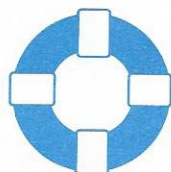




The Center of Hope, Inc. is a homelessness prevention program and 100% of your contribution is used in direct service to the poor.

by George Dinkel, Executive Director



Our world has changed a lot in the past two months and there is a lot of uncertainty for the future. For most of us, our health has

historically been pretty stable and manageable. Barring a sudden accident, which is very unlikely to happen to any one of us, we expect to live for a relatively long time and are not overly concerned about our loss of life. With the onset of the corona virus, this has changed dramatically.

Suddenly we are all concerned about the potential loss of life from an adversary that is unseen and can linger for quite some time in places we would not expect. Without doubt this has had an unprecedented impact on all of our lives in the whole world. We are not sure whether this battle is near the end or if it will continue or perhaps even escalate this fall.

In addition, the economy throughout history has had many significant changes, but none as broad as the effect the corona virus has had on a worldwide basis. With so many workers laid off, furloughed, reduced hours and businesses that will not re-open, the long term effects of this virus are unknown and there is a great fear of what will happen if the virus reappears this fall.

One thing I have always treasured is my faith and the ability to attend Mass and receive the Sacraments. Even this has changed in a way I would never have imagined. I believe the greatest gift we have on this earth is the gift of the Mass and the Sacraments. I didn't think these could ever be taken away...such a sad situation.

The Center of Hope has been around 37 years bringing Hope to many poor families so that they can work through the effects of a loss of employment, or domestic violence situation, or sudden illness. To know they can make it through the month gives them a chance to regroup, to get back on their feet. It gives them hope for the future. Just knowing someone cares for them helps to settle their emotional fears and anxiety. It gives them a small glimmer of Hope, a certain peace to their soul.

Not too long ago, I helped a 61-year-old man who had just lost his job. He and his wife live with their two sons. One of the sons is autistic. They have lived in apartments in the past but have not been able to stay long as the autistic



# Hope

son often gets up in the middle of the night and beats his head on the walls and starts throwing and breaking things in the apartment. This is very disturbing to the other apartment tenants who complain to management, which ultimately results in the family having to leave the apartment. This dad shared with me that he and his wife have had a very difficult life caring for this child, but that this is his duty, his calling. He has to continue to provide and care for his family even though at 61 years old it is very difficult for him to continue to work in the construction industry. His hope is that as his son gets a little older and more

mature he may be able to better control these outbursts.

One of the main adversaries of Hope is despair. We see many at the Center of Hope that are on the verge of despair and I venture to guess that if this virus continues to be active, many of us will be living in a state of despair. The definition of despair is to be without hope. Many of those we see despair from choices they have made by living an addictive or sinful lifestyle. Many suffer a feeling of despair as a result of the trauma they have experienced in their childhood from broken family relationships. One underlying component of despair is the feeling that bad things will happen that are beyond one's control.

Another adversary of Hope is presumption, not knowing that we need Hope in our lives. Through presumption I think we can be too self-reliant. We can find all our joy and fulfillment in the things of this world. We might even come to the point that we think that all things are relative to our point of thinking. Presumption I believe just leaves us with an empty feeling. We know we are searching for something but can never find the one thing that will satisfy us.

Psalm 5 tells us that those who Hope in God will rejoice forever and that God will dwell in them.

St. John reiterates this in 1 John 4:4 which says that God dwells in us and that He is greater than that which is in the world.

Truly the world needs Hope right now. Truly we need Hope. Let us all pray to Our Lady of Hope that we may all live in Hope, both those of us who may be struggling with despair and those of us who may presume to have everything under control and are not really in need of God's Mercy. May we all help each other in these times of trial and give Hope to each other, for this is our duty, our calling.

May God's Hope, Peace and Love be with you!!!

### COH Board of Directors:

Chair: Tom McGrath

Vice-Chair: Joe Warren

Secretary: Sr. Janet Rowley, ASC

### Board Members:

Sandi Baalman

Holly Dixon

Glen Dolezal

Jeff Englert

Kathy Kehr

Sr. Angela Laquet, ASC

Christopher Magana

Angela McCoy

Robin Needham

Scot Pennington

May Ann Rabe

Collin Stieben

John Weir

Sr. Susan Welsby, ASC

Janice Yaeger

### CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

*sponsored by the  
Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

### Executive Director

George Dinkel

### Staff:

Sr. Becky Balthazor, ASC

Jane Hermann

Adriana Palma

### Volunteers: ASC Associates

Marlene Balthazor

Mary Corrigan

Jerry Dooley

Brenda Eck

Rebecca Elpers

Jerry Ewald

Bill Gress

Donna Harris

Connie Hotze

Andrew Jaramillo

Victoria Jackson

Ann Latta

Rachel Lewis

Vernon May

Carol Meyer

Vanessa O'Brien

Lisa Oehmke

Anthony Osio

Marilyn Osio

James Ramsey

Phyllis Ramsey

Lori Rathert

Sr. Tarcisia Roths, ASC

Dian Rusk

Mary Santiago

Treva Schaffer

Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC

Eldon Schumacher

Elisabeth Sims

Kathy Stone

Joe Stuhlsutz

Alice Summers

Lacey Vess

Mary Jobe Waddill

Barbara Wattman

Marilyn Wells

Nicole West

Amber Wilson

Carolyn Winn

Janice Yaeger

Patricia Yates

[www.centerofhopeinc.org](http://www.centerofhopeinc.org)

# Center of Hope Dinner Canceled

I am very sad to report that the Center of Hope Annual Dinner, scheduled for June 28, 2020 has been cancelled. Due to the uncertainty of the status of the corona virus, we felt it was not prudent to hold the Dinner with over 300 guests if there would be any threat of the virus still being communicable. The Annual Dinner is a great time for our faithful donors to have a chance to fellowship with each other, and it is an opportunity to learn more about the mission of the Center of Hope and to raise funds for the many poor families living in our community. This is especially true this year as the effects of the virus have caused many families to be without any income the past two months, and also will have a long term effect for those who have lost jobs as businesses are forced to close because of the losses they have sustained.

Since we have secured several large auction items in preparation for the Dinner we thought that perhaps we could auction them through an on-line auction program. If you are interested in bidding on any of the items listed below we need your email address so we can send you the link to the on-line auction program. If there is enough interest we will hold the on-line auction sometime later this summer. To participate in the on-line auction and have the chance to win any of the five items, send an email to and let me know that you want to be included. If there is enough interest, we will set up the program and send you an email with the link and instructions on how

to access the program. Following is a brief recap of the items we would be including in the on-line auction.

1. Golf for 4 at the following golf courses, Flint Hills, Wichita Country Club, Rolling Hills, Terradyne, and Reflection Ridge.
2. HVAC Replacement donated by Fahnstock HVAC valued at \$15,000.
3. WSU Basketball Coach for a day.
4. 2 Chiefs Regular Season Tickets for the 2020 Season w/Parking Pass and a signed Patrick Mahomes Jersey.
5. "The Angel's share and Devil's Cut: Tasting and Talking Spirits - Bourbon, Angels and Demons with the Rev. David Lies, Rev. Jarrod Lies and Rev. Brian Nelson.

We think this could be a lot of fun and still provide the opportunity for you to help provide some much needed funding to help the many victims of the corona virus with rent and utility assistance, a basic need of every family, a safe and secure shelter. We ask that you to be generous and consider making a special contribution this month in lieu of the Dinner, as your contribution is greatly needed. As always, 100% of your donation will be used directly for rent and utility assistance. None will be used to pay any administrative, operating or salary costs. What a great opportunity to help those who are really hurting at this time. Thanks!!!!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for R, a 56 year old man who lives by himself. R just finished chemo and radiation and is now facing surgery and chemo for 6 more months. He is self-employed and won't be able to work for some time.
- Please pray for L, a 35 year old mom with 5 young children. Her husband was recently deported and she is trying to provide for her family working at a restaurant.
- Please pray for B, a 30 year old mom with 4 children. B has been homeless living in a shelter. She just started a job at a nursing home and is moving into an apartment.

- Please pray for C, a 48 year old mom who lives with her 7 children. C is out of work and with the corona virus she will have difficulty finding employment anytime soon.
- Please pray for B, a 34 year old mom with 5 young children. B just had a baby in April and had to stop working. She has lost her job and will need to try to find a new one.
- Please pray for J, a 32 year old mom with one young child. She lost her job in April due to covid-19 and will struggle to find a new job any time soon.
- Please pray for A&E, a couple with 3 young children. Their 3 month old son recently passed away after 5 brain surgeries. A has been unable to work as they spent so much time in Kanas City Mercy Hospital. He has just now returned to work.

# Case Management During This Pandemic Time



by Sr. Becky Balthazor, ASC

I never would have guessed that I would be setting up a make shift office at home or having case management sessions over the phone and not in person. And yet, this is our current reality since the stay at home orders were issued for Covid-19. Despite the challenges, I am pleased we chose to improvise and not abruptly stop our services.

This is all well and good, but I found a profound shift occurred as I worked with the families after the onset of the pandemic. Case management sessions had always been based on a formulated plan with specific goals as our primary focus. I soon learned this particular way that we had worked together up until now would need to change. The first couple of weeks were very taxing for all involved. We were being invited to a new way of interacting and the content of case management took a new look.

No longer was our work focused on the concrete goals of a case plan; but rather, our work changed to how to best deal with the crises at hand. My families

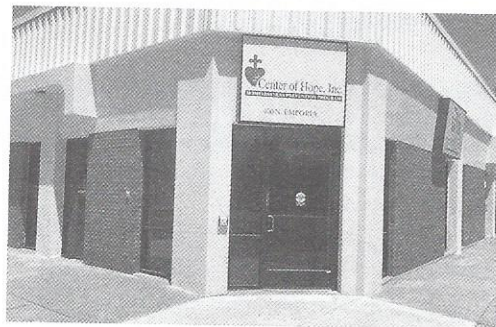
were already dealing with many challenges and now there were more. Just to name a few were, finding a regular routine in this new reality, figuring out the logistics of home schooling for their children, arranging for child care if they worked outside the home or adjusting to working at home with the added responsibilities, etc.

The first couple of weeks were very chaotic attempting to work through these added stressors; but with the passing of time I could see my families making remarkable improvements. Some of the coping skills they had learned earlier were now being used to establish a family routine that brought more normalcy to their daily lives. They were establishing times for the children to get up and go to bed, scheduled time to pick up school lunches and school packets, designated times for study and computer times, etc.

Not only were there home challenges during this time; there were work challenges that some of my clients encountered. In particular, two of the women I see are on the front lines of providing essential services to the public. Their days have been filled with extra-long hours and additional work responsibilities to keep the people they serve safe. Both women, in different ways have gone the extra mile and were recognized in their workplace. Lisa received a pay increase because of her diligence in keeping the workplace clean and Sandy was promoted to a managerial position because of her excellent attendance and willingness to fill the position that was vacated.

Yes, in so many ways this pandemic is making history; but so are my case management families. They are truly resilient and are rising to the occasion to provide for their families and our community. I am so blessed to be able to walk with them during these trying times.

## COH Building Renovation



The repair to the front of our office which was demolished when hit by a vehicle in January is now complete. We are very thankful to Dondlinger Construction which has done a tremendous job of putting our office back together.

The damage was pretty extensive which included structural damage. The repair work was like putting a puzzle back together as our office is a pretty old building with several building modifications made over the years so the reconstruction work was more challenging. Dondlinger Construction did an outstanding job of rising to the occasion to not only restore the building to its original design but also to make some minor improvements to the original design.

In addition, we are very thankful to an anonymous donor who contributed \$14,000 to the renovation which allowed us to widen the front door and add an automatic opener. This will be such a blessing to those coming to us for assistance who are in wheel chairs or using a walker.

We had several concrete sidewalk slabs replaced that had sunk over the years and were a real tripping hazard. We were also able to cut a walkway in the brick fence just to the north of our building which will reduce the distance our clients will have to walk to enter the building. This will be especially helpful on icy and snowy days when walking any distance can be treacherous.

We also upgraded our seating in the lobby area as some of our seating was ruined in the accident.

As always, God has a way of making bad things turn into good things to benefit His people. This truly has been an improvement to our office that will be a huge benefit for the safety of all those we serve. We are very thankful to both Dondlinger Construction and the anonymous donor who made this possible. Thanks!!!!

### CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

#### IN HONOR OF

- Sr. Becky Balthazor - Birthday
- Sr. Petronilla Diekemper
- Brenda Eck
- Fr. Ken Van Haverbeke
- Sr. Hildegard Leiker
- Jerry McDonald - 83rd Birthday
- Josh & Katie Shelburne
- Joe & Ann Warren & Family

#### IN MEMORY OF

- Keneth Meyer
- Mary Meyer
- Regis Schulte

# Center of Hope, Inc.

400 North Emporia  
Wichita KS 67202-2514

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 142  
Wichita, Kansas

Return Service Requested



*"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.

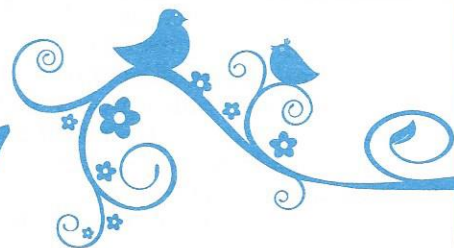
## VISION STATEMENT

Offering hope for tomorrow  
through assistance today

## CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 37 years of service to  
the Wichita community

# Because You Cared



For the past 9 months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,422 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 5,943 persons. \$967,932 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$148,037 was provided for 935 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 Apartment Association of Greater Wichita, St. Cecilia Parish, the Knights of Columbus Council #3114 Clonmel-Schulte, the Lions Club, and Kris Sims blessed us with 226 bags of food and supplies in the past three months.

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

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency

