



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



The Gift of Wisdom

One of the things I pray for daily at the Center of Hope is the Gift of Wisdom. I began doing this many years ago when I first started working at Center of Hope and I noticed how difficult it is to decide on how to best help those coming to us for assistance.

In our little ministry of homeless prevention, we really try to discover what the real "need" is of those we serve and what are the underlying factors causing this need. Our job would be very easy if we just were handing out a pre-determined amount of money but this would be more of a "hand out," which really leads toward enabling those we serve. We really work hard at understanding the person's situation, providing assistance based on their need and trying to help them overcome the issues creating this need. It is important for us to truly understand a person's situation.

Wisdom is needed to determine the best course of action for this person and their life.

For many, when we think of wisdom we think of someone smart, someone with a lot of knowledge and intelligence. It is interesting that the definition of wisdom is not really about knowledge or intelligence but about the ability to discern inner qualities and relationships, good sense, and judgment. Scripture tells us that if you want wisdom you have to ask it from God who will give it abundantly to those who ask (St. James 1:5).

Wisdom is not something you can learn, purchase or even acquire on your own. For me, wisdom is simply doing

the will of God, to do what would be holy and pleasing in His sight, to not offend Him in any way. I often find that I more closely fulfill His will when I do not follow my own will. The Blessed Mary's answer to Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation was not yes I will do this, but yes let God's will be done. Jesus repeated numerous times that He was here to do the will of His Father. These are guides for us perhaps not to do things of our own will, but to simply and purely try to fulfill God's will.

Jesus could have come to us in some other manner than as an infant child at the time of the nativity. He could have appeared as a great King. He could have descended from the clouds with the sound of a trumpet blast as He will at his Second Coming, but instead He chose to come to us as an infant child. Perhaps He was showing us the awesomeness and sanctity of the birth of a child. Every newborn and unborn child is made of both body and soul and made in the image of God. What could be more precious; a child that someday may grow in holiness and spiritual gifts?

Perhaps Jesus was also showing us the sanctity of family life and how important it is to surround the birth of a child with a family. The family is a form of a small church in which we are all nurtured and develop in the image of God in which we were originally formed. To have parents whose hearts could see the beauty and sacredness of the birth of a child as opposed to Herod, who ordered the massacre of the Holy Innocents, all these infant children in Bethlehem. He clearly had a heart that was without

*Merry Christmas
from all of us at the
Center of Hope!!!!*

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

*sponsored by the
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wisdom. He could not see the will of God and did not appreciate the sacredness of all these young children made in God's image.

Most of the people we serve at the Center of Hope did not have the advantage of being raised in a stable, loving family environment. In addition, they did not have an opportunity for sound religious instruction. Perhaps some of us suffer from these same deficiencies, but I believe that is why God gives us time on this earth to grow spiritually and to become holy. He speaks to us in many ways, we just have to be open to hear His calling. This is something Satan will try in all his power to prevent. He will keep us from God in any way possible.

We truly have a battle and an adversary, but it is not hopeless, for all things are possible with God.

We pray that you will have a most Blessed Christmas and amongst all the hustle and bustle, we pray that you may receive the best gift ever this year, the gift of Wisdom which comes from God. To do His will, to do what would be most pleasing to Him, to find Him in prayer, in silence, in peace, in family, in little children, in the Sacraments, in Church. May God grant you wisdom within your heart (Psalm 51).

George Dinkel, Executive Director

The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Do we?

Please pray for the many needs of our Dear Neighbors



"I was working when COVID hit and had to leave the job. I collected \$300 weekly on unemployment to pay for rent and groceries. The last two weeks I haven't received any unemployment assistance and cannot pay rent. I have nowhere to go and have no one else to ask."

"I have received a Summons for Eviction to appear in court 11/18/20 at 1:30 p.m. November 2020 is the only month I have missed paying rent. Can you help me?"

"My brother is needing your assistance. He was recently diagnosed with stage-4 cancer and his electricity has been shut off. He has no income coming in right now. He is going to be filing for disability and food stamps. He was working construction five or six weeks ago. He was let go due to his illness."

"I was trying to get help with paying my electric bill. I lost my job two months ago due to COVID and my son breaking his leg. I have an interview next week. I'm just needing help to keep my lights on and with the grace of God I will get this job. Right now I'm home schooling and don't know what to do so if you could, please help me and my children. Thank you."

"I am being evicted tomorrow and I have two kids and literally nowhere to go but my vehicle. I apologize for bugging you. I know you have a lot of people needing help right now."

"I have a family we are working with that is going through a hard time. They lost their section 8 and were homeless. She has a job but is not getting enough hours."

"I have recently moved into an apartment on my own after being hospitalized for heart and kidney failure. I had a good job that allowed me to get out on my own and get my son living with me. They fired me last week because of my medical issues and not being able to move as fast as they want."

"Please call me. My landlord is going to put a \$50.00 late fee letter on my door today. I am losing my water on the 21st. I can't pay my electric that I owe almost a 1000.00 on. Please help!!"

"I need help paying my electric, it is in danger of cut off and my son lost his job due to COVID. I work at a fast food restaurant but they cut our hours so I can hardly do anything. I'm praying that you can help."

Volunteers Needed

The Center of Hope is in need of several volunteers that could help take calls from clients needing assistance. We take calls from 9-12 and 1-4 Monday through Friday, so the volunteer time is only for three hours. Our office is closed to outside traffic and we only have 4 staff persons, so social distancing is always in practice; we have a very safe environment for Covid-19 concerns. We especially need volunteers that would be substitute volunteers.

The process of completing the intake sheet is very simple and the chance to listen to the

stories of those calling in and giving them some words of encouragement and hope is a great opportunity to do God's will of loving our neighbor.

So you might pray about it and if you discern that you might have a calling to take calls please give me a call at 316-267-3999 or send me an email at: george@centerofhopeinc.org. There is no pay since this is a volunteer position, but the retirement plan is Heavenly.



Kind Words are not Forgotten

Notes of Appreciation to You Our Donors

Thank you so very much for helping me with my electric bill right after the loss of my husband. Life has been so difficult after he was re-diagnosed with his cancer, then his death. I appreciate your assistance more than you will ever know and I hope I can repay your kindness soon. Thank you for your help, extreme kindness, and especially your prayers, your kind words will never be forgotten. Thank you all again, God bless you all.

A recent thank you note received by our Project Deserve coordinator

"Oh my! I am so relieved! And I cannot tell you how completely and utterly appreciative I am of you right now! Thank you! Thank you so so much! I appreciate everything you have done!"

- COH Client

The soul that loves God purely,
desires only what God wills.

Boudon

What a beautiful consolation it is to see spouses of the divine Lamb, the Adorers of His most Precious Blood, motivated by one sole will, the will of God, forming but one heart and one soul and thus united, making the heavens resound, with a hymn of thanksgiving, to the infinite goodness of God.

(St Maria de Mattias, founder of the ASC Religious Order, sponsor of COH)

CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

IN HONOR OF

ASC Jubilarians

Jillian Lewis

Rev. Kenneth Van Haverbeke

Warren Family

IN MEMORY OF

David Aldag

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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 37 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because You Cared



For the past 12 months, the Center of Hope prevented 3,325 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 8,188 persons. \$1,669,190 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$271,028 was provided for 1,437 households.

Over the past three months, due to Covid-19, donations of food and other personal care products have been very minimal. St. Cecilia Parish has ventured out and made several donations, and we continue to give out bicycles that have been donated by Jim & Phyllis Ramsey.

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



*Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill*