



# Happiness

by George Dinkel, Executive Director

**W**e will come to find our true happiness only in Christ. But do we know how to find this happiness or know we are on the right path? If we are on the right path, how do we know where we are on that path? Have we just started, are we in the middle or are we near arrival?

One sure way of just getting on the path is to be an imitator of Christ, to do the will of our Father in heaven. Just as we can tell of our physical health by certain tests such as taking our blood pressure or our temperature, I believe we can make a test of our spiritual health to see where we are on our journey.

It is a good thing for us to take a little time occasionally to assess our spiritual health. We can look to our daily activities, are we attending Mass, are we praying, are we doing good works?

A clear indicator we are not on the right path is hardness of heart. Do we have a sincere love of God

and neighbor? Do we look forward to prayer or attending Mass or do we do it out of a feeling of necessity or perhaps not do it at all? Are we generous in coming to the help of our neighbor and joyful in being able to share with them, or are we too attached to the things of this world?

We spend an enormous amount of money on health care and keeping our bodies healthy. How much of our resources do we allot for our spiritual health?

Are we really happy? If not, now is the time to begin moving in the right direction. Time is short and passing quickly. A good start is to help come to the rescue of our dear neighbors who are poor and in great need. Helping to meet their need will bring you much reward and happiness.

May God's graces be with you and may you come ever more close to Him.



## *A special treat...*

For the past year, Leroy (Cap) Clasen delivered doughnuts most every Thursday afternoon to COH. In this photo, Leroy and his granddaughters are seen in action. Actually, it appears the granddaughters do most of the work, while Leroy and Sr. Deborah provide quality control (taste testing the product). This is a special treat we are able to provide to the many families who otherwise would not be able to afford such a simple delicacy. *Thank you Leroy for your most kind generosity.*

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.  
*sponsored by the*  
*Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

Executive Director  
George Dinkel

Staff:  
Sr. Becky Balthazor, ASC  
Marsha Flora  
Adriana Palma  
Sr. Deborah Schovanec, ASC  
Chloe Weiss

Volunteers: ASC Associates

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[www.centerofhopeinc.org](http://www.centerofhopeinc.org)

## Johnston's Half Marathon Provides Funding for COH

Johnston's Charitable Foundation will host a half-marathon on Sunday morning, Sept. 13, 2015. All proceeds from the event will go to charity and the Center of Hope is one of the recipients.

The run starts in Riverside Park and you can choose to run or walk the course. This event promises to be a great time with food, drinks, awards, professional timers, music and a chance to help some charitable organizations serve some very needy people...what could be better?



Hope to see you there! Registration forms are available online at [Active.com](http://Active.com) or you can search for "Johnston's half marathon" and print the registration form.

## Adriana Palma Joins the COH Staff

To meet the growing demand for Center of Hope services, a new case manager position was created and we happily welcome Adriana Palma to our staff to fill that position. She started in July of this year.

Adriana is a member of Cathedral Parish, Wichita, and it was through parish connections that she learned of the opening at COH. She brings important skills to the position: a degree in psychology and her skill in speaking and reading Spanish.

Some clients speak no English or speak it poorly, so having a staff person who can communicate with them helps us identify

the problem and bring about a timely solution to their needs. Adriana is a native of El Salvador, where she worked with the poor. She is pleased that clients can be helped the day of their appointments at Center of Hope, since this is often not the case with many social service programs.

Her impression of the work of COH is that the ministry is doing a great job of helping people and that the staff and volunteers work as a team and all share a passion for helping the disadvantaged. Adriana is happy to be part of this team and make her contribution to the Center of Hope mission.



## Please Pray for our Clients

While the emergency assistance we provide is vitally important to our clients, your prayers can also make a dramatic difference in their lives. Listed here are some recent clients who would benefit from your prayers as well.

· Please pray for N, a 53-year-old woman who lives alone after recently separating from her husband. She suffers from blood cancer, breast cancer and blood clots in her legs. When she came to COH, her water was disconnected and she owed \$937 on her Westar bill. Her monthly health insurance premium is over \$200, which she cannot let lapse due to medical bills for cancer treatments. She receives Social Security Disability income but it is not sufficient to cover her expenses.

· Please pray for P, a 28-year-old mom living with her four young children. P was incarcerated for outstanding traffic fines and missed work as a result. Her car was impounded and she probably won't be able to get it back. She made only \$243 last month, but utility bills totaled \$622.

· Please pray for J, his wife and their three young children. Someone broke into their home and robbed the family at gunpoint. Their 9-year-old son now has nightmares about this. Their only source of income at this time is \$532 in SRS TA Cash Assistance.

· Please pray for J, a 36-year-old man who lives alone. He lost several fingers from a firecracker accident and is unable to work. Although he has a job he can return to when he recovers, he currently has no income.

# *Blessings and Thankfulness...* An Annual Report

This past year truly has been a blessed year for the Center of Hope. We helped 3,120 households in the Wichita area with emergency assistance totaling \$1,045,240. We helped 939 households throughout Kansas keep their electricity on with Project Deserve assistance totaling \$180,048.

In addition, Sr. Becky made over 900 case management visits, completed several traffic fine classes and helped provide Prairie Land Food monthly for those families seeking quality food at an affordable price. Over 2,900 bags of food and household supplies and 69 used bicycles

have been given to the many needy families coming to us for assistance.

We have expanded our homeless prevention services to the counties surrounding Wichita. In the past, Center of Hope served only the Wichita area. As a result of a supplemental grant from United Way, we have been able to extend our service area to include Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. We are excited about the opportunity to provide emergency assistance to these more rural counties, which have limited access to agencies for help.

We are very thankful to all our donors, volunteers, staff and board members who make this ministry of homeless prevention possible. We are thankful to the Sisters of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ who started the Center of Hope program 32 years ago and for their continued involvement and support throughout these years. We are most thankful to our Lord and His Blessed Mother who continue to bless us with many graces, guide us and watch over us.

Please pray we may continue knowing and fulfilling the Lord's will in our little ministry to the poor. And thank you for your generous support. Please keep us in your prayers. May God's peace and blessings be with you.

## COH Gets a Face Lift from Client



*Cynthia says her relationship with COH has transformed her. She's now in control of her life, family and friends look up to her for advice and help, and she has their respect.*

She first came to Center of Hope to attend the Traffic Fines Class, then realized she needed more help and moved into Sr. Becky's Case Management Program. Now Cynthia Wilson is happy and productive in a job she loves while pursuing a degree and helping her family and friends with similar problems that she'd encountered in the past. Her goal is to become an activities director in a care home. Her current job as a cook at Medical Lodge put her in contact with that field and with her bubbly personality, keen wit and new-found self-respect, Cynthia is sure to be a success in her chosen profession.

The addition of a new, full-time case manager to the COH staff required additional office space, which was created by knocking down some walls and dividing a prior storage space/office into two offices. As always happens, a renovation project creates additional work. Fortunately for Center of Hope, Cynthia had training as a painter and volunteered to paint the new offices, hall and public spaces. In all, Cynthia put in 80 hours of volunteer work in spite of having a full-time job. She has also

spent an additional 136 hours elsewhere in community service.

Like many clients who are admitted to the Case Management Program, Cynthia was skeptical about some of the requirements, such as budgeting. She didn't think it would work, but she found out that it does. "Sr. Becky showed me my profit," she said. Cynthia says her relationship with COH has transformed her. She's now in control of her life, family and friends look up to her for advice and help, and she has their respect.

Cynthia is a shining example of how Center of Hope makes a difference in a client's life and of how the ripple effect flows out to the family and community.

### RECOGNITION GIFTS:

Jim Daniels, Father's Day  
Rev. Kenneth Van Haverbeke

### IN MEMORY OF:

Harry H. McLean  
Fr. Gil Wohler

## 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 32 years of service to  
the Wichita community

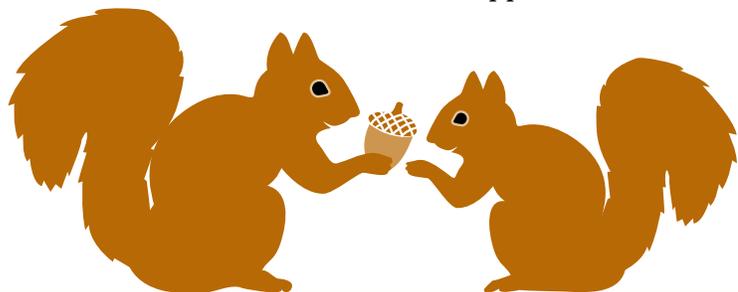
# Because You Cared

For the past 12 months, the Center of Hope prevented 3,120 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 8,389 persons. \$1,045,240 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$180,048 was provided for 939 households.

In addition to 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 to all the parishes, business and individuals who provided blankets, canned and boxed food, paper products and personal care and home cleaning products. Most recently Lewis Bacher, Kyle Jacobs, Sr. Renee Kirmer, Martin Mendoza, Frank Ojile, St. Cecilia Parish, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Peter Schulte Parish and an anonymous donor blessed us with 223 bags of food and supplies.



*Editor, George Dinkel*

*Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill*