



## Broken Hearts

*By George Dinkel,  
Executive Director*

**T**hrough our little ministry of homeless prevention we see many people come to us for assistance that are enduring extreme stress in their lives. Stress from not being able to pay their bills, stress from not knowing if their electricity is going to be turned off tomorrow, stress from fear of losing their home, stress from concerns for their children, stress from loss of jobs. As difficult of a burden as this stress can be, sometimes the deeper pain is from broken hearts. Hearts broken from death of family members, hearts broken from spouses leaving, hearts broken from domestic violence, hearts broken from seeing family members in addictions.

I thought that it was interesting that the word "heart" is used from 791 to 963 times in the Bible depending upon which translation you are using. It is a gateway to our spiritual life and its importance is reflected in its repeated use in Scripture. Although a broken heart is one of the most difficult sorrows to experience or to endure, it does somehow bring us close to Jesus. Psalm 51:17 tells how God is drawn to a broken and contrite heart.

We recently helped a 29-year-old mom who is expecting twins. She has no income coming in and realizes she has no way to provide for the children. She came to us to get help on her electricity which had been turned off. Her heart was hurting so much as she told us that one of the babies was not alive and that she would have to put the other up for adoption. Another 37-year-old mom with seven children came to us needing help with her rent payment. She had to stop working in June to care for her two-year-old son who was diagnosed with brain cancer. He only has a short time to live. The husbands of both of these families had left; they were all alone. The pain in their hearts is beyond comprehension.

When you break something precious and valuable in your home, it typically breaks very quickly, in an instant, but to put it back together takes a long time. So it is with our heart. A young mom with several children who was experiencing marital problems told of how her son came to her complaining his heart was hurting. When she asked him how it was hurting he told her, "You know, like when you draw a heart on a piece of paper and then you tear the paper in half."



Scripture tells us of how Jesus suffered the agony in the Garden. We can only contemplate what these sufferings truly entailed. Clearly the upcoming agony of the crucifixion and the burden of all the sins of all men and women for all ages was a part of this agony. Perhaps a portion of this agony in the Garden was from all the souls He saw that would refuse His gift of forgiveness and love, those who would choose to be eternally separated from Him. Truly the crucifixion was a horrific thing and often brings

us to tears and a deep sorrow because we can see and imagine the terrible physical sufferings Christ endured. But it is more difficult for us to see the suffering Jesus endured in His heart which was wounded by our separation from Him and our refusal to accept His love. Most probably this was a much greater suffering than the physical sufferings He endured. We may never fully understand or comprehend this love.

During this month of June we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Maybe we could offer a little sorrow in our hearts to help carry the burden of so many of our dear neighbors who are silently suffering in their hearts, burdens which are too much for one person to bear. It truly would be a very special gift to unite our hearts with the Heart of Jesus in sharing these burdens, in prayer, in sacrifice, in love.

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

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# Annual Dinner Blessings

We would like to thank all those who helped make the Center of Hope Annual Dinner such a huge success this year. We would especially like to recognize Skyward Credit Union who is our corporate sponsor this year and Joe Warren of Warren Homes who coordinated the event.

The highlight of the evening was the short presentation made by Goldie Rogers who is in Sr. Becky's case management program. Goldie is a single grandparent taking care of her four small grandchildren. Two of these children are special needs children and all have attitudes that require a lot of her time and attention. Goldie herself struggles with health issues and

is on several medications.

Goldie has to get up every morning at 4:00 am to take her daughter to work and then take the children to school. She was at the lowest point of her life struggling with overwhelming debt, house repairs and the stress of daily life with the children when she entered Sr. Becky's case management program.

Through this program she has been able to get control of her debts, create a budget, start a small savings account, apply for a scholarship, obtain reliable transportation and start back in school. There are many days Goldie has shed tears while striving to achieve these accomplishments and is so thankful to Sr. Becky who has become her biggest support system.

Her short presentation brought tears to the eyes of most of those attending the Dinner. Please plan to attend the Dinner next year, it truly is a time to remember.



## Families We Have Served

- Please pray for J, a 40 year old dad who live with his two teenage children. J is working at a fast food restaurant to provide for his family. The wife left over 15 years ago and J has been raising the two children on his own. J never had a dad and he wanted his children to have a father in their lives. It hasn't been easy for him but it was the right thing to do.
- Please pray for V, a 37 year old mom with 7 children. Her two year old son has brain cancer and is not expected to live long. She had to stop working in June.
- Please pray for G, a 40 year old mom who lives with her 6 children. G's husband passed away 6 years ago. She has no income coming in at this time and owes \$650 on her rent and over \$1300 on her utility bills.
- Please pray for A, a 29 year old mom who is expecting twins. One of the twins has passed away and the other she will put up for adoption after birth. She does not really want to do this, but currently has no income and no way to support the child. She currently owes \$1,423 on her Westar bill.
- Please pray for J, a 26 year old mom with 3 young children. Her husband recently left her and she currently has no income coming in but is looking for a job. She owes \$1700 on her utility bills.
- Please pray for G, a 40 year old mom with 6 children. Her husband passed away 6 years ago and currently she has no income coming in. She owes almost \$2000 on her rent and utility bills.
- Please pray for B, a 25 year old mom who lives with her two young children. B does work but recently broke her ankle and is unable to work at this time. She is getting behind on her bills and currently owes \$1300 on past rent and utility bills.

## RECOGNITION GIFTS

### IN MEMORY OF

Martha Flaherty  
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Sr. Stella Rosenhamer, ASC  
Lee Ann Stout  
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Ted Toon

### IN HONOR OF

Sr. Becky Balthazor, ASC

Rev. Kenneth VanHaverbeke

# Matching Gift

The Center of Hope was notified by an anonymous donor that *they will match donations made to the Center of Hope up to \$10,000.* These donations need to be received by the end of this year. This is a great opportunity for your donation to have a double benefit. If you donate \$100 it really becomes \$200 by this matching gift. During the summer months, our donations typically slow down and the demand for our homeless prevention service continues to increase as utility bills rise during the hot summer months. By the end of summer we are usually very low on funds and struggle to meet the needs of all those coming to us for help. This matching gift program can make a great impact on us being able to serve those in need throughout the summer months. If you would like to make a donation that will be matched, just send your check in the enclosed envelope made out to Center of Hope, Inc and write “matching donation” on the description line at the bottom of the check. We are very appreciative of the anonymous donor that is willing to make this matching contribution and for your most kind generosity by participating in this program.

## SPOTLIGHT ON CASE MANAGEMENT

- ★ Sheree, a case management graduate, has paid her court costs and reinstatement fees and is now a legal driver. She works the night shift at a local nursing facility as a CMA/CNA and has paid off all her student loans. She is really doing well!!!
- ★ Stephanie, a case management graduate, has secured a job at a local hospital as a nurse assistant and is keeping faithful to her recovery plan. She admitted that she had a little bump in the road with her recovery but now is back “walking the walk.” She knows she is in a good place and doing so much better.



## 2018 *Ride for Hope* Recipient

Kattie Dingman, one of Sr. Becky’s case management clients, has suffered through some difficult times in her life. She is a 37-year-old single mother who was diagnosed with brain cancer along with having an aneurysm. She is now in remission and cancer-free. She has two sons and is working hard to turn her life around. She has been substance-free for almost two years.

Kattie is a graduate of His Helping Hands Fresh Hope program and currently is enrolled at Butler County Community College with plans to attend WSU to obtain her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. She is a volunteer at Bethel Life Center where she mentors other young women. She was recently chosen the 2018 Ride for Hope Recipient, which provided her with a refurbished car from Auto Craft of Wichita, one year’s insurance coverage and one year of free gasoline vouchers from Farmers Insurance. Kattie received this donated car as a surprise for Mother’s Day.

- ★ Shontae passed her LPN State Boards exam and is now officially a licensed LPN. Congratulations Shontae!!!!
- ★ The group of women participating in the traffic fine program have put in an accumulated 510 hours of community service since the first of the year. They volunteer at a variety of agencies in the Wichita area including Rise up for Youth (Urban League), Open Door, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Break Through Club and the Center of Hope, and more.
- ★ Since January the traffic fine participants volunteering at the Center of Hope have completed 17 plastic mats which are distributed to the homeless during the year.

# 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.

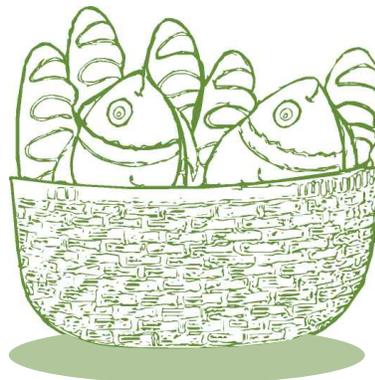
## VISION STATEMENT

Offering hope for tomorrow  
through assistance today

## CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 34 years of service to  
the Wichita community

# Because You Cared



For the past nine months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,802 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 7,035 persons. \$1,030,020 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$277,793 was provided for 1,687 households. In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food, bicycles and 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 Jim & Rhonda Bevilacqua, Melissa Cohlma, Betty Didier, Judy Dusek & Via Christi St. Frances Nurses, Chris Sims, Kyle Jacobs, Knights of Columbus #3114, Landlord Association Greater Wichita, Vernon & Paulette May, Marcia Moralez, St. Cecilia Parish, Mary Santiago, St. George Orthodox Church, and an anonymous donor blessed us with 894 bags of food and supplies in the past nine months.

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

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency

