



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

A Time for Prayer

We have all suffered through the Covid Crisis for these past two years. Many of us are still suffering the effects of the virus, many have lost loved ones, many have lost jobs, many have incurred insurmountable medical bills, but for all of us, our lives have definitely been impacted for the past two years. Our phones are still ringing almost continuously from those seeking assistance with rent and utilities and many of these are still suffering the effects of the virus. In addition, with all the political unrest, threats of war, financial instability, escalating prices due to inflation and housing shortages, there is indeed much suffering and anxiety in the world right now. In view of all these concerns, one thought that comes to mind is that although we are in the world, we are not of the world (*John 17*).

Lent is always a special time to separate ourselves from the world. A time to become more Holy, more Pure and more Chaste. Lent is a time to focus on our relationship with Jesus, which is the only thing that will give us true peace and joy. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is typically a time for more intense prayer and sacrifice. We are especially called to fast and give alms which St. Augustine says are the two wings of prayer because they are signs of humility and charity.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was without sin and Lent is a time for us to become more like her, Holy, Pure and Chaste.

We know that the soldier pierced the side of Jesus (*John 19:34*) at the crucifixion, but also, as Simeon foretold in the temple, a sword pierced the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*Luke 2:35*). I cannot begin to imagine the tremendous suffering Jesus endured on the cross, but all of us who have family and loved ones who are suffering or have passed away can in a small way identify with the suffering the

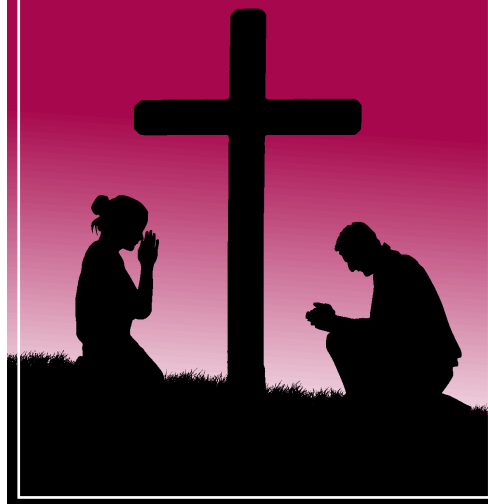
Blessed Mother Mary endured in her heart as she met Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, or as she stood beneath His cross witnessing the suffering He endured, or holding Him in her arms after He was taken down from the cross, or the emptiness she felt when He was laid in the tomb.

This past year we helped over 3,600 households, over 9000 people with rent and utility assistance and you are a very special part of this little ministry to the poor. Many years ago, I started praying the liturgy of hours. Through this process I gained a great desire to help the poor. The Psalms somehow become inscribed in your heart calling you to help the poor. But I never knew how to help the poor. I never really saw them where I worked or where I lived. But by God's grace, I was led to the Center of Hope. This has been such a blessing for me which I truly am not worthy of. But Scripture tells us that Jesus did not come to call the just, but sinners. So, although I will never feel worthy, I will always feel called. One thing that really attracted me to the Center of Hope was that 100% of the donations we receive go directly to pay rent to help families from being evicted and to pay utility bills to help families keep their utilities

on. None is used to pay any administrative, operating or salary costs.

God told St. Catherine of Siena that He has put us among our neighbors, so that we can do for them that we cannot do for Him and that whatever we do for our neighbors, God would consider done for Him. But who is our neighbor? How can we see them or help them in a meaningful way? The Center of Hope is a direct link to our neighbor in need, the elderly trying to live on \$754 per month, the homeless, those suffering from domestic violence, addictions, mental and physical illnesses. Serving the poor people

Lent is a time to focus on our relationship with Jesus, which is the only thing that will give us true peace and joy.



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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

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Continued from pg. 1

in our community is our mission/our ministry.

The OT book of Tobit tells us that prayer with fasting and almsgiving is better than laying up treasures of gold and that giving to the poor delivers us from death, purges away sins and brings us mercy and everlasting life. I believe the poor have been given to us as a special gift; for when we serve them, we serve Jesus. We will never solve the many causes of poverty, as scripture tells us that the poor will always be with us (*Matt 26:11*), but we can give them a small glimmer of hope, with love. As St. Therese of Lisieux says, "Little things done with great love become great things."

When St. Paul went to meet Peter, James and John, they agreed that he would go to the Gentiles as they would go to the Jews. I find it particularly interesting that the only stip-

ulation they made was that St. Paul should be mindful of the poor. (*Galatians 2:10*)

The greatest gift in the world without doubt is the Eucharist, for Jesus Himself comes to us in the Eucharist. But sadly, it is easy for us to take Him for granted, to not give Him the attention, devotion, worship and recognition that He truly is worthy of. May *we never ever* take Him for granted. Let us not take the poor for granted or forget them either. They are a special way for us to love God. Again, thank you, all our donors, for your most kind generosity, for your great faith, and especially for your great love of God and Neighbor. May you truly be filled with the Holy Spirit this Lenten season.

Your friend in Christ,
George

Please pray for our clients

C, a 68-year-old man whose wife passed away. He owes \$1000 on his rent and is facing eviction. With the loss of her income, he is not able to cover his monthly expenses.

L, a 36-year-old mom with two children. L's husband left and her only source of income at this time is child support of \$216 per month. She is a victim of domestic violence. She owes \$973 on her electric bill, \$1390 on her gas bill and \$430 on her water bill.

B, a 58-year-old lady who lives with her teenage grandson. B recently had a stroke and lost vision in one eye and has memory issues. She owes \$935 on her rent and has an eviction notice.

J, a 48-year-old man who lives with his two children. J lost his job and has no income. He owes \$1575 on his rent, \$775 on his utilities and has an eviction notice.

M, a 27-year-old mom with a 4-year-old son. M has been very ill in the hospital with Covid and has lost her job. Her only source of income is DCF cash assistance of \$220. She owes \$1200 on her rent.

S, a 35-year-old mom with three children. S has been unemployed for the past six months and owes \$3,671 on her rent and \$692 on her utilities.

T, a 30-year-old disabled mom with three children. T owes \$1077 on her utilities. She receives \$840 of Social Security income but after her rent of \$450 is paid, she doesn't have much left to pay for her utilities and other household expenses. Her car broke down and she does not have the money to repair it.

B, a 45-year-old mom who lives with her 18-year-old son. B does have a job but only made \$412 in the past month. She had some money saved, but there was fraudulent activity on her account and could not pay her bills. She owes \$665 on her rent and \$862 on her utilities.

B, a 22-year-old mom with two young children. B missed work due to complications with her pregnancy and due to Covid. She still has a job but only made \$767 this past month. She owes \$675 on her rent and \$330 on her electric bill.

L, a 50-year-old mom with three children. L lost her job as she has cancer and needs to have a surgery but has no health insurance. Her only income this past month was child support of \$184. She owes \$850 on her rent and \$762 on her utilities.

N and L, who live with their six children. L has cancer and is unable to work. He is currently receiving treatments. N is working but does not make enough to catch up on their bills. They owe \$1310 on their rent and have an eviction notice. They owe \$492 on their utilities.

M, a 42-year-old mom who lives with her teenage son. M lost her job and only had income of \$424 this past month. She owes \$800 on her rent and has an eviction notice.

After a two year hiatus, it's back!

CENTER OF HOPE DINNER 2022



The Center of Hope is hosting the Annual Benefit Dinner on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at the Newman University Dugan Library & Conference Center. The doors open at 4:30 p.m. with a private reception for those purchasing a table and 5:00 p.m. with a wine and beer reception for all guests.

The theme for the evening will be the *Kentucky Derby*, so be looking for that special "Derby Hat." The event includes a silent auction and a live auction with a number of really great items featuring a golf package at several local golf courses including Flint Hills, a condo with golf privileges in Branson, a bourbon tasting evening hosted by several local priests, a dinner hosted by several local priests, and a KC Chief package

with game tickets and an autographed Patrick Mahomes jersey.

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. The Dinner invitations will be mailed in early March and a copy of the Dinner Invitation can be downloaded from our website: centerofhopeinc.org. Hope to see you there to raise money to help our many poor neighbors living in our community.

“THE FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE, JOY,
PEACE,
PATIENT
ENDURANCE,
KINDNESS,
GENEROSITY,
FAITH,
MILDNESS AND
CHASTITY.”

(GALATIANS 5)

COH Recognition Gifts

IN HONOR OF

Darrell & Judy Ary
ASC Sisters in Wichita
Sr. Jeannine Bahr ASC, Birthday
Sr. Philomena Bahr ASC, Birthday
Pat J. Baker
Michael Bartosewicz, 70th Birthday
Birthday of Jesus
Center of Hope Staff & Volunteers
Ed Deimeke
Theresa Durler
Sr. Joann Mark ASC
Adriana Palma, Birthday
Nancy & Jim Schaefer
Marilyn Seiler
Rev. Ken Van Haverbeke
Tim Wertin & Family

IN MEMORY OF

Ruth Ann Aldag
Fr. Jerome Beat
Maxine Brake
Betty Butler
Medell "Mitch" Butler
Martha Dandurand
Jim Daniels
Leon Dinkel
Rev. John Gilseman
Sue Haag
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Barbara Hunt
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Sr. Stella Rosenhamer ASC
Barb Wattman

Center of Hope, Inc.

400 North Emporia
Wichita KS 67202-2514

Return Service Requested

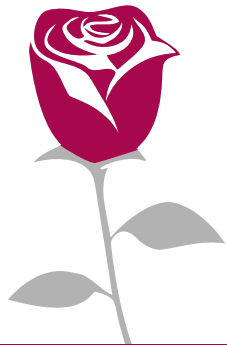
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Reserve Your Table Today!

CENTER OF HOPE DINNER 2022

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SUNDAY,
APRIL 24, 2022



“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 38 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because You Cared



For the past six months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,999 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 4,916 persons. \$1,055,772 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$115,489 was provided for 638 households.

We would like to recognize St. Cecilia Parish for their continuing contributions of food and supplies throughout the pandemic and St. Francis Parish for their Christmas Joy of Giving Tree.

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



Editor, George Dinkel

Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill