



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

As we look forward to the celebration of Easter, it is a time to celebrate life. For clearly this is what Jesus came to earth to do. This past Lent hopefully has been a fruitful time to break old habits and turn away from sin. This preparation during Lent is a time to purify ourselves so we might approach the special gift God has planned for us in the resurrection to a new life in heaven, which indeed will be holy and free from all sin. As I was thinking about the coming Easter Season and our Lord's plan of everlasting life for us, I came to realize how precious life really is, not only the future life, but even the present life which prefigures our future life in heaven. But clearly, the choice is ours as to how we lead our present lives.

I have a couple of stories which have touched me deeply on life and the impact we have on life without sometimes realizing it.

The Gift of

Life

by George Dinkel, Executive Director



I recently provided rent assistance to a young expectant mother. There was nothing really special or unusual about her story. We see so many people at the Center of Hope and provide so much assistance; at times the stories and the faces just blend into each other.

This case was a little different though as I recently received a letter from this woman. She wrote: "I came to the Center of Hope today and needed help with my rent, I wanted to say thank you for helping pay my rent. My son's dad tried to put me in a bad situation by telling me and not helping me anymore if I don't have an abortion; and I don't want to have an abortion. I don't know what I would have done without your help, so thank you so much for the help. Love."

We have been busy preparing tax returns again these past few months as we are a volunteer VITA site. I

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Make Your Reservations Now for the COH Annual Dinner April 27

The Center of Hope will be hosting its Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at the Newman University Dugan Library & Conference Center. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a private margarita reception for those purchasing a table followed at 5:30 p.m. with a wine reception for all guests.

The theme for the evening is "Love Anchors the Home." The event includes a silent auction and a live auction with an exquisite selection ranging from items of interest to the golf enthusiast, a special woman's package, a sailing package, a polo party, a condo in Colorado, a hunting expedition and the opportunity to be an assistant coach for a game for the WSU Shockers.

The private margarita reception will be hosted by Freddy Simon and served by Vice Mayor Pete Meitzer and Sheriff



Jeff Easter.

To top off the evening event we will be offering 100 keys of which only one will open a locked treasure chest containing a \$50 2006 American Buffalo one-ounce gold coin with a value in excess of \$1400 for the gold alone. Your chances of winning the coin are better than your chances would be playing the lotto or at a casino.

Tremendous thanks to our dinner

sponsors: Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Catholic Family Federal Credit Union, Cessna Employees Credit Union, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhouses, LearJet Employees Care Fund, Newman University, House of Schwan and Spirit AeroSystems.

We look forward to seeing you at the dinner. Please register early so we have a place reserved especially for you. Individual tickets are \$75 each and a table of eight is \$700. You may pay by check or credit card (Master Card or Visa). You can register by calling 316-267-3999 or mailing your registration and check to: Center of Hope, 400 N Emporia, Wichita KS 67202.

A copy of the Dinner Invitation can be downloaded from our website: centerofhopeinc.org

COH Board of Directors:

Chair: Johnnie Bell
Vice-Chair: Jerry Johnston
Secretary: Sr. Renee Kirmer, ASC
Treasurer: John Weir

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Gloria Hegge
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Sally Simon
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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

Volunteers: ASC Associates

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Mary Benefield
Patricia Bergman
Karen Carney
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Mary Corrigan
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Donna Larson
Rachel Lewis
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Sr. Tarcisia Roths, ASC
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Treva Schaffer
Sally Simon
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Tax Volunteers
Sr. Jeannette Trimnell
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Mary Jobe Waddill
Rosemary Wells
Carolyn Winn
Mary Lou Wohler
Patricia Yates

www.centerofhopeinc.org

Christmas Treat from Damm Music Center & Gracepoint Church

The Damm Music Center hosted a Christmas Concert at Gracepoint Church for the benefit of the Center of Hope on Dec. 19, 2013. The concert was free and well attended by many families who came to enjoy Christmas music set to a rock beat.

The music was performed by the instructors, students and employees of Damm Music Center. Several of the Center of Hope Board members and volunteers came out to enjoy the concert.

A free will offering was provided which resulted in \$2,880 for the COH rent and utility assistance program. We are appreciative of Gracepoint Church which provided its facility at no cost and included a very creative Christmas background video. We are very grateful for Damm Music and Gracepoint Church for hosting this concert.

FEINSTEIN FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

Don't forget the annual Feinstein Foundation contribution for donations made in March and April. Alan Feinstein gives \$1 million on a pro rata basis to agencies across America which raise funds to feed the hungry. If you would like to make a donation to provide food to the families we serve, write "food" on your check made payable to the Center of Hope and mail it in March or April.



*"If anyone gives even a cup of water to my little ones,
he shall not lose his reward" Matt. 10:42*

The Gift of Life *continued*

really expected that the number of returns we would prepare this year would be less than the 750 tax returns we prepared last year, but so far we have prepared more returns this year than we did last year at this time. We have a great team of preparers who really enjoy working with each other and the people that come to us for tax preparation.

If you ever drive by our office, you will see in one of our windows an old tattered poster with pictures of three children that says "God plans a future for every child, choose life". One of my tax preparers came up to me and said, "I just did a return for a lady that said we should never take that poster down." She went on to tell him that a few years back she was in desperate need and was standing out in line on an early morning trying to get an appointment at the Center of Hope to help with her rent as she had an eviction notice. Things were very difficult for her and she was contemplating ending her life, but something touched her when she saw that poster which made her to change her mind.

Two women recently came to visit with me trying to get assistance for a homeless man they had come to know. They took their dogs for a walk in a local park and typically would run into this homeless person. He had been homeless for quite some time.

The man was a veteran and was suffering from some mental issues such as being bipolar. He would wait until late at night and

then sneak into a make shift tent he had set up behind some commercial buildings. He was very careful as he did not want anyone to know where he was staying for fear they would hurt him or steal the few belongings he had. He was not very trusting of anyone and was at times very difficult to work with.

But these two women were persistent and filled with much compassion. They took it upon themselves to see that he received proper shelter as they found out he had been diagnosed with cancer and was now terminally ill.

They worked through the Social Security disability process and got him approved for disability assistance which provided him a means to pay his rent. They met with landlords and toured apartments to find a place he felt comfortable with. They even donated their own money to help get him started.

They recently sent me a letter saying they were "humbled by the changes that having a safe home has made in this person. I never could have imagined. It took all of us and our unique gift of love and willingness to take a chance on another human being - which really wasn't a chance at all, and you knew it all along".

Three stories of the gift of life, all taking turns I would never have imagined, but with God's love and grace, little miracles do happen. You are all part of these stories, for it is by your most kind donations that we are able to touch the lives of the children of God. You truly will be blessed for your generosity. Happy Easter, may God's Blessings and Peace be with you!!!

Reception Honors Sr. Jeannine Bahr, A.S.C. for Over 20 Years of Service

A retirement reception was held Jan. 14 at the Adorers' Wichita Center honoring Sr. Jeannine Bahr after years of untiring energy and enthusiasm for the work of Center of Hope.

Since 1991, Sister has offered assistance in a variety of tasks that kept COH operating. From receptionist to in-take worker to statistician, Sr. Jeannine has done so much to keep the service to the poor on track. Many people remember the beautifully composed and hand-written thank you notes to supporters. Each one was personal and reflected the love and care given to supporters and clients alike. No job was too small or too challenging for Sister.

Sr. Jeannine had a remarkable memory for client names, faces and histories, a skill or gift that was very useful to the work of the ministry. Sister contributed articles to



Hopeline over the years as well as offered suggestions for newsletter material.

Her warm smile and gracious manner made clients feel at ease and she was fun to work with volunteers will tell you.

After final vows taken in 1954, Sr. Jeannine served in a variety of ministries. With a Masters in School Administration, Sister worked in several Kansas schools as teacher and principal. Her missionary zeal took her to Korea, a country and a cuisine she loves. Upon her return from the Far East, Sister helped at a home for unwed girls in New Mexico.

Center of Hope was blessed to have Sister Jeannine's dedication, love and prayers for the mission of COH for so many years. She is greatly missed and everyone at Center of Hope wishes Sister a rewarding and well-deserved retirement.



New Look...More Information Center of Hope Inc. Web Site Updated

Center of Hope has had a web site for a few years and it's recently been reformatted to give the viewer more timely information and a colorful look at how COH operates. Thanks to the talents of Paul Farmer and Sherry Hoyt, who volunteered countless hours to this project, the user-friendly web site is easy to use with simple pull-down menus to take one immediately to the information needed.

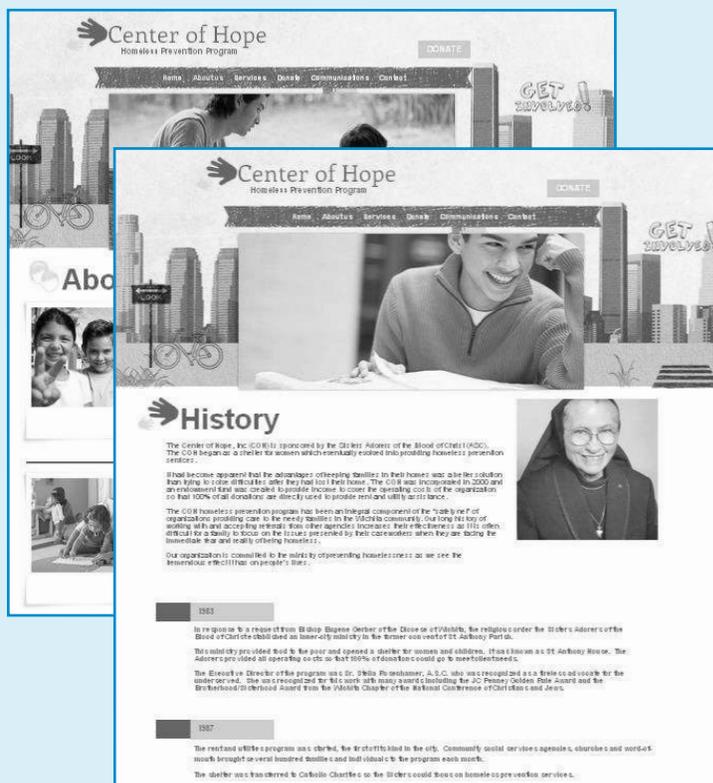
From history and the mission statement to how one can access the procedure for applying for help, for volunteering and for making on-line donations, it's all there.

If you've ever wanted to know about how a person receives help from COH, you'll discover that it's quite a process and requires some effort on the part of the client. An archive of our newsletter, Hopeline, is there also.

Donors have been suggesting for some time that making on-line donations would be helpful and it is now possible to do so. You can choose to make contributions to the Direct Rent and Utility Assistance Program...the Water Bills Program...or the Endowment Fund. All donations are 100% tax-deductible and every penny goes to the program you designate. Donors can be secure in the knowledge that their information will never be sold, rented, traded or given to other sources.

Put under your Favorites. The annual benefit dinner is scheduled for April 27 this year and you can reserve through the web site. It's so easy to do.

Tremendous thanks goes to Paul Farmer for his tireless work in designing our new web site. It's out there so please take a look at it.



SPECIAL REQUESTS

COH is in urgent need of a *used refrigerator* for our supply room. A *used sewing machine* is also needed. Both should be clean and in good working condition. COH gives adult bicycles to clients in need of transportation to work or school.

We currently have no bicycles.

Center of Hope, Inc.

400 North Emporia
Wichita KS 67202-2514

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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 30 years of service to
the Wichita community

Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill

Because You Cared

For the past 7 months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,789 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,500 children. \$549,689 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. On average, \$307 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 Kyle Jacobs, St. Cecilia Parish, United Way, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Magdalen Parish, Lewis Bacher, St. Peter the Apostle Parish and School, St. Peter Parish Boy Scouts, St. Peter Parish Girl Scouts, Bishop Carroll Honor Students, Rachel Lewis, Judy Dusek and the Via Christi Hospital Nurses, Anne & Bill Usher, ASC Associates, Resurrection Parish Grade School, Valle’s and Donna’s Golf Group, Partners for Wichita have blessed us with 886 bags of food and supplies.

