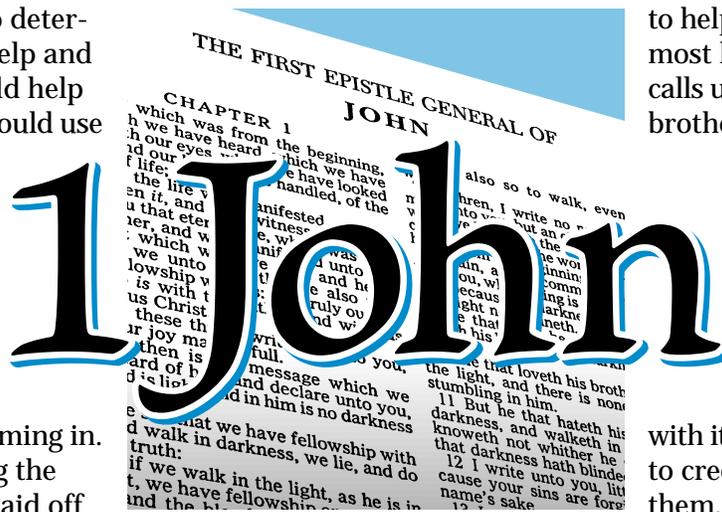




The Center of Hope, Inc. is a homelessness prevention program and 100% of your contribution is used in direct service to the poor.

It is often difficult to determine who we will help and how much we should help them. Or what criteria we should use to determine if someone should qualify for assistance. The families we serve come with such different situations it is difficult to set a formal set of criteria. I see many families that simply have lost their jobs and currently have no income coming in. Many were employed during the Christmas season but were laid off shortly afterwards and are currently looking for employment but without much success. Some families seek assistance because they have become ill and missed work. Young mothers who are on maternity leave and are unable to work often miss up to six weeks of income and are facing an eviction notice or their utilities being turned off. Some are victims of domestic violence. I have seen older adults on fixed income who have been taken advantage of by children, friends or other family members. Many times those seeking our assistance are victims of crimes, spouses leaving, deportation, and a death in the family. Often, it is the result of something beyond their control, an accident or illness. At times, we see those needing assistance due to their own negligence, choices or addictions.

In all of these cases, we listen to their story, go through a budget analysis of their current situation and try to determine the extent of their need



"We too must lay down our lives for our brothers. I ask you, how can God's love survive in a man who has enough of this world's goods yet closes his heart to his brother when he sees him in need?"

and their potential available resources to work out of their current situation of eviction or having utilities shut off. We review supporting information to document their situation and try to make the best decision we can to help them in a way that they become a part of the solution.

Trying to work through these many different situations is always a challenge. Each day is a day of battle, but a battle of love as we truly are trying

to help these families in a way that is most holistic. In a way that St John calls us to not close our hearts on our brothers when we see them in need.

It would be easy to close our hearts on our brothers and sisters if we would allow ourselves to become judgmental. If we allow the attitude to creep in which says, "Well they made their own choice, now they have to live

with it." We cannot allow the attitude to creep in which says not to help them, "they will just be in the same situation next month." St. John did not say to help only those who got into need because of illness, or events beyond their control. St John did not call us to withhold help from those who have made bad choices. St John just simply calls us to open our hearts to those in need, period. Our mission statement calls us to a similar task. We are called to help those who come to us without judgment, but always with compassion and love. We help those who come to us in need with the hope and prayer that it will truly make a difference in their lives. I truly believe that when we who perhaps have enough of this world's goods open our hearts to our brothers and sisters in need, somehow the door is opened for the Holy Spirit to truly work in the lives of not only all those we serve, but in our lives as well.

May God's Blessings and Peace be with you.

George Dinkel, Executive Director

Volunteers Needed

The Center of Hope is in need of a volunteer to help call landlords and a volunteer to help in our food pantry. If you are interested please call 316-267-3999 or send an email to george@centerofhopeinc.org.

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www.centerofhopeinc.org

Center of Hope Annual Dinner

Recap



The Center of Hope Annual Dinner held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at Newman University was a huge success and raised over \$85,000, which represents on average a full month of rent and utility assistance provided to clients. The dinner included a wine and beer reception for guests. The theme for the event was *"Home is where the Heart is"*. The master of ceremonies was J.T. Klaus who, along with our guest auctioneer, Rev. Bernie Gorges, kept the evening moving at a fast pace and quite entertaining. We sincerely appreciate all those who helped make this event a success and all our donors who contributed to this most worthy cause.



Please Pray for our Clients...

The people who walk through our doors are in need of material help but also the support that your prayers provide.

D, is a 59-year-old lady who lives alone. Although employed, D has missed a lot of work due to cancer treatments. She has had surgery and chemo and radiation treatments.

A, is a 36-year-old man who lives with his disabled wife and their 4 children. A works for a local aircraft manufacturer but will be on medical leave for open heart surgery. He will receive ST Disability income, but will have to wait a few weeks for it to start.

J, is a 24-year-old man who lives with his infant son and the mother of the child. J was working for a roofing company, but had an accident and fell 28 feet from a ladder onto a concrete slab. He severely injured his back and is unable to work at this time.

S, is a 30-year-old mom who lives with her 3 young children. Her husband left her and her only source of income right now is making and selling tamales.

A family is living in a hotel on south Broadway after being evicted from their home. Their children were taken from them since they were homeless. The mom was still in tears and is hoping to get the children returned soon when they get into an apartment.

S, is a 44-year-old mom who lives with her 11-year old daughter. They have been staying in their car after being evicted from their home. S lost her job a couple of months ago and her unemployment was denied. She is appealing the decision and is looking for a job. She made over \$14,000 this past year and is very employable, but is in a tough situation right now. It is difficult to get into an apartment without any current income.

A family could not make their appointment. They had an 11-year-old son with cancer and he suddenly passed away.

Our client first heard of Center of Hope through information about the Driving Incentive Program administered by Sr. Becky. This court supported program offers people with outstanding traffic fines an opportunity to clear their record by attending classes and doing community service as well as establishing a payment plan to pay off the fines. For those with limited incomes, this is an important program to help them get back on their feet.

A COH Client Shares Her Thoughts with Guests at the Benefit Dinner



“I was addicted to drugs and also selling drugs to support my habit. Due to that lifestyle, I ended up in trouble with the law. I got locked up, my kids went into foster care and I hit my personal rock bottom. When I got released all I wanted to do was get right, get my kids back and get back on track. I got a job and got a place to live. After about a year, my kids finally got to come home with me and we were happy!

“I rode the bus back and forth to work, but it took 1.5 hours one way riding three buses to get there, so I just got so tired of that I bought a car from a friend. Because of my license being suspended due to unpaid tickets and owing a large amount in fines, I was taking a chance every time I got behind the wheel but I had moved up in my job to supervisor and they needed me to be available hours that were after the buses stopped running, so I took my chances and eventually my luck ran out.

“I started asking around and someone mentioned a driving program at the Center of Hope. I interviewed with Sr. Becky who thought I was a good fit for the program and started the class.

“Sr. Becky helped me fill out forms to get a restricted license which I got for one year while I worked to pay off my fines and get my regular license back. I found it to be very interesting and committed myself to work the program.

“After graduating from the Driving Incentive Program, I wanted to continue working with Sr. Becky so I rolled over into her Case Management and it has helped me a great deal.

“I had concerns about losing my housing and not having enough to eat, but now I’m doing great. My family was on a housing program and I’m not anymore. I pay my whole rent now. My family was on food stamps and we are off that program as well.

“I am able to manage my money a lot wiser due to things I learned in the Case Management Program and I am about to finish all my community service hours and pay off all my fines. It feels great to be back on track getting ready to get my license back.

“Today I am sober five years. I have my kids back. I just made assistant manager at my job. With the help of Sr. Becky and the awesome people at Center of Hope, I am about to have my driving record back on track. It’s a great feeling!”

My family was on a housing program and I’m not anymore. I pay my whole rent now. My family was on food stamps and we are off that program as well.

A Prayer from Fr. Paul J. Oborny

AND GOD SAID ‘NO’!!

I asked God to take away my pride,
And God said “NO,
It’s not for me to take it away,
It’s for you to give it up”.

I asked God to heal me and make my body
Whole again, And God said “NO,
Your spirit is whole
And the body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience
And God said, “NO, patience is a
By-product of suffering,
It isn’t granted, it is earned.”

I asked God to make me happy,
And God said, “NO,
I give you blessings,
Happiness is up to you.”

I asked God to spare me pain,
And God said “NO, suffering draws you
Away from worldly cares,
And brings you closer to Me.”

I asked God to make my spirit grow,
And He said “NO, you must grow
On your own, My Father will prune you
To make you more fruitful.”

I asked God, Do you love me?
And God said, YES, I gave my Son
To suffer and die for you
That you might have Eternal Life.”

I asked God to help me do His Will,
By taking up my cross,
And God said, “Aw, Yes,
You are finally getting the idea!!!!!!

RECOGNITION GIFTS:

Patti Edison
Sr. Joann Stuever
Gladys New Schneider
ASC Sisters
Rev. Kenneth Van Haverbeke

IN MEMORY OF:

Sr. Stella Rosenhamer
Betty McIntyre

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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

Because You Cared



For the past nine months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,153 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 5,838 persons. \$733,586 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$112,017 was provided for 581 households.

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 Lewis Bacher, Kathy Barker, Joseph & Josephine Hallacy, Melissa Schnieder, His Helping Hands, Knights of Columbus Council #3114 Clonmel, St Cecilia Parish, St Peter Schulte Parish and an anonymous student group have blessed us with 741 bags of food and supplies.

Editor, George Dinkel

Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill