



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

Volunteers are The Center of Hope

We at the Center of Hope have been very blessed with many dedicated volunteers over the past 31 years of our little ministry of serving the poor. We thought we would dedicate this newsletter to these volunteers who have made such an impact on the families we see and have served so faithfully throughout our history. Most of our volunteers have been serving for numerous years as they find such joy and reward from interacting with, and truly being able to help, those in need.

I am very saddened to report that we recently lost one of our volunteers after her short bout with cancer. Donna Larson has volunteered

taking calls for those seeking assistance nearly every Monday morning for the past 12 years. Donna was such a blessing and will be greatly missed.

Her kindness and compassion for the poor are truly to be admired. I repeatedly would hear remarks from those we serve and from

fellow volunteers of how gracious and kind Donna was. In the mornings when we would visit, Donna was always concerned about the families struggling in our community, and worried about how they would survive.

When Donna's health began to decline I tried to talk her into cutting back on the number of hours she was taking calls, but Donna would always insist she was fine and continued on.

Donna had a strong faith and a strong hope in the Lord, a true reflection of the Holy Spirit working in and through her. We are very grateful for Donna's generosity which will continue to live on in the lives of the many families she served through her unending kindness. Our sympathy goes out to her husband Jerry and their family.

We are so blessed at the Center of Hope as I see these virtues of kindness, compassion and sincerity in all of the volunteers we have which truly is a gift from our most gracious Lord. Without doubt He gives us the many graces we need to fulfill His work. Our volunteers are serving with their whole hearts and from their whole hearts. They receive no compensation or glory from what they do. Their only reward is to know they have served the Lord and our dear neighbors and truly they give their best.

I am forever thankful for all the volunteers throughout the history of Center of Hope, as they are the Center of Hope. I am humbled to work alongside such an awesome group.

George Dinkel, Executive Director



Donna Larson

COH Volunteers Assist in a Variety of Tasks

No matter what one's skill level or interest, volunteers fill many important jobs. Some are in the background and others are front and center in the office. A partial list of volunteer opportunities includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1 Answering the phone to explain how COH can help and what documentation is needed.
- 2 Verifying client claims with landlords and others.
- 3 In-take worker to interview clients in the office and verify documentation.

- 4 Income tax preparers to provide free service for those who cannot afford professional tax services.
- 5 Prairie Land Food staff to distribute the monthly food packages purchased through this program.
- 6 Organization of the store room and preparation of packages of food and personal care items for distribution to clients.
- 7 Building and grounds maintenance.
- 8 Assisting at special events and fund-raising activities.

Interested in Volunteering?

Go to www.centerofhopeinc.org and click on **Volunteer** to go to the *Volunteer Application Form*.

COH Board of Directors:

Chair: Johnnie Bell
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Curtis Warren

CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

sponsored by the
Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Executive Director

George Dinkel

Staff:

Sr. Jeannine Bahr, ASC
Sr. Becky Balthazor, ASC
Marsha Flora
Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC

Volunteers: ASC Associates

Maralene Balthazor
Mary Benefield
Patricia Bergman
Karen Carney
Mary Corrigan
Victoria Denton
Peggy Duick
Rebecca Elpers
Martha Flaherty
Sr. Kathy Goetz, O.P.
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Mary Meyer
Prairie Land Food Volunteers
Jeannie Rosenhamer
Sr. Marita Rother, ASC
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Anne Uhler
Mary Jobe Waddill
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Patricia Yates

www.centerofhopeinc.org

Introducing the COH Volunteer Coordinator Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC

With the demand for the Center of Hope services continuing to grow, volunteers are more important than ever in the assistance they give to staff members. It would be impossible to serve so many individuals and families without the work of the volunteers. And thanks to Sr. Deborah, whose administrative skills are being utilized, volunteers are efficiently going about their myriad duties to help COH provide for our clients.

Sr. Deborah maintains the volunteer schedule, arranges for substitutes when needed and

organizes orientation for new volunteers and in-service training for the volunteer group. She created the Volunteer Manual, which contains all the information one needs to function in the various volunteer positions. And she introduced communication via email and phone to keep volunteers up-to-speed on any changes in office procedures, closing dates and other useful information.

Sister's work is welcomed and warming appreciated by the volunteers.



Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC
is our first VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

Recap

Center of Hope Annual Dinner

The 2014 Center of Hope Annual Dinner was held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at the Newman University Dugan Library Conference Center. The theme of this year's dinner was *Love Anchors the Heart*.

The event raised \$105,000, which will help many families remain in their homes this year.

The evening's festivities, which was attended by a sold out crowd, included a fabulous meal and an entertaining evening of camaraderie

and fun. A special margarita reception was held for those purchasing a table. A wide array of live and silent auction items was assembled by the Dinner Committee. A special feature of the event was the offering of 100 keys, one of which led to a gold coin valued in excess of \$1,500.

We are very grateful to Sally Simon who chaired the event this year and to Collin and Erin Stieben who coordinated the decorations. We would also like to especially recognize Sierra Scott who was the MC for the event and hosted the Center of Hope on the Brett and Sierra Show on KWCH TV. In addition we would like to recognize Ron Allen who conducted a lively and entertaining live auction.

Please pray for the needs of all the clients we have seen the past several months. Often the situations are critical and desperate. Many individuals and families are coming in with unpaid utility bills which have grown to in excess of \$1,000 over the winter months and now their service has been terminated. Many have come to us that have lost jobs or missed work due to illness. Many are victims of theft or being taken advantage of by other family members or friends.

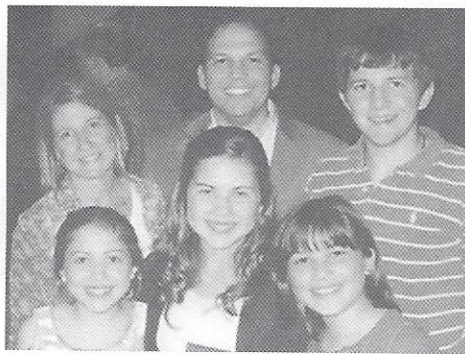


Clients in Need

1. A 19-year-old who is expecting a child lives alone and had to quit her job due to her pregnancy. She is expecting the child in July, but currently has no income.
2. A 30-year-old mom with two children is working at a fast food restaurant. Her hours were reduced because she didn't have daycare.
3. A 25-year-old mom with one child is working at a fast food restaurant but not making sufficient income to cover her bills due to limited hours. She has a \$1,094 Westar bill and owes almost two months on her rent.

4. A 23-year-old man who was working at a fast food restaurant currently is unable to work as he fell through a piece of glass and severed an artery. He nearly lost his arm.
5. A 39-year-old mom with one child who is a victim of domestic violence lost her job as a result of the domestic violence and is now looking for a new job. Her abuser is no longer allowed in the home per court order.
6. A 43-year-old mom who has three children is working, but missed work when hospitalized after going into diabetic shock.
7. A 36-year-old dad who lives with his wife and two children had his pay checks garnished in the amount of \$1,164 this month for medical bills he was unable to pay.

Volunteer Katie Eberwein is Enthusiastic about Prairie Land Food Program



Katie and husband Chris Eberwein with their four children. All six in the family have been involved in various work with Prairie Land Food at COH.

Katie, busy mother of four, and soon-to-be five, children, explains in her own words how she became involved with the Center of Hope and why she supports its mission.

"I took a Compassionate Companion class at my parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. I learned about the culture of poverty and about the Center of Hope. I also met Sr. Becky. At the last session, we were asked if we wanted to sign up to volunteer at the Center of Hope and I did.

"My work at the Center of Hope started in the fall of 2009. I have only been involved with the Prairie Land Food program.

"For the first couple of months that I was involved with the Prairie Land Food Program, I was a helper. It quickly was apparent that since this was a new ministry for the Center of Hope, we had to establish some processes and procedures. Sr. Becky had already penned preliminary ones, but we needed to solidify what she started.

"A couple of areas in particular that needed some attention were educating the clients about the program and signing them up and securing and managing volunteers to run the program. In addition, we needed to define volunteer roles and responsibilities.

"I have a business background in finance and process improvement. Another St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner that took the class with me, Karla Woods, has a knack for marketing. Together, we informally partnered up and started making suggestions to Sr. Becky. I would say that both Karla and I were instrumental in helping Sr. Becky set up the program at the Center of Hope to make sure things were in place for it to run successfully.

"Although anyone can participate in the Prairie Land Food program, it is a really good fit for the clients of the Center of Hope and they really like it. There are three main benefits to them.

"The first is that it is centrally located. Many of the clients do not have vehicles and live in the downtown area. Since there is not a grocery store downtown, this program gives them convenience.

"Also, half of the basket of food in the basic package is fresh produce. Food pantries and banks typically only offer packaged and canned food. So there is a nutritional benefit with our program that other places do not provide.

"Lastly, although the food is priced reasonably, it does require them to pay, either with their SNAP benefits or with cash. In

addition, they are asked to do volunteer work as part of the payment. I feel this is a benefit to the client because they are not just accepting a handout. Everyone who orders and picks up food is a customer and we treat them as such. Since they are buying the food with their money and volunteer work, it is a normal interaction between vendor and customer. They don't have to be embarrassed or shameful or apologetic. In my opinion, this goes a long

way in affirming their dignity as a human person.

"I grew up thinking that the poor were poor because they made bad choices to make them poor. Taking the class, working with Sr. Becky, and getting to know the clients of the Center of Hope has helped me grow in my understanding of poverty and the complexities around this issue.

"I think the world of the Center of Hope, George Dinkel, Sr. Becky and all the volunteers. I feel fortunate to be a part of it in this little way. I have a new baby coming in the fall, so I am going to take a break from regularly working with the food program, but I hope to be involved again someday."

Katie: Thank you for the work you've done in establishing a smoothly functioning program for the Center of Hope. The Prairie Land Food program is an important resource for our clients and many others, and your energy and enthusiasm over the years is greatly appreciated. God bless you and your family for all your help. Enjoy your new baby!

CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

In Honor of

Darrell & Judy Ary	Rev. John Lanzrath
Sr. Jeannine Bahr, ASC	Rachel Lauer
Msgr. John Gilsenan	Sally Liebst
Rev. Ken Van Haverbeke	Misty Maynard
Mel & Joan Kahn	Ella Mae McGuire
Trina Kolarik	Barb, Flo & Leona Riebel

CFFCU Staff, volunteers and their families

In Memory of

Charles & Teresa Beckett	Donna Larson
Donna Beckman	Catherine Laughlin
Kelly Collier	Msgr. Thomas McGreed
Pat Halloran	Jane Means
Eleanor Kruse	Chuck Wurth

Johnston's Half Marathon



Johnston's Charitable Foundation will host a half marathon on **Sunday Sept. 14, 2014**. All proceeds from the event will go to charity. If you are tuning up for a marathon, maxing out at a half marathon, or would just like to go for a Sunday morning run, this event promises to be a great time. Food, drink, awards, professional timers, music and a chance to help charitable organizations (including The Center of Hope) serving very needy people...what could be better? Hope to see you there.

Volunteer's Prayer

I Thank You, Lord, as a volunteer:
For the chance to serve again this year;
To give of myself in some small way
To those not blessed as I each day.
My thanks for health of mind and soul
To aid me ever toward my goal;
For eyes to see the good in all,
A hand to extend before a fall.
For legs to go where the need is great
Learning to love—forgetting to hate;
For ears to hear and heart to care,
When someone's cross is harder to bear.
A smile to show my affection true,
With energy plenty the task to do;
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,
Is to serve YOU better, day by day.

Author unknown

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 31 years of service to
the Wichita community

Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill

BECAUSE YOU CARED

For the past nine months, the Center of Hope prevented 3,011 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,500 children. \$672,039 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. On average, \$308 was spent per family.

In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food 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 Lewis Bacher, St. Cecilia Parish, Foos E Cigarette, Susan Harris, Judy Dusik and Via Christi Nurses have blessed us with 103 bags of food and supplies.

HELP WANTED

Do you have time availability on a Sat. morning at the end of the month to respond to a fun and rewarding volunteer opportunity? If so, the **Prairie Land Food** program needs you. We need volunteers to transport food from the local Prairie Land Food drop off site and deliver to Center of Hope. We also need volunteers to help set up and to work on distribution day. If you are interested in either of these positions or want to learn more about volunteering for this worthy cause, **please call Sr. Becky at 409-4959.**

