



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

The Gift of Love

By George Dinkel, Executive Director

*L*ove never fails. Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things... Faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13)

Two things that really made an impact on me 12 years ago when I took the position of Executive Director of Center of Hope were the fact that 100% of the donations are used directly as rent and utility assistance (none is used to pay salary, administrative or operating costs) and the tremendous love I saw with which the way those seeking assistance were treated.

We recently were approached by Fritz Kling, the President of the DeBoer Charitable Foundation, who was interested in producing a video for the Center of Hope. At first I was a little reluctant to accept this most kind offer, as typically families we assist are not interested in telling their story on video. In addition, I am so busy helping provide assistance, I really have virtually no time for fund raising activities.

After considering that we could greatly extend the reach of the video by linking it to our website, we agreed to the proposal. David Johnson of Silent Images came to Wichita on an early Tuesday morning to start the filming. I was truly amazed and touched by the people that were willing to go on video and tell their story. The entire video was done spontaneously and nothing was scripted. David has a very special gift and talent for capturing the spirit of the people, the struggles they are enduring and



the effect our little ministry truly has on their lives.

I encourage you, especially this Christmas Season to go out to our website, CenterofHopeinc.org and take the time to watch the video. It is only three minutes long, so you won't have to give up much time to experience something very special, something that brings the real Christmas meaning to life. The love of this simple homeless prevention ministry started by the ASC Sisters 33 years ago brings life and hope to so many of our neighbors who are silently suffering every day.

We wish you many blessings this Christmas, but especially the gift of love which is the greatest gift of all. We also pray for special blessings on the DeBoer Foundation, Fritz Kling and David Johnson for the special gift of this video.

Your friend in the Holy Family, Christ our Lord, Blessed Mary, and St Joseph. Merry Christmas!!!!

Our website can be accessed by typing

centerofhope.org

into your web browser.



The homepage has drop-down tabs that provide information on the history and mission of the Center of Hope, and the foundress of the ASC Religious order, St Maria de Matias. It also includes information for prospective Board Members and Volunteers.

For those needing assistance, information is provided under the *Services* tab which includes information on how to apply for assistance and information that will be needed. The *Services* tab also includes the Project Deserve Applications which can be downloaded or filed on-line.

If you are interested in making a donation to our ministry of homeless prevention, the *Donate* tab provides information on where to send your donation and also allows on-line donations.

The *Communications* tab includes prior Center of Hope Newsletters, prayer requests, pictures, and scripture quotes. The website is easy to use and provides much information about our homeless prevention program. Please take the time to take a look and refer any friend or someone in need to the site.

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

*sponsored by the
Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

Executive Director

George Dinkel

Staff:

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Client Testimonials Show Impact of Aid

The help Center of Hope gives its clients really does make a difference for them. The financial assistance is important but they also appreciate the compassionate care with which they are received. Here is a sampling of what our clients tell us:

“I am at a loss of words right now. I am so grateful for what you people have done for me. I have never had anyone help me before. I want it to be known to all involved that I am extremely grateful for your help at this time in need.

“There are no words for the thanks I am trying to convey here.

“Please know in your heart that I am so very thankful for you and this project and all the volunteers and all the donors that are involved.”

“George and Center of Hope, Mother wanted me to say God Bless you all for helping with her electric bill. Thank you so much! You all are life savers!”

“Thank you so much for your help. I’m so blessed to have so many strong women in my life. You have helped me in so many ways. You trust me and believe in me, and for that alone I’m thankful.” (From a case management client to Sr. Becky)

“George, thank you to you and your staff for helping my father in his time of desperate need. The generosity and support is very appreciated. Thank you for your professionalism and kindness. The work you do every day makes a difference in the lives you support. God bless you.”



PROJECT DESERVE

Project Deserve is a program that has been in existence for many years, which Center of Hope started administrating in January 2015. This program provides assistance to the elderly, disabled and low income families who are struggling to keep their electricity on.

We receive applications daily from residents who have Westar electrical service which covers over 50 counties in Kansas.

The program has been a real blessing to our program of homeless prevention as it allows us to provide additional assistance to those who owe large amounts on their Westar bills. We see many households owing in excess of \$1000 on

their Westar bill which is often attributed to living in older homes with inadequate insulation and heating/air conditioning units which are over 25 years old and very inefficient. The loss of electrical service causes the loss of all the food in the refrigerator and puts the family at risk of their children being taken into protective custody, so it truly has very serious and far reaching effects beyond merely not having heat, cooling or lights.

This program has quickly become an integral component of our homeless prevention program which makes such a huge impact on the lives of those we serve it often just leaves them in tears of relief and happiness.



Christmas Is the Beginning of the "Beautiful Order"

In India a pastor had a lovely hut built for the church. It was made of straw with room for the animals, a fire and a manger. On Christmas night, the parishioners went to pray in front of the nativity scene of their church, and behold,...a surprise! The hut was empty, completely empty.

There was a pot with a spoon on the fire and a sign on the door saying: Joseph went out to look for work, Mary went out to look for wood for the fire. And Jesus? Jesus was born in the heart of each person you meet. Go and look for Him.

The Word truly became flesh of our flesh and life of our life. If we have the grace to recognize Him along the roads of life, we will be able to create together the "beautiful order of things He came to establish in His blood.



Sr. Patricia Pasquini, ASC

Save the Date...

**COH Annual
Benefit Dinner
& Auction**

April 16th, 2016

Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

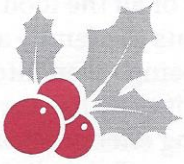
IN MEMORY OF:

Dale Duane Meyer
Barbara Peters
Jane Means
Bob Bennett
Carolyn Daugherty

Center of Hope, Inc.

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Wichita KS 67202-2514

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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 32 years of service to
the Wichita community

Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill

Because You Cared

For the past three months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,006 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,829 persons. \$350,002 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$122,418 was provided for 655 households.

In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food, bicycles 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 the ASC Associates, Lewis Bacher, Kyle Jacobs, Joseph & Josephine Hallacy, Sr. Renee Kirmer, Martin Mendoza, Marcia Morales, St Cecilia Parish, St Peter Schulte Parish and an anonymous donor blessed us with 160 bags of food and supplies.

