



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

# Humility

*By George Dinkel, Executive Director*

Humility is foundational to true charity or love. Scripture tells us that at the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of the Apostles. When Peter said to Jesus, "You shall never wash my feet," Jesus replied, "If I wash you not, you have no part with me." Perhaps Peter thought he was being humble by refusing to allow Jesus to wash his feet. After all, he truly believed Jesus was God and had a great reverence for Jesus. So for Jesus to bow before Peter and wash his feet may have been too much for Peter. It took great humility for Peter to allow Jesus to wash his feet. It is pride that sometimes keeps us from allowing someone to do something as simple as washing our feet. Yet this is what Jesus is asking of Peter and of all of us. Humility is the foundation of all the



other virtues. If we don't have humility, we really don't have any of the other virtues either.

I recently helped a 30-year-old married couple with their rent payment. They have no children and the wife suffers from being bi-polar. The husband had lost his job and the wife worked at a fast food restaurant but only made \$449 in the past month. They didn't have enough money to pay their rent and were in danger of being evicted. The wife needs medication to keep her bipolar condition under control but they didn't have enough money to purchase her medications either. In spite of their plight, the husband told me that they had helped a disabled man in a wheel chair with \$5 and bought him lunch. It was very cold out and they felt so sorry for this disabled man they just had to help him even though they didn't have enough money to provide for their own needs.

It is often difficult for someone to come to the Center of Hope to obtain assistance. Many of the families we see have provided for themselves for many years. To walk into our office, meet with our

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## Center of Hope Dinner & Auction - April 17



### *Our Annual Fundraising Event*

The Center of Hope is hosting the Annual Benefit Dinner on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the Newman University Dugan Library & Conference Center. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a private reception for those purchasing a table and 5:30 p.m. with a wine and beer reception for all guests.

The theme for the evening is "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be" (Luke 12:34). The event includes a raffle, a silent auction and a live auction with an exquisite selection including a golf outing, a women's day out, a men's night out, a sailing package, a \$10,000 Heating and Cooling installation, a Lake of the Ozarks condo, a Chiefs and Royals excursion, Dinner with the Bishop, a Washington DC trip and a special wood project handcrafted and donated by Fr Tom Welk...and much more!

To top off the evening event we will sell keys to a locked treasure chest containing a \$50 American Eagle gold coin valued in excess of \$1,500 and some other special prizes.

*We look forward to seeing you at the Dinner. Reservations are required. Please register early so we have a place reserved especially for you. You can register by calling 267-3999 or mailing your registration to: Center of Hope, 400 N Emporia, Wichita KS 67202. A copy of the Dinner Invitation can be downloaded from our website: [centerofhopeinc.org](http://centerofhopeinc.org).*



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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

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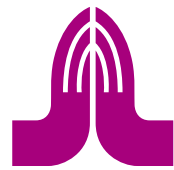
*Humility continued*

volunteers, tell their story and ask for help is truly a humbling experience. I see in many of those we serve a very willing readiness to help others struggling. In some way, through the humility they experience their hearts are opened in a special way to be charitable or to love their neighbor as we are all called to do.

After Jesus washed the Disciples feet He asks them to do this for one another. It is on the basis of humility that we are able to help those in spiritual needs or with the basic necessities of life. I often find that many of our long time donors are people

that have experienced hardships or humiliations in their own lives.

As we approach Easter, I ask that we let go a little of our pride, our self-reliance and through humility come to the help of our dear neighbors who are struggling in so many ways. We can all come to know the humility of being dependent on Jesus and not placing our trust in ourselves, our wealth or the world. In today's world with the uncertainties of the economy, the government and the world in general, it may not be easy to make sacrifices for others, but the reward will last for eternity. May God's Blessings and Peace be with you!!!



# Prayers Lighten the Burdens of Our Clients

Many clients seek help from Center of Hope because of costly health problems or under-employment. The assistance we offer can help them over a rough spot in their lives, but they all need prayers to help them cope with the difficult situations that brought them to COH.

- Please pray for N, a 53-year-old lady who lives by herself after recently separating from her husband. N has cancer and blood clots in her legs. Her water was shut off and she owed \$937 on her Westar Bill. She has to pay over \$200 per month for her health insurance, which she cannot let lapse due to her medical bills for the cancer treatments. She does receive Social Security Disability income but it is not sufficient to cover her expenses.
- Please pray for S, an 84-year-old mom who lives with her son. S's gas was turned off at her home recently. She was heating water and accidentally spilled it on her arm and body and had to have skin grafts as she was severely burned.
- Please pray for E, a 32-year-old mom with 6 young children. E lost her job at a local hotel and only made \$468 this past month. Her husband was deported to Mexico 2 years ago. E owed \$820 on her Westar Bill and had an eviction notice.
- Please pray for B, a 22-year-old expectant mom who lives with her husband. B was recently diagnosed with cancer. This will necessitate B's being induced so she can begin cancer treatment as soon as possible. The baby will be born prematurely, adding to the financial, emotional and health burdens of the family.
- Please pray for G, a 39-year-old mom who lives with her 4 children. G's 21-year-old daughter developed brain tumors at the back of her brain when she was 5-years-old which were removed, causing short-term memory lost. She has now developed brain tumors at the front of her brain. Doctors fear if the tumors are removed, she will lose her long-term memory which may leave her in a vegetative state.
- Please pray for P, a 28-year-old mom living with her 4 young children. P was incarcerated for outstanding traffic fines and missed work as a result. In addition, her car was impounded and she probably won't be able to get it back. She only made \$243 this past month and owed \$622 on her utility bills.
- Please pray for J, his wife and their 3 young children. Someone broke into their house and robbed them at gunpoint. Their 9-year-old son now has nightmares. Their only source of income at this time is \$532 of DCF Cash Assistance. They are refugees from Cuba and have been in the US only a short time.
- Please pray for J, a 36-year-old man who lives by himself. J lost several fingers from an accident. He currently is unable to work and has no income, but still has a job and will be able to return to work after he recovers.



*Often families bring their young children along with them when they come to our office seeking assistance. We have multiple appointments scheduled every half hour throughout the day. At times we get back-logged and people have to wait in our front lobby before we are able to see them. The adventurous young boy in this picture was bored listening to his family's interview and ventured out to the front lobby. We have a corner of the lobby dedicated to young children with various books, puzzles and games. This young boy decided to sit down and read a book but complained that he didn't know how to read. A refugee from the Republic of the Congo in Africa who was seeking assistance offered to read to him while he waited for his appointment. Such a testimonial to God's love for neighbor being brought to life.*

## In this Extraordinary Year of Mercy, Many Respond with Donations to the Poor

### *40 Cans for 40 Days*

The Knights of Columbus Council #3114 from Clonmel-Schulte has a unique fundraiser. They collect cans of food from their members during Lent. The food is then distributed to agencies serving the poor. We receive a pickup load of canned food once a week during Lent, which really helps our food pantry program.

### *Ash Wednesday Collection*

We are very thankful for all the parishes that participate in the Ash Wednesday collection for the Center of Hope. This collection was started years ago by Sr. Stella and Msgr. John Gilsean as a way to help families with rent and utility assistance. It is a perfect time as we begin our Lenten sacrifices of giving to the poor. This Ash Wednesday collection has been such a blessing to our little ministry of homeless prevention and over the years has helped keep countless families from being evicted. We are so grateful to Msgr. Gilsean and Sr. Stella for their foresight and their concern for the poor.

## CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Rev. Stephen Baxter  
Charles & Teresa Beckett  
Bob Bennett  
Sr. Lucille Diller, ASC  
Pat Eagan  
Mary Ann Farmer  
Jean Hawley  
Lawrence Koehn  
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Joe & Gladys Schneider  
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### **IN HONOR OF:**

Rev. Ed Deimeke  
Patrick & Denis Farmer  
Wanda Farmer  
Msgr. John Gilsean  
Marian Girrens  
Rev. Leon Kerschen  
Larry Andrew Klenda  
Sr. Tarcisia Roths, ASC  
Rev. Jim Weldon  
Center of Hope Staff, Board  
of Directors & Volunteers

## WORDS OF WISDOM

At times working with the poor is a little challenging as some of the people we see are struggling from mental illness or are overburdened by the stress of their lives. Sometimes the stories we hear are just too difficult to listen to.

One of our Center of Hope workers sent an email to her husband expressing the feelings she was having and this was his response: Why we help the poor: 1) Because Jesus told us to, and 2) The poor are an icon of our situation, as they are financially poor, we are spiritually poor.



*One of our donors brought a bag of bracelets they found on sale. Two of the recipients were especially grateful for the donation. The bracelets brought a little happiness to their lives. Sometimes a little gift makes a huge impact.*



## Center of Hope, Inc.

400 North Emporia  
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 33 years of service to  
the Wichita community

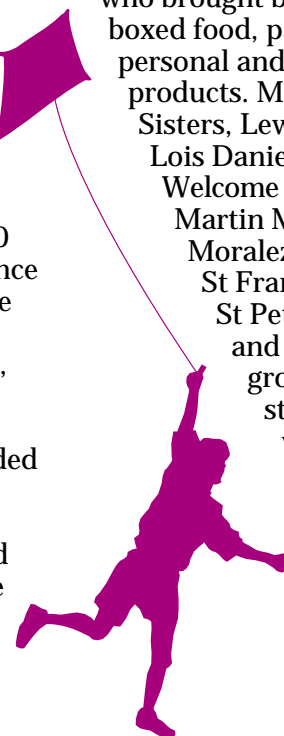
# Because You Cared

For the past 6 months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,800 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 4,943 persons. \$654,111 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$205,758 was provided for 1,150 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 Sisters, Lewis Bacher, Jim & Lois Daniels, East Side Welcome Wagon, Kyle Jacobs, Martin Mendoza, Marcia Moralez, St Cecilia Parish, St Francis of Assisi Parish, St Peter of Schulte Parish and an anonymous group of college students blessed us with 785 bags of food and supplies this past three months.



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