



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

Hope for the Poor in Mary

By George Dinkel, Executive Director



Over the years that I have had the privilege of working for the Center of Hope, I have grown a little in my understanding of the poor, their needs and my desires for their wellbeing. We provide homeless prevention in the way of paying rent or utility bills for families that are unable to pay these themselves. There are many reasons why they are behind on their rent, sometimes attributed to their own actions but often due to circumstances beyond their control. It truly is a special thing to be able to help them in their great time of need which prevents them from becoming homeless. It is difficult to even estimate the positive effect this has on their lives as being homeless can potentially have very serious and long term consequences.

Pope St John Paul II wrote an encyclical in which he stated that Mary, the mother of Jesus, belongs to the weak and poor of the Lord. Further, he stated that the Church's love of preference for the poor is wonderfully inscribed in Mary's Magnificat: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly, ...filled the hungry with good things, sent the rich away empty, ... scattered the proud-hearted." The God who saves cannot be separated from His love of preference for the poor and humble which is expressed in the words and works of Jesus (from Redemptoris Mater – Pope St John Paul II).

One of the messages the Virgin Mary gave to us in her apparitions at Fatima was to pray for the conversion of sinners. I typically begin my day at the Center of Hope with a small prayer to Jesus and to Mary for wisdom to help me to make



right decisions during the day and to correct whatever I do wrong. We have to make many decisions each day that have a significant impact in the lives of those we serve. I recently have been praying for not only the material needs of those we see but also for their spiritual needs. Although many of those we serve have a strong faith, I also daily see people with little faith or living in sinful situations. Some don't even have the knowledge or realization of what sin is. Many live lifestyles that are styled on what popular culture views as acceptable but are not morally acceptable.

At times in the past I would struggle

to not be judgmental in these situations. Our mission statement calls us to help all that come to us in need without judgment. In addition, Jesus cautions us to not judge others and by His example shows us that his mercy is greater than judgement and calls us all to mercy as this is what He desires. So I now not only pray for the material wellbeing of those we serve, but also their spiritual wellbeing, myself included. My hope is that all those we serve will grow in virtue after having received our assistance.

The Blessed Mary who was sinless lived a life in total union with Christ (Redemptoris Mater-Pope St. John Paul II). The more we allow sin in our lives the more we become separated from God. If you are in need of something new to pray for or perhaps if your prayer life is a little dry right now, I ask that you keep the Center of Hope and all those we serve in your prayers. Please pray that we may all, like Mary, become more united, more in union with God. St Therese of Avila tells us of the indescribable beauty of a soul. All men and women are created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26). If just one soul becomes more united with God through our prayers, our sacrifices and our little ministry, even if we have accomplished nothing else in our 35 years of operations, it will all be well worth the struggle. May God's Blessings and Peace be with you!!!!

A person treated with courtesy and kindness may open his eyes to the light.

From *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*

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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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COH Remembers Volunteer Mary Acosta Benefield

We are very sad to announce the loss of one of our faithful volunteers, Mary Acosta Benefield, who passed away on June 29, 2017. Mary helped in many tasks including answering the phone, filing, shredding and interpreting.



Mary was always a special joy to the Center of Hope and those we serve. She had a quick wit, a strong spirit, a good sense of humor and was a true inspiration to us all. We pray for her and her family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CLIENTS



The client profiles below give you but a snapshot of the many challenges they face. While Center of Hope can provide some help in their dire situations, prayer can accomplish a great deal. Your prayers can make a difference.

- Please pray for A, a 6-year-old girl who lives with her mom and brother. A has had a heart condition and is considered disabled because of it. Her condition recently turned more critical and she is currently in the hospital out-of-state awaiting a donor heart for a transplant. Her mom works at a local fast food restaurant and has been unable to work as she has been staying with her daughter in the hospital the past month. The family is in danger of being evicted and having their utilities turned off. The family has no one to help them.
- Please pray for C, a 32-year-old mom with 4 children. C's son was in the hospital for a month after being assaulted by his father. C and her children are experiencing PTSD and anxiety after witnessing the attack.
- Please pray for A, a 34-year-old mom with 3 young children. A's abusive husband left. She has not worked for several years and currently has no income. Her rent is only \$300 per month but she owes over \$600 on her utility bills.
- Please pray for L, a 61-year-old man who lives by himself. He currently has no income as he was just recently released from the hospital after undergoing cancer treatments. He hopes to find another job soon.
- Please pray for K, a 29-year-old man who lives with his wife and 5-year-old son. The son has a cancerous brain tumor and is currently receiving chemo treatments at a hospital in Kansas City. K does work but has missed work due to the medical care needs of his son.
- Please pray for M, a 37-year-old dad who lives with his wife and 5 children. M has been unable to work since having an accident about a month ago. His wife works part-time but only made \$300 the past month.
- Please pray for R, a 45-year-old dad who just recently got custody of his 2-year-old son who was in an abusive household. R himself is suffering severe health issues and the added stress of his son's situation has made matters much worse.
- Please pray for C, a 55-year-old lady who lives by herself. C was working for a call center until recently when she had a stroke, which has resulted in her having difficulty speaking. She hopes this is a short-term situation and she will be able to return to work. If not, she will need to file for disability.
- Please pray for F, a 55-year-old man who has been homeless the past 6 months. He just recently got into an apartment and does receive SSD income.
- Please pray for R, a 26-year-old mom with an infant daughter who is still in the hospital ICU unit as she was born prematurely. R does have a job but currently is on maternity leave and won't be able to return for 6 weeks.
- Please pray for J, a 36-year-old dad who lives with his wife and 4 children. Both J and his wife recently lost their jobs. They owe \$770 on their rent, \$1289 on their Westar bill and \$802 on their gas bill.
- Please pray for D, a 60-year-old lady who lives by herself. D had cancer surgery last month and was not able to work. She does currently have a job in the aviation industry and hopes to return to work soon.
- Pray for T, a 45-year-old mom who lives with her 2 children and 2 grandchildren. T was in a car accident last month and has been unable to work due to her injuries. She hopes to return to work soon, but she currently has no income.

Clients in the COH Case Management Program Have a Story to Tell

Goldie Rogers:

When I first walked through the doors at Center of Hope, I was a broken person. I was so stressed out dealing with everyday life. I was dealing with excessive bills, and overwhelming debt that I had gotten into over the years.

I am raising my grandbabies ages 7, 9 and 10. Some days it's not as easy as I thought it would be. My children are grown, and have children of their own, now can you imagine me as a grandmother, raising more small children. I have to get up every morning, and get breakfast ready for them, comb hair, and make sure they are properly dressed for whatever the day may bring. I have had to play doctor and nurse when they are sick, be a referee when they are at play, and be the judge when handing down disciplinary action.

As a single mother, I have always been able to take care of my family and not give things a second thought. These days, it's not that easy, because I have health issues that affect all of us. I have Ulcerative Colitis, am a



Jennifer Glover recently completed the Traffic Fine Class and proudly displays her restored driver's license. This was just one of her goals in the Case Management Program, which is customized for each participating client.



Goldie Rogers displays her "money jar" containing \$393 which she developed as part of her work in the Budget Management Program with Sr. Becky.

Chronic Anemic, and I suffer with Migraine Headaches. I have to be admitted into the hospital from time to time to get iron through IV injections, and to get blood through transfusions. This is something I don't look forward to because it takes about 10 hours for the iron procedure. Some days are more painful than others, but I still have a job to do by making sure my kiddos are taken care of.

I lost my transportation, and in addition, due to a car wreck, another problem has occurred. I now have a herniated disk that causes more pain to my body and has increased the migraines. There's been numerous times while struggling, that I have been to the point of wanting to give up. Life hadn't been easy for me, and I needed a new direction for my life.

With the assistance of Sister Becky and the Budget Management Program, I feel like a new person. I was able to get out of debt by taking things one step at a time, completing all the necessary paperwork to file bankruptcy. After being out of school over thirty years, I have been able to enroll at Pratt Community College, taking online courses. My first step was to take a Computer Course in order to refresh my computer skills, and I also took Developmental Psychology. It was frustrating at the beginning, but by the end of the course, I received a B

grade. I am now enrolled in Fall courses, taking Basic Applied Math, which is going well, and I will be taking Elementary Spanish 1 in September. I plan on receiving a Degree in Business Management. My only wish would be that my father and mother were still alive to see my new accomplishments.

I am now able to stick to a budget and to manage my spending. I have been able to start a money jar, and at the end of the month, after totaling up my expenses, I put any extra money into this jar. I receive credit card offers now, but I tear them up and put them in the trash.

Being involved in this program has given me a new way to relax while crocheting mats for the homeless. This has been a very rewarding program for me, because I am able to help someone else in another way.

I have a wonderful mentor and friend in Sister Becky, because she has been my biggest support system through it all. She has provided a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, and she gives me guidance on setting goals, and completing them. Sister Becky referred me to another agency for which I am so thankful. Through the networking, and on my behalf, they blessed me with a car. WHAT A BLESSING!

CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

In Honor of

Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC
50th Anniversary

In Memory of

Mary Benefield
Kathy Borninger
Dwayne Howard
Marvin Klaus
Robert Laughlin
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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

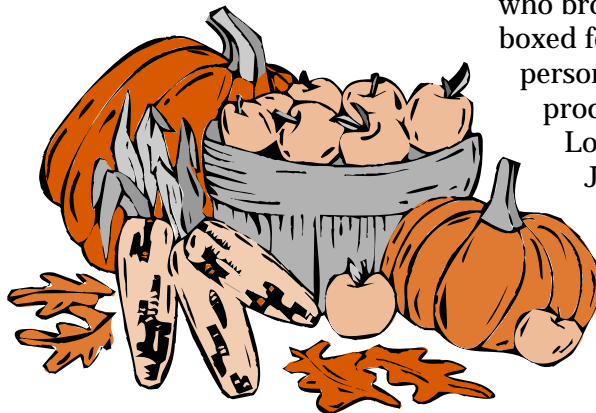
CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 34 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because **You** Cared

For the past 12 months, the Center of Hope prevented 4,097 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 10,726 persons. \$1,529,473 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$498,880 was provided for 2,959

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 Jim & Lois Daniels, Marcia Morales, John & Betty Didier, St. Cecilia Parish, St Francis of Assisi Parish and Judy Dusek contributed food and supplies this past three months.



Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill