



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

From Sadness to Hope

George Dinkel, Executive Director

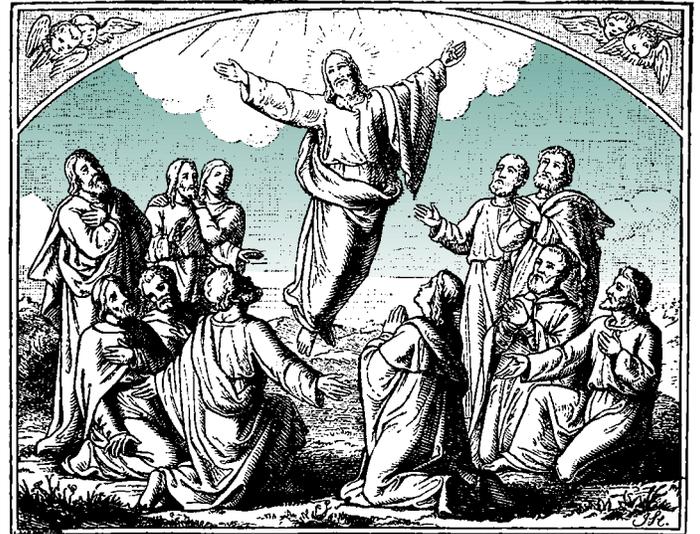
I have to admit that sometimes I feel a little sadness. I am very grateful for the service we are able to provide through the Center of Hope and see how it truly makes a tremendous impact on the lives of many poor families in Wichita who have no one to turn to and often have little hope left. But when I see the homeless out on the street, or the young man that was sleeping in our alley with the overnight temperatures below 15-degrees and I have to go check on him to just make sure he is OK and still alive, I feel like I need to do more, that something needs to be done. This is just not right. Or when I see a 40-year-old man, who is paralyzed on his right side from a stroke, push himself in his wheel chair in 20-degree temperatures, into the wind, with only the use of his left hand for almost 2 miles just to make it to our office for help so he won't be homeless again. I think this is wrong. He should be in a nursing home but refuses as he doesn't want to be an invalid. He was homeless before he got into this apartment and had to spend one night in the frigid temperatures as he could not make it to the shelter before it closed for the night. He wound up in the hospital with frostbite. This truly makes me sad. Or when I see a 66-year-old woman who has been living in her apartment with no electricity when temperatures drop to below freezing because her Social Security benefits were reduced to \$250 this month, this is not right. When I see a single, pregnant mom who is in danger of being evicted from her home as she is on the way to give birth to her child, doing everything she can to care and provide for her family, and I hear of the barbaric abortion laws that

are being passed in this country, I become sad, this simply is not right.

I can begin to understand the statement God makes in Genesis Chapter 6 when He says that "When the Lord saw how great was man's wickedness on earth;.....He regretted that He had made man on the earth, and His Heart was grieved." But still, there is hope, as God shows His love for us by sending His only Son, Jesus to save us. (John 3:16) How can this be? Did God have a change of heart? Perhaps God sees not only what we are but what we could be. Perhaps the change in heart isn't so much a change in God's heart,

The more I read scripture and the writings of the Saints, the more I am becoming aware of the tremendous benefits that helping the poor has on our souls and our spiritual lives.

but a change in my heart? St Paul asks who can separate us from the love of Christ, "Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8)



Really, the only thing that can separate us from God's love is ourselves. Only we can do it by turning away from Him by not opening our hearts to His love, by turning away from Him when He comes to us in the poor. I remember when President Kennedy challenged us by saying "Ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country." Perhaps we can challenge ourselves in a spiritual sense with these same words. Ask not what God can do for you but ask what you can do for God—how can we fulfill His will?

There is a great need for your help. We cannot give up. There is a battle going on and we all need to take up our arms and decide who we are going to follow. We need to become Fully Alive (John 10). Our weapons are prayer, fasting, sacrifice, alms, helping our neighbor, being active in Church, standing up for what is right. The more I read scripture and the writings of the Saints, the more I am becoming aware of the tremendous benefits that helping the poor has on our souls and our spiritual lives. Although it is true that there is much sadness, there still is also great "Hope" because with Jesus as our leader we cannot fail. Please keep all those we serve in your prayers, their needs are great.

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

*sponsored by the
Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

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George Dinkel

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2019 Center of Hope Dinner

The Center of Hope is hosting the Annual Benefit Dinner on Sunday, April 29, 2019 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 "There's No Place Like Home" from the Wizard of Oz. We will have life-size Wizard of Oz figures for pictures. The event includes a raffle, a silent auction and a live

really great items including a dinner with the Bishop, a one-hour ride on a Stearman biplane, vacation "get-a-ways," country club golf outings, WSU Coach for a day, Royals/Chiefs tickets and many other spectacular items. For all you "Dorothys" out there, feel free to wear your ruby red slippers.

To top off the evening event we will sell keys to a locked treasure chest containing treasures valued in excess of \$2,000.

We would especially like to recognize our Dinner underwriters: Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Cargill, House of Schwan, Learjet, Legacy Bank, Mill Creek Lumber, Newman University, Skyward Credit Union, Star Lumber, Spirit Aero Systems, and Warren Homes. We sincerely appreciate their contributions to make this event special.



We look forward to seeing you at the Dinner. Reservations

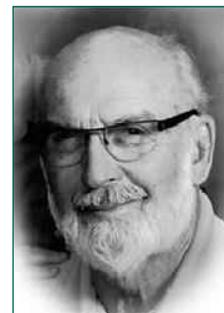
are required. Please register early so we have a place reserved especially for you. You can register by calling 267-3999 or mailing your registration to: Center of Hope, 400 N Emporia, Wichita KS 67202. A copy of the Dinner invitation can be downloaded from our website: centerofhopeinc.org.

In Memory of Two of Our Beloved Volunteers

I am very sad to report the loss of two of our Center of Hope Volunteers. I feel so privileged that I had the opportunity to not only work with them as volunteers but more importantly to come to know them as friends.

Frank Kastor

I am very sad to report that Frank Kastor recently passed away. Frank was a long-time volunteer for the Center of Hope who touched not only the lives of many of the poor families in our community in danger of being homeless but also the lives of the Center of Hope staff and volunteers. His humble way of working with the people and his playful wit will always be remembered. He was always kind and considerate. He will be greatly missed.



Jeannie Rosenhamer

I am also very sad to report of the loss of Jeannie Rosenhamer. Jeannie was a long-time volunteer / friend of Center of Hope who helped in many different areas of our ministry from distributing food through the Prairie Land Food Program, to completing intakes for those in need, to taking calls on Monday for those seeking assistance to suppling bread for our food pantry. Jeannie always had a great faith. She had a special love for others, especially the unborn and would do anything she could to help those truly in need. She has been an inspiration to all of us at the Center of Hope. She will be greatly missed.



These pleas from the poor give vivid testimony to the plight of many in our midst and represent the urgent need of so many who come to the Center of Hope. Following are excerpts from clients:



The Cry of the Poor

- *I just got off the phone with a mother who has a child. She is a single parent with no other resources. She has been doing okay until this winter and her Westar bills have been high for December and January. She owes a total of \$467. She was embarrassed and said she has never had to ask for help but she works at a restaurant and they have been sending her home early and she is not working as much.*
- *I have been calling for three weeks trying to get ahold of you guys to make an appointment with my eviction notice and utility bills notices, but I know call volume is huge. I am six-months pregnant, my husband left a month ago and left me with all the overdue bills and no support, and I am working as much as I can to get caught up, but it's overwhelming. I am seeing if there's any way to make an appointment so I can come talk to someone about my situation. Please, let me know ASAP. I am working as much as possible.*
- *We need services to support. I have two adopted grandchildren who are high needs and I'm widowed. We need help with utilities and food*
- *Unable to work due to medical issues. I have recently filed for disability. I just have no income. I am really embarrassed but I need the help. Thank you!*
- *I was reaching out to you in regards to a patient referral. The patient is currently in PT due to stroke. He had been working side jobs for the past few years but has been unable to keep his utilities on and they were disconnected. He currently has an outstanding \$1200 balance on Westar which is a very large amount that he cannot make up in the foreseeable future. He is pending to discharge next Thursday.*
- *I am homeless and pregnant. I was wondering if I can get help paying to rent a room for \$250. So I can get off the streets. Please contact me.*
- *I had submitted a Project Deserve application due to a loss in hours at my current job, my hours have now been cut again and I have a 9-year-old son with Cerebral Palsy and I don't want our electricity shut off because I can't pay the bill. I can't even make my rent payment and I have been looking for another job but it's hard with limited nursing for my son. Could you please see if my application has been processed so I know what my next steps are. Thank you and God Bless.*
- *I am needing help with paying my rent or else I will be kicked out with nowhere to go. I have a 5-year-year as well.*
- *I am looking for help with a much needed deposit on an apartment. My two kids and I have been homeless since around the end of June. I have struggled every month since trying to find us another place to call home, this month I found that place.*
- *I have fallen on hard times and would like to know if someone could help with my rent this month? My son has been in and out of the hospital because of his asthma, which has made it hard for me to work. Thanks!*

Did you know?

Of those who are homeless in Wichita, 29% are suffering from substance abuse or addictions. 34% have mental illness. 19% are victims of domestic violence and 11% are veterans.

A Prayer

Attributed to St Francis of Assisi

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in this world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done,
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

IN HONOR OF

Melanie & Brady Boyd
Center of Hope Staff, Board
of Directors, Volunteers and
their families
Ed Deimeke
Jim Daniels
George Dinkel
Jane & Joe Farmer
Fr Ken Van Haverbeke
Jon Lewis
Ella Mai McGuire
Maureen & Nick Moeder
A.J. Orth
Emma Orth
Hannah Orth
Olivia & Dan Vogt
Robert & Mary Waddill

IN MEMORY OF

Charles & Teresa Beckett
Daniel H. Beckman
Mary Ann Farmer
Msgr. John Gilsean
J. Fred Hambricht
Frank Kastor
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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 35 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because You Cared

For the past seven months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,472 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 6,358 persons. \$959,566 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$166,187 was provided for 1,055 households.

In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food, bicycles and personal care products from our store-room, 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, Jim & Lois Daniels, Judy Dusek, St. Francis Parish, Camilla Hartman, Jill Hirschler, Jane Huie, Intrust Bank, Sally Liebst, Partners for Wichita, Kris Sims, Larry & Linda Webb, John & Glenna Weir and an anonymous donor blessed us with 729 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

