in the past 30 days, her husband's hours have been reduced and he only made \$405 this past 30 days. They owe \$850 on their rent and \$2700 on their utility bills.

Please pray for L, a 77-year-old lady who lives by herself. L receives \$770 per month in Social Security benefits. She pays \$575 on her rent but is not able to keep up on her utilities. She currently owes \$640 on her utility bills.

Please pray for C, a 29-year-old mom with 2 children. One of the children is in a wheelchair and receives Social Security income. C works, but only made \$400 this past 30 days. She owes \$3800 on her rent and \$800 on her utilities.

Please for C, a 32-year-old mom with 4 children. C has a full time job but is currently on maternity leave. She owes \$3200 on her utility bills.

Please pray for L, a 61-year-old lady who lives with her 2 grandchildren. She is working but only made \$527 this past 30 days as her hours have been reduced. She owes \$1395 on her utility bills.

Please pray for Z, a 33-year-old mom with one child. Z has trouble obtaining a good job as she has no transportation. She has had no income in the past 30 days and is just starting a job at a local fast food restaurant which will give her 21 hours per week. She is current on her rent but owes \$2000 on her electric bill and \$300 on her water bill.

Please pray for R, a 55-year-old man who recently lost his foot due to diabetes. He is unable to work at this time and has applied for disability but currently has no income. He owes \$1725 on his rent and \$942 on his electric bill.

Please pray for J, a 46-year-old lady who is homeless and is just moving into an apartment. She only made \$688 this past 30 days at her job and needs \$998 to be paid on an old electric bill to start service at her new apartment.

Please pray for D, a 39-year-old lady who just moved into a group home to help overcome her addictions. She has had no income in the past 30 days but just started a job.

Please pray for S, a 34-year-old mom who lives with her 3 children. She just started back at work after being on maternity leave and has only made \$133 this past 30 days. She owes \$2150 on her rent and \$2700 on her utility bills.

Please pray for R, a 48-year-old dad who lives with his 2 children. R has been unable to work since the first of the year after having brain surgery. He owes \$527 on his rent and \$600 on his utility bills.

Help Wanted

We are in need of a few volunteers to take calls during the week. Our volunteers typically take calls either in the morning from 9-12 or in the afternoon from 1-4. They volunteer only once a week for one of these time slots and complete a basic application form over the phone for those needing assistance.

To share a loving heart with our dear neighbors in our community who are often on the verge of despair is truly such a wonderful work of the Holy Spirit, to be a loving presence to someone in need. It may not seem like much but in can often mean a life changing experience to those we serve. As St. Therese of Lisieux would say, "Little things done with great love become great things."

If you would be interested in helping on either a regular basis or even just being on the list as a substitute when one of our regular volunteers is out, please give me a call at 316-867-3461 or send an email to george@centerofhopeinc.org. There is no pay, but the benefits are heavenly!

COH Annual Dinner RECAP

We sincerely appreciate all those attending the Center of Hope Annual Dinner on April 16th. The evening was filled with fun, games, and excellent food and drinks. The event raised much-needed funds to help serve the ever-increasing number of families living in poverty in our community who are in danger of losing their homes. The funds raised were especially appreciated this year as we see our grant donations declining at a time when, due in part to covid and inflation, we see those living in poverty increasingly struggling to pay for the bare essentials of life. Without doubt the number of people in poverty is rapidly increasing. We did have a minor glitch with the capacity of our internet service which prematurely closed the online bidding for silent auction items so we will plan to have another online bidding event for silent auction items sometime in October. All those attending who participated in the online bidding program will be sent an email notifying them when this Fall silent auction fundraiser goes online. If you have any questions or would like to be included in the event, please call me at 316-867-3461 or email me at george@centerofhopeinc.org. Again, thank you for your most kind generosity and please join us in October as your help truly is greatly needed. Thanks!!!!

Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

IN HONOR OF

Shirley Luebbert Birthday
Shepherd's Crossing Resident
Birthdays

Earl & Connie Sommerhauser
Rev. Ken VanHaverbeke

IN MEMORY OF

Johnny Bell
Pauline Bertha
Lois Tully Gerber Daniels
Sr. Diana Leahy, ASC
Robert McGrath
Jim & Nancy Schaefer
Betty Smith
Shelby Smith
Glenna Weir



We are deeply saddened to report the loss of one of our long time employees and friends, Lois Tully Gerber Daniels. Lois worked as an administrative assistant for the Center of Hope when I first arrived in 2003. After retiring, she always maintained a special care and love in her heart for the Center of Hope and all those we serve. She will always be a part of our Center of Hope "family". In honor of her Irish heritage we pray that *the sun shall shine warm upon her face; the rains fall soft upon her fields and until we meet again, that God may hold her in the palm of his hand.* Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Center of Hope, Inc.

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*Enjoy a Safe,
Happy July 4th
and Summer!*



"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 39 years of service to the Wichita community

Because You Cared



For the past seven months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,547 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 6,350 persons. \$1,215,864 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$281,021 was provided for 1,785 households.

We would like to recognize St. Cecilia Parish and the WSU Law Students for contributions of food and supplies.

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



*Editor, George Dinkel
Writer, Mary Jobe-Waddill*