



EASTER GREETINGS

Foyous Easter Greetings from all of us at the Center of Hope and all those we serve. May this time of celebration and anticipation of the Holy Spirit bring you many graces to grow spiritually. This is a perfect time to reflect on our lives and the effect we have on the lives of others, through our actions and choices. We often overlook what tremendous good can come from a very small sacrifice on our part.

This past month I was able to provide rent assistance, through your generosity, to a 30 year old man who was in danger of being evicted from his home. This gentleman had a mental disability and was receiving \$700 a month in Social Security benefits, which typically is sufficient to cover his expenses. He did not take his medications for five days and during this period lost or used his money with no recollection of where the money went. I elected to provide rent assistance for him in spite of the fact he could not support the use of the money, which typically we require for all those we serve. I could readily determine that he had no other resources and would indeed be homeless if we did not help. At the end of the interview, as I was getting up to prepare a small sack of

food for him, the gentlemen stopped me, looked me in the eye and said, "Sir, I need to be honest with you". We do expect honesty from those we serve, but quite frankly, I really did not question his honesty. I truly believed he was being very sincere with me. He went on to tell me that he had called his friend just before coming to our office to see if he would care for his pet dog, and that he had planned to end his life if he had not gotten help. He knew he would be homeless, and he could not deal with this...he couldn't face the reality of being homeless.

Thank you, for by your most kind generosity, this life was saved.

"Then shall the just answer Him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, and feed Thee; thirsty, and gave Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger, and took Thee in, or naked, and covered Thee? (Matt 25)

George Dinkel, Executive Director



ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION

The theme for this year's event is "There's No Place like Home" and is scheduled for Sunday, April 21 at Newman University's Dugan Library Conference Center. The proceeds from this event help fund the operations of Center of Hope enabling continued service to the poor throughout the year.

"We appreciate your help and support and look forward to seeing you April 21st," said George Dinkel, executive director of COH.

The silent auction features appealing items for every taste and the always entertaining Fr. Bernie Gorges returns as our auctioneer for the live auction. As in previous years, a wonderful menu will precede the auction.

Individual tickets are \$75 each. New this year for those purchasing a table of 8 for \$700 is a private reception in

the Alumni Center featuring surprise celebrity host bartenders serving margaritas and appetizers, plus \$40 in raffle tickets will be give to the table host.

Reservations are needed by April 10. Please contact Center of Hope at 267-3999 to make your reservations or send your check made out to Center of Hope, with dinner on the memo line, to George Dinkel, Center of Hope, 400 North Emporia, Wichita KS 67202. You may use your Master Card or VISA when making your reservations by phone. Credit card, check or cash will be accepted for auction items.

With the projected increase in utility bills for this summer, especially the dire water situation, Center of Hope will need your continued support so come out for an enjoyable evening of surprises, good food and good company at our annual Benefit Dinner and Auction.

Reservation Deadline
- April 10th -

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

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George Dinkel

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www.centerofhopeinc.org

Welcome To New Members

Three new members have joined the Center of Hope board of directors and bring a range of useful professional and volunteer experiences to the organization.

DANIEL B. GIROUX is an attorney with the law firm of Prochaska, Giroux and Howell. The Wichita native is a graduate of Newman University and the Creighton University School of Law.

Mr. Giroux is currently serving on boards for the Downtown Serra Club and Kansas Association for Justice as well as the Newman University Athletic Board. He volunteers at the DUI Victim Center, Newman University, St. Catherine of Sienna Parish and St. Francis of Assisi Parish. In his role as a practicing attorney, Mr. Giroux is a frequent speaker at schools and other organizations.

COH board member, Johnny Bell, introduced Mr. Giroux to the work of the Center of Hope. He will serve on the development committee.

DR. GLORIA HEGGE is a professor of social work at Newman University. As a clinical social worker, Dr. Hegge has previously worked as a psychotherapist at COMCARE of Sedgwick County where her clients included persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Some of them had been homeless at one time.

Dr. Hegge received the Master of Social Work from the University of Kansas and her doctorate in Social Welfare from Case Western Reserve

University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Born in Japan to parents who were serving as missionaries, Dr. Hegge is a bi-cultural person having spent her childhood and teen years in that country. After college in the U.S., she returned to Japan with the General Conference Mennonite Church and worked there for six years, including four years as a co-pastor of a small church in Kobe, Japan. In 1990, she and her husband moved to Wichita from Japan.

She has served on the board of directors for Sunflower Community Action and the Board for Healthy Options for Plainview, Wichita. Dr. Hegge is pleased to contribute to the work of COH and is most interested in the case management program and finding community resources for COH clients.

SHARON MONROE is a life-long Wichitan who works as a Title One mentor specialist with at-risk teens who have been placed at the Salvation Army Koch Center in Downtown Wichita. She earned her B.S. in Social Work from Wichita State University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Kansas.

Mrs. Monroe has extensive experience in social work having previously been employed by Kansas Children's Service League and Lutheran Social Services. She moved from work in foster care to adoption and later became co-director of an adoption opportunities grant program. After training in the understanding of temperament, she became a trainer in this subject. She was also a supervisor for the State of Kansas and worked for USD 259.

Her volunteer work has included volunteer coordinator for the Pathways Program at the Mental Health Association and she has an interest in supporting the Opportunity Zone, a Wichita Children's Home program for youth, and in SOS, a local organization working to end sex trafficking in the area.

Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak, The Lord will save him in the day of evil. (Ps. 41)



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CLIENTS

Y, 31, lives with her three young children. Y's husband left to work out of town about eight months ago and has never returned. She doesn't know if he is alive. Y babysits for a family, but they went out of state for Christmas vacation so she had no income to pay her rent and utilities. She has an eviction notice and owes over \$900 on her Westar bill.

J, 51, lives with his two young children. J's work hours were reduced so that he earned only \$664 this past month which is not sufficient to cover his expenses. His rent is only \$280 per month, but he has to pay \$250 per month for daycare.

S is a 31-year-old dad who lives with his three young children. S lost his job and his unemployment ended in November 2012. His only income was \$171 from selling plasma.

J lives with her four young children. Her 6-year-old son was in an accident which resulted in a brain injury. They are still waiting to see the long term prognosis. J missed a lot of work and lost her job.

G, 43, lives by himself. G lost his job recently as a result of seizures.

J, a 43-year-old mom has two children. She is suffering with several medical issues and was unable to work for the past month. She owes \$500 in rent and \$400 on her Westar bill.

L is a 62-year-old lady who is by herself and is homeless.

J, a disabled 33-year-old man, has been living in a shelter with his 1-year-old daughter.

B, a 47-year-old lady who is terminally ill, was just evicted from her home.

M is a 36-year-old mom with three children. M lost her job in November 2012 and then was admitted to the hospital with a blood infection. She has been released and is looking for a job.

G, 60, lives by himself. He lost his job after having a stroke and will be unable to return to work. He has filed for disability.

Donate an Old Bike to COH!



(maybe not this old...)

Lack of adequate transportation is a real barrier that causes many families to come to the Center of Hope seeking assistance. Many have had to sell their cars to pay rent after losing their jobs. Some of the families choose to pay their rent and don't have the funds to make their car payment which results in the car being repossessed. Often the car they have just breaks down and they do not have the funds to repair it.

Consequently, we see many families walking or using the bus to get to work. Since the buses don't run after 7:00 p.m., those working on the second or third shifts are not able to access this resource. We see many walk to our office for assistance, often many miles.

The bicycle allows them to extend the area to seek and maintain jobs. I have had some families that we have helped with a month's rent that were more excited about receiving the bike than the rent assistance, as it allows them to help themselves.

If you have an old bike you haven't used for some time, and would like a little more room in your garage, you might consider donating it to the Center of Hope.

Christmas Concert Benefits COH

The Damm Music Center hosted a Christmas concert at Gracepoint Church on Dec. 21, 2012 for Center of Hope. Over 200 attended the concert which was free. The music and showmanship were excellent and provided a wide range of Christmas music set to a rock beat.

Many thanks are extended to the performers...music instructors, students and employees of Damm Music Company... Gracepoint Church and their sponsors.

Money from a free-will offering brought \$3,784 in rent and utility assistance for many families who come to COH. A special thanks to Gracepoint Church for providing the venue at no cost, but also for a creative Christmas background video and \$1,000 donated for our program.

JOHNSTON'S HALF MARATHON



Calling all runners! Johnston's Charitable Foundation will be hosting a half marathon and a 5k run at 8 a.m. on Sunday Sept. 15, 2013. All proceeds from the event will go to charity.

Registration will be at Johnston's Clothier, Go Run First Gear and the morning of the race.

The first 500 to sign up are guaranteed a high quality quarter zip knit black shirt. If you are tuning up for a marathon, maxing out at a half marathon, or would just like to go for a Sunday morning run, this event promises to be a great time. Food, drink, awards, professional timers, music and the chance to help some charitable organizations serving some very needy people...what could be better? Hope to see you there.

George Dinkel, who worked so closely with Judy during her time at Center of Hope, remembers her contributions to the program.

Judy Lambert Memorial

We are very saddened to report that Judy Lambert passed away in January. Judy was employed by the Center of Hope as the Administrative Assistant from April 2007 through December 2011. During these years, Judy was well respected and developed an excellent relationship with many of the landlords we deal with in providing rent assistance. Judy had a kind heart and was always very concerned about the families coming to us with the greatest needs. Judy especially loved all the little children that would accompany their parents. She would strongly advocate for these families and do whatever she could to help them. Judy loved spending time with the volunteers and helping answer any questions they might have. Judy was very generous and had a strong will to help others. We are sorry for the loss of Judy and ask that you please keep her in your prayers.

Center of Hope, Inc.

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“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 29 years of service to the Wichita community

Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill

Because You Cared

For the past 7 months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,831 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,772 children.

\$546,948 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. On average, \$300 was spent per family.

In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food and other personal care products from our storeroom, provided budgeting assistance and counseled for special needs.

Many thanks go out to all the parishes, business and individuals who brought blankets, canned and boxed food, paper products and personal and home cleaning products. Most recently Resurrection School, Marcia Morales, Kyle Jacobs, St. Cecilia Parish, United Way, Mary Lou Schutz, St. Francis of

Assisi Parish, Magdalen Parish, Melissa Schneider, Lewis Bacher, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Woodland Methodist Church, Nick Mohr, ASC Sisters, Greg Archer, Jim & Lois Daniels and Partners for Wichita have blessed us with 509 bags of food and supplies.

Feinstein Foundation Challenge

Don't forget the annual Feinstein Foundation contribution for donations made in March and April. Alan Feinstein gives \$1 million on a pro rata basis to agencies across America who raise funds to feed the hungry. If you would like to make a donation to provide food to the families we serve, write “food” on your check made payable to the Center of Hope and mail it (400 N. Emporia, Wichita KS 67202) in March or April.