



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

Peace, Joy, Love

Christmas season is upon us and it is always such a special time of peace, joy and love. The pure simplicity, humility and poverty of Jesus being born in the stable somehow deeply touches our soul and our being. It is true that just the Birth of Jesus, the Birth of our Savior is a great source of joy and peace, but there is still something more tugging at our soul. The humility, the poverty and the pure simplicity of the Birth of Jesus in a stable with the most pure and humble Virgin Mary and St. Joseph at His side somehow moves us to a place outside of ourselves, a place of freedom and a certain joyfulness, peacefulness and the warmth of a love like none other.

I really cannot seem to replicate this with anything that I experience in this world. Perhaps that is why Jesus told us that we are in this world, but we are not of this world. Sometimes people seek this feeling of joy and happiness through the things of the world, but I find that these joys do not last and in the end really bring us a certain feeling of anxiety.

The early fathers of the Church would go to live in a hermitage to leave the world and have more time to devote to the love and adoration of our Lord. For this is truly the only thing that will give us the peace we are all striving for deep within our souls, the peace of being united with God through love.

Many of those coming to us for assistance are living under tremendous burdens and don't seem to have any peace. Their lives are a constant life of anxiety and drama. We recently



helped a mom with one child who is a victim of domestic violence. Her arm was broken in 3 places and several bones in her face were broken as she was so badly beaten. Her husband has recently become involved in drugs and has become much more violent. He is not in the household at this time and she doesn't know where he is, but probably fears his return. She has no income coming in and is not able to work at this time. We also helped a 65-year-old who is suffering from Stage 4 cancer. She had a stroke and has no transportation. She does receive Social Security disability income of \$729 but it is not sufficient to cover all her bills. Her electric service was in danger of being turned off and her landlord said she would be evicted if it was turned off.

But even the difficulties, burdens

and tremendous anxieties being experienced by those we serve, really cannot prevent the feeling of peace, joy and love that comes from Jesus. Just as He was born in a humble, simple, poor stable to the Virgin Mary who is the personification of humility, Jesus will come to our souls when they are deeply rooted in the virtues of poverty, humility and simplicity. I am always touched by the words a priest says just before the Consecration of the Eucharist when he prays "by the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity."

In paradise there are many Saints who never gave alms on earth, their poverty justified them. There are many Saints who never mortified their bodies by fasting, or wearing hair shirts, their bodily infirmities excused them. There are many Saints too who were not virgins, their vocation was otherwise. But in Paradise there is no Saint who was not humble. (Excerpt from Humility of Heart)

Unless we become as little children we shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Those who are humble as little children are greater in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matt 18) Jesus humbly comes to all of us as a little Child on Christmas, Jesus comes to each of us when we have the humility of a little child in our hearts. "Learn from Me because I am humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt 11:29). Merry Christmas!!!

George Dinkel, Executive Director

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

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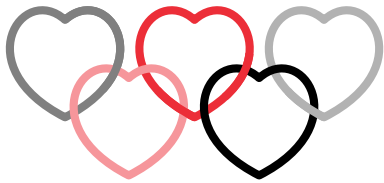
Janice Yaeger

Most of us are dismayed with the tremendous increase in prices for everything, especially our food costs and gas. Imagine how difficult the current situation is for these clients and others who have little or no financial resources.

Please Pray For:

- ★ H, a 24-year-old mom with three young children. H only made \$249 at her job this past month and owes almost \$1000 on her electric bill.
- ★ T, a 50-year-old who currently has no income. She has had multiple surgeries after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She was not able to pay her rent of \$675 this month.
- ★ D, a 35-year-old mom with two children. She owes \$1309 on her utilities and her only source of income at this time is \$403 of cash assistance from DCF. She really needs help with daycare before she can maintain a job.
- ★ G, a 35-year-old mom with two children. G has been unable to work due to health issues. She is behind two months on her rent which is \$460 per month.
- ★ S, a 29-year-old mom with four children. S lost her job due to daycare problems and has had no income coming in for the past month. She owes \$1075 on her rent and is in danger of being evicted and she owes \$1046 on her utility bills.
- ★ S, a 34-year-old mom with one child. S does work and made \$934 this past month and is current on her bills except for the \$1718 she owes on her water bill as she had a leak. She will not be able to recover from this based on her income.
- ★ E, a 25-year-old mom with two young children and is currently expecting a child. E has been homeless for the past three months and all of her belongings are packed in her car.
- ★ L, a 29-year-old mom living with her six young children. Her only source of income is Social Security disability income of \$841 which barely covers her monthly rent of \$530 per month. She owes \$2789 on her electricity bill.
- ★ M, a 68-year-old lady who is suffering from multiple health issues including cancer. She was just recently released from the hospital. Her only source of income at this time is Social Security disability income of \$583 which barely covers her rent of \$602.
- ★ B, a 37-year-old mom with one child. B missed work this past month due to Covid and only made \$786. She could not pay her rent of \$725 and the eviction had already been filed. With the reinstatement fee and late fees she needed \$1080 to stay in her apartment.
- ★ R, a 23-year-old mom with one child. R lost her job as she had car issues. She only made \$419 this past month and owes \$924 on her rent. She just started a job that is near her house that she can walk to.
- ★ S, a victim of domestic violence who suffers from various health issues and has a high risk pregnancy. She also has a son who suffers from asthma.
- ★ K who lives by herself after a domestic violence incident which resulted in the incarceration of her abuser. She was homeless and as a result is currently suffering from kidney failure. She currently has no income and owes two month's rent of \$624 per month.
- ★ D, a 29-year-old mom with two children and is currently seven months pregnant. She can only work limited hours and owes \$876 on her rent and \$700 on her electric bill.
- ★ H, a 40-year-old mom with one child who has been off work due to mental health issues. She is currently homeless and trying to get back into an apartment with her 16-year-old son.
- ★ A, a 39-year-old mom with one child. A was just released from the hospital and suffers from multiple health issues. She is filing for Social Security disability, but her only source of income at this time is DCR Cash assistance of \$425 per month. Her rent alone is \$525 per month and she currently owes over \$2000 to her landlord.
- ★ J, a 45-year-old who was working three jobs and lost two of them and is now falling behind on her utility bills. She owes \$1769 on her utilities, and her water has been turned off.
- ★ L, a 40-year-old mom with two children who lost her job two months ago. She owes \$2970 on her rent.
- ★ M, a 34-year-old mom with two children. M is currently recovering and unable to work after being severely burned in a domestic violence incident. She owes two month's rent which is \$300 per month and \$1200 on her electric bill which has been disconnected.
- ★ S, a 29-year-old mom with five children. Her only source of income is from cleaning houses and she made \$300 this past month. She owes \$600 on her rent and \$800 on her electric bill which has been turned off.
- ★ R, a 61-year-old who was recently released from the hospital after being in for over a week. The company he was working for closed and he currently has no income and owes \$1935 on his rent.
- ★ H, a 28-year-old with three children. H lost her job because of her son who is suffering from a severe behavioral disorder. The immediate attention he required caused her to lose her job.
- ★ R, a 54-year-old who is currently homeless and living in her car. Her only income this past month was \$250.

Center of Hope Dinner 2023



The Center of Hope is hosting the Annual Benefit Dinner on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at the Newman University Dugan Library & Conference Center. The theme for the evening will be *The Hopeful Games* where patrons compete for cash and prizes, but the real winners are the families we help to stay in their homes. The event will include a VIP Reception, great drinks and truly exquisite dinner. We will have a number of live auction items and some really nice silent auction items on hand. Invitations will go out in March but you can register early by calling 316-867-3461. Hope to see you there to raise money to help our many poor neighbors living in our community.

COH Recognition Gifts

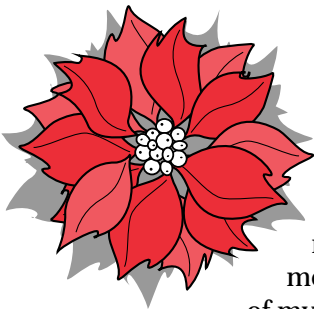
In Honor of

Catholic Care Center Senior Living Residents
Kelly Collier Family
Lois Daniels
Donna Dickerson
Paul Herber Family
Shepherds Crossing Residents Birthdays
Jay Tully Family
Jeff Tully

In Memory of

Dave & Ruth Aldag
Charles & Teresa Beckett
Darlene Burke
Betty Butler
Mendell "Mitch" Butler
Jim Daniels
Donna Dickerson
Sue Haug
Denise Karst
Katherine Kincheloe
John Quenzer
Jim & Nancy Schaefer
Tom Schippers
Glenna Weir

Truly this is a special time for Thanksgiving. I thought I might share a couple of the messages of thanksgiving we have received from those we were able to serve through your most kind generosity.



"Thank you so much!! I don't believe I could ever show how much I appreciate your help. I want you to know I'm no better than anyone else but I never thought in a million years that my health would somehow keep me from not being able to take care of myself. I was lucky enough to attend college on a full scholarship playing baseball and after college then semi pro into my early 30's. I'd see homeless people and think why would they want to pick that type of life style. You've kept me safe and now warm for winter. Not having to live in a homeless shelter or not knowing about tomorrow or what comes next I'm very grateful. God Bless you and again thank you so much for helping me!!"

"I was recently given help from the Center with my rental deposit. This help allows me to move into a safe drug free environment. After struggling to overcome substance abuse, this gift is helping me to be in a safer place so that I can accomplish my goals. Thank you so much for all of your help."

"I just want to thank you SO much for your help and patience with me. I am so very grateful for you and your team and all the work you are doing to help individuals like myself. I know I don't just speak for myself, but your work is never going unnoticed. I am glad God has placed your business on this earth to serve in ways that you are able to. Great things are never easy however, you are doing it so well! I am thankful. I see the work and have had the impact that you have on lives. Thank you so very much again with all love."

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 39 years of service to
the Wichita community



Because You Cared

For the past three months, the Center of Hope prevented 889 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,308 persons. \$410,998 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$125,678 was provided for 675 households.

We would like to recognize St. Cecilia Parish and Kris Sims for their continuing contributions of food and supplies.

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



Editor, George Dinkel

Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill