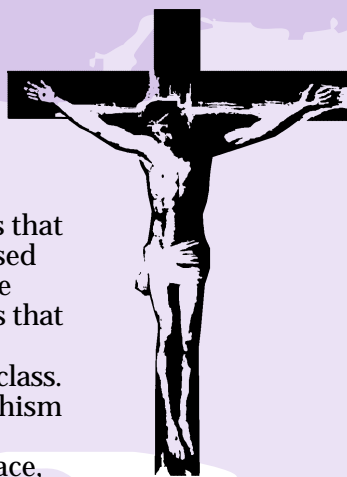




The Center of Hope, Inc. is a homelessness prevention program and 100% of your contribution is used in direct service to the poor.

The Gift



In Scripture, the first beatitude tells us that those who are poor in spirit are blessed. To be blessed means to be made holy; which is simply keeping the commandments. It is in keeping the commandments that we truly love God. (1 John 5:3)

Recently I was preparing a little talk for our RCIA class. While preparing for this class, I reviewed the Catechism to see what information was provided on the 7th Commandment – Thou shalt not steal. On the surface, the letter of the law, this seems pretty simple and easy to comply with. Do not steal. In reality though, there is a lot more involved. The Catechism does an excellent job of demonstrating how Jesus came to help us understand what this commandment truly entails, the spirit of the law. The information provided on this commandment demonstrates our responsibility to come to the aid of the poor and the Church's unending love for the poor throughout history. There are numerous citations included explaining our duty to the poor such as: "Love for the poor is not compatible with love of riches" (CC 2445); "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from

This infinite love of Jesus demands a response on our part. But how can we respond to this great act of love?

them and deprive them of life" (CC2446); "God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor" (CC2443); "It is by what we have done for the poor that Jesus will recognize His chosen ones" (CC2443).

Clearly Jesus taught us to live by the spirit of the commandments which are to lead us to love God above all things and to truly love our neighbors. When Jesus became man He lived a life of poverty. He who was rich became poor so that by His poverty, we might become rich (2 Corinth 8:9). He owned nothing and asked nothing of us, but instead gave us His all - not only bringing healing to the sick and teaching us how to live a holy life, but even dying on the cross, sacrificing His own body for our salvation. This infinite love of Jesus demands a response on our part. But how can we respond to this great act of love? How can we imitate Him?

Continued on pg. 2

Center of Hope Benefit Dinner - May 6

The Center of Hope is hosting the Annual Benefit dinner on Saturday, May 6, 2017 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 pm with a wine and beer reception for all guests.

The theme for the evening is *"The Thrill of Hope...is Love."* The event includes a raffle, a silent auction and a live auction with some really great items including golf outings, dinner with the Bishop, an HVAC replacement / installation, a one-day longhorn cattle trail drive on real horses, WSU Coach for a day, Royals / Chiefs games and many other great items.

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

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.

We would especially like to recognize our corporate sponsor,

Fahnestock HVAC and our dinner underwriters: Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Frankenbery & Johnson DDS, Skyward Credit Union, House of Schwan, Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. and Newman University. We sincerely appreciate their contributions to make this event special.



COH Board of Directors:

Chair: Larry Damm
Vice-Chair: J.V. Johnston
Secretary: Sr. Renee Kirmer, ASC
Treasurer: Jennifer Gantz

Board Members:

Johnnie Bell
Daniel Giroux
Sr. Maria Hughes, ASC
Christopher Magana
Tom McGrath
Rev. Paul Oborny
Scot Pennington
Sr. Janet Rowley, ASC
Sally Simon
Collin Stieben
Curtis Warren
Joe Warren
John Weir

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
Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC

Volunteers: ASC Associates

Maralene Balthazor
Bill Bergman
Mary Corrigan
Victoria Denton
Jerry Dooley
Brenda Eck
Rebecca Elpers
Jerry Ewald
Martha Flaherty
Vicky Glennon
Donna Harris
Debra Hartman
Connie Hotze
Kyle Jacobs
Andrew Jaramillo
Carl Johnson
Jan Kirby
Rachel Lewis
Vernon May
Jim McAdam
Elizabeth McLean
Sheryl Mengelkoch
Cynthia Mertens
Carol Meyer
Rosemary Miano
Barb Mohnney
Vanessa O'Brien
Lori Rathert
Cheryl Reichenberger
Sr. Tarcisia Roths, ASC
Mary Santiago
Treva Schaffer
Jacqueline Schmidt
Sally Simon
Elisabeth Sims
Cathy Strecker
Mary Jobe Waddill
Barbara Wattman
Marilyn Wells
Amber Wilson
Carolyn Winn
Patricia Yates

Continued from pg. 1

How can we take on a spirit of poverty and help bring life to others in need?

In ancient times when one came into the presence of a king, one would bring him a gift. When Jesus was born, the three kings brought Jesus gifts as they recognized Him to be a truly great King. They brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. When we die and stand before Jesus at the time of our judgement, what gifts will we bring Him: in His Kingship; in recognition and gratitude for His sacrifice on the cross for us; in return for His infinite love? We won't be able to give Him our money or our prized possessions. Could we perhaps give Him the same gifts the three Kings gave Him: gold, frankincense and myrrh?

We could bring Jesus the gold of our soul which is pure, holy and humble. We could bring Jesus the frankincense of our prayers, sacraments and supplications we have of-

fered to Him during our lifetime. We could bring Him the myrrh of our sacrifices, penances, and all the times we have come to the aid of those in need, especially through our donations to the poor (alms) that we have given throughout our life out of love for Him. What more precious gift could we give Him?

There will always be a great need for your help. Families who are struggling to pay their rent may be without a home without your help. Please search your hearts to find God's mercy and compassion planted deeply within and come to the aid of our dear neighbors in need. It is the perfect gift for our King.

We thank you all for you most kind generosity to our little ministry of homeless prevention. May God's Blessings and Peace be with you always!!!!

George Dinkel, Executive Director

Please Pray for Our Clients



It's hard to imagine the complications facing individuals and families who experience loss of income through job terminations or health issues or other unexpected traumas. Here are sketches of the dire situations facing some of our clients recently seen at Center of Hope. To sustain them, we ask for your prayers for them.

- Please pray for E, a 25-year-old mom who lives with her three young children. E lost her job two months ago and currently has no income. She has an eviction notice and owes \$412 on her utility bills. She really needs to find a job soon.
- Please pray for R, a 22-year-old mom who lives with her five-year-old son. R has been unable to work since she was involved in a car accident last year. She tried to work for a call center but was unable to continue due to her medical status. She currently has no income.
- Please pray for T, a 60-year-old man who lives with his 58-year-old wife. T is currently on short term disability due to a liver disease. His wife had to quit her job to take care of him. His children are trying to help with the bills, but even with their help he doesn't have sufficient income to cover his monthly expenses. He is still hopeful he will be able to return to work.
- Please pray for R, a 36-year-old mom who lives with her four children. R currently has no income. She has a heart condition and has just recently been diagnosed with cancer. Her husband was deported to Mexico. She has no family living here and does not speak English. Currently she has no way to continue to pay her bills and it will be very difficult for her to find employment.
- Please pray for M, a 47-year-old mom who lives with her 14-year-old son. M recently lost her job because her car broke down and she was not able to make it to work. Her only source of income is child support of \$410 which does cover her monthly rent payment but gives her no money for utilities and other expenses. She currently owes \$420 on her Westar bill.
- Please pray for J, a 58-year-old lady who lives by herself and has no income. J lost her house because she was not able to pay her property tax. The house was worth significantly more than the outstanding property taxes, but she was unable to sell it before it was auctioned by the City as it had some foundation issues which she could not pay to repair. She currently is renting an apartment. She has no transportation and was so excited when we gave her a bicycle which will help her immensely in finding a job.
- Please pray for R, a 68-year-old man who lives by himself. R uses space heaters to stay warm and his Westar bill this month was \$301 which is almost as much as his rent of \$400. His only source of income is Social Security of \$735 per month which is not sufficient to cover this high utility bill along with his regular monthly expenses. He currently owes \$573 on his Westar bill which is in danger of being turned off.

ASC Associate Develops Mat Project for Homeless

Clients in the case management program and volunteers from Center of Hope have begun a new ministry: recycling plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. Clients needing community service hours toward resolving their traffic fines issues and volunteers, when not busy with clients, who wanted to be of further service, have already completed several of these mats.

Both veteran “crocheters” and those just learning the skill are getting very creative with the use of colors and patterns. One client, who has a brother living on the streets, worked in a white cross and the word, PEACE, into her mat.

Sr. Becky was aware of the mats program, which was



developed by Nancy Diepenbrock, Western Area Co-Coordinator for the ASC Associates, the lay branch of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, and approached her about introducing the program at COH.

“It’s a wonderful reuse of plastic bags, which might normally just end up in the trash,” said Nancy, who presented workshops for the clients and volunteers. Over 1,000 bags are needed to complete one mat, which is usually three-feet by six-feet.

These mats are easily rinsed off, do not collect dirt, and keep those who use them dry. Nancy takes them to Community Connections, a volunteer group ministering to the homeless in Wichita, where she is able to distribute them to some very grateful homeless persons.



SPOTLIGHT ON CASE MANAGEMENT SUCCESSSES

Brittany has made many steps in changing her past lifestyle. She most recently received her one-year sobriety coin.

Kristen, a former client (who received her Bachelor’s Degree during her time in the case management program) wrote that she continues to enjoy her work and just received a raise. She works as an addiction counselor in Olathe, KS.

Penny, who shared her story at a recent Center of Hope benefit dinner, stopped by to say she is “doing great.” She recently was promoted to store manager. She also bought a new, used car and is driving legally after a long stent of having unreliable transportation and a suspended license.

★ **Congratulations to each of these incredible women.** ★
We knew you could do it! ★

CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF:

Charles & Teresa Beckett	Teresa Hinders
Georgia Mae Bradfield	Victoria Jewell
Josh Cape	Ray Letourneau
Craig Dunlop	Jane & Bud Means
Mary Ann Farmer	Stella Meyer
Msgr John Gilsenan	Bill Simon
Jeanne Gordan	Shelby Kent Smith
Cindy Gross	Paul Vader

IN HONOR OF:

Darrell & Judy Ary
Sr. Jeannine Bahr - Birthday
Pat Baker - Birthday
Larry Damm
Rev. Ed Deimeke
Joe & Jayne Farmer
Stephen Gulgleta
James & Kerri Hild - 9th Wedding Anniversary
Rev. Leon J Kerschen
Larry Klenda
Mary Lou Lauer
Ella Mae McGuire

Center of Hope, Inc.

400 North Emporia
Wichita KS 67202-2514

Return Service Requested

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



“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 six months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,056 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 5,702 persons. \$759,598 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$310,433 was provided for 1,872 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 to all the parishes, business, and individuals who brought blankets, canned and boxed food, paper products and personal and home cleaning products. Most recently Mary Bateman, John & Betty Didier,

Jim & Lois Daniels, Mary Ebberwien, Kyle Jacobs, Knights of Columbus Council #691, Knights of Columbus Council #3114, Rajeen Lama, Vernon May, Martin Mendoza, Marcia Moralez, St. Cecilia Parish, and St. Francis Parish of Assisi Parish blessed us with 332 bags of food and supplies this past three months.



Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill