



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

I am so thankful to our Lord for all the Blessings He continues to bring to our little ministry of Homeless Prevention and to you, our dedicated donors who bring a little glimmer of hope to those who often have little hope left. Just as God speaks to us in the beauty of nature

WHERE IS MY HEART?

so I often can see His touch in our service to those in need.

We were made out of love and to love. But this love is more of a spiritual love that St. Theresa of Avila speaks of in the *Way of Perfection*. Not so much a material love. When we find this love in our hearts we experience a beauty that is truly breathtaking.

This past week I was involved in helping find shelter for a 72-year-old undocumented man who had been homeless for quite some time. He was out on the streets with the temperatures below 20 degrees. When the WPD Hot Team found him, he was in need of medical treatment and had to have his legs amputated. After the surgery he really had no place to go. I made a few calls and I was truly amazed at the number of people that were willing to help this man. Having never met him or even talked to him, they had such a great desire to help him just because of his great need. Not even concerned about his history, or what events brought him to this situation, really no questions at all. All were just genuinely concerned to help him in any way they could.

St. John Chrysostom says that when the three wise men followed the star to adore and worship the infant Jesus at the Nativity they had to travel many miles through foreign countries, truly a difficult and dangerous journey. He contrasts that with the many individuals that will not even cross the street to help or see Jesus in the poor.

For myself, I need to keep working on finding this love in my heart and to follow it. I was at Mass recently and the Gospel reading from Mark 7 had a verse that says: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." How



blessed are those...who seek Him with their whole heart

can I keep my heart near the Lord? Will it be a long and dangerous journey or will it be something as simple as crossing the street? The journey will be different for each of us. It appears we have to make a choice but also that it can only be completed through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we approach the Paschal feast, the most important celebration of the liturgical year, we might meditate on the Sacred Heart of Jesus which was pierced with the lance out of love for us and see where our hearts are calling us. How can we respond to His great love? How can we fulfill what we were created for and come to love as He loved? It is not easy, but let us always keep in mind that all things are possible with God.

We wish you a most joyous Easter celebration. May God's Peace and Love be with you always. Please remember the poor. In serving them, we serve Christ.

Your friend in Christ,
George

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

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Center of Hope Annual Dinner - April 29

The Center of Hope is hosting the annual benefit dinner on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at the Newman University Dugan Library & Conference Center. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a private reception for those purchasing a table and 5:30 p.m. with a wine and beer reception for all guests.

The theme for the evening is "Love Begins at Home." The event includes a raffle, a silent auction and a live auction with some really great items including golf outings, dinner with Bishop Kemme, an HVAC replacement/installation, a one-day trail drive with real horses and longhorn cattle,

Royals/Chiefs games and many other spectacular items.

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. A copy of the dinner invitation can be downloaded from our website: centerofhopeinc.org.

We'd especially like to recognize our corporate sponsor, Skyward Credit Union, and our dinner underwriters: Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Frankenbery & Johnson DDS, Fahnestock HVAC, Learjet Employess Care Fund and Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. We sincerely appreciate their contributions to make this event special.



Families We Have Served

A variety of problems including health issues and under-employment bring clients to our door. Through your help, Center of Hope is able to provide some assistance in their difficult circumstances. However, their lives do not magically change bringing a fairy tale ending. Your prayers are needed to help them create a better life for themselves and their families. Please pray for:

- S, a 20-year-old lady who lives with her husband. They currently have no income. S was raised in foster homes. She has met her biological parents but has a lot of anger for them as they both have a long drug history and little concern for her.
- R, a 72-year-old man who has been homeless living on the streets. He was taken to the Hospital by the WPD during the extremely cold temperatures and had both his legs amputated. He is undocumented and has no income and really no hope for future income.
- R, a 64-year-old lady who lives by herself. R works for a retail store and only made \$478 this past month. She had a water leak and had to pay \$1,100 to repair the water line and now has a \$974 water bill.

● R, a 32-year-old single dad who lives with his 4-year-old son. R was involved in a rollover auto accident on the way to work. He was not driving. He has a hairline fracture on his spine and is in a neck brace. He is currently on medical leave and will soon find out when he meets the surgeon whether he will need surgery, continue to wear the neck brace, or be able to return to work. He owed \$1174 on his rent and has never been late on his rent payment.

● T, a 41-year-old mom who lives with her young son. T was hospitalized after a domestic violence situation. She is receiving counseling and supportive services. Her only source of income is child support of \$200 per month. She owes \$880 on rent and \$447 on her Westar bill.

● J & C have 4 children and have been out of work for the past 3 months. J just started a job at a fast food restaurant but they owe \$1500 in rent and \$675 on their utilities.

● A, a 32-year-old veteran has no income and has been homeless for some time. He will be moving into an apartment and will be starting a job soon.

● M, a 38-year-old lady who was just recently released from prison and currently has no income. She was able to obtain housing in an Oxford House group home and hopes to find a job soon.

Martha Flaherty



I must admit that it is with a deep ache within my heart that I report of the sudden loss of Martha Flaherty. Martha was a Center of Hope Board Member starting in 2006 and became a volunteer shortly thereafter. Martha volunteered on Friday afternoon's and had a unique love and ability to work with the many coming to us for assistance. She has always been a huge supporter of our little ministry to the poor and was always willing to help in whatever way she could. Her guidance as a Board Member, her many years of helping and being in charge of our Annual Dinner and her weekly service on Friday afternoon's as a volunteer for over twelve years are a great testimony to her love and concern for the poor. Always gracious and joyful, she will be greatly missed. We pray for God's Blessings and Peace for her always!!!

Dr Jim Kastens



We are very sorry to report the loss of Jim Kastens who was a Board Member of the Center of Hope in the early years of the organization before it operated as a corporation. Jim's guidance and support of our ministry which started as a very small response of the heart to those in need has continued to grow and has truly changed the lives of many families living in our community. Jim always had a special love and concern for our little ministry of homeless prevention. He truly was a kind and loving person who saw the good in others. He will be sadly missed but was an inspiration to me and all those who had the opportunity to know and work with him. May God's Blessings and Peace be with him always!!!

RECOGNITION GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF

All ASC Sisters
Charles & Teresa Beckett
Mendell "Mitch" Butler
Margaret Debbrecht
Carig Dunlop
Mary Ann Farmer
Martha Flaherty
Msgr. John Gilsehan
Joan Kahn
James Kastens
Sr Renee Kirmer ASC
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Marianne Orr
Mary Rademacher
Sr Stella Rosenhamer
Eileen Sweet
Ted Toon
Norma Trotnic
John Voegeli

IN HONOR OF

Pat Baker
Janis Brehm
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Wanda Farmer
Stephen Gugleta
Lou & Kay Hermann
Rev Leon J Kerschen
Ella Mae McGuire
A.J. Orth
Ema Orth
Hannah Orth
Maureen Orth
Melanie Orth
Olivia Orth
Bob & Mary Waddill

Center of Hope Board of
Directors, Volunteers & Staff
& their families

Living from your heart means that you choose a life and a lifestyle that are true for you and your family. It means you make important decisions because they resonate with your heart and your own values, and not necessarily with those of others. Living from your heart means that you trust your own instincts more than the pressures from advertising or the expectations of society, neighbors, and friends.

Daily reflection from "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff"

Spotlight on Case Management



An integral component of the Center of Hope Homeless Prevention ministry is the Case Management Program which provides an intensive level of care to those with special needs. The Case Management Program was officially formalized in 2007 when the Center of Hope received a grant through the ASC Foundation. Prior to that time, only supportive counseling was offered. The funding from the ASC Foundation offered our "at risk" families the opportunity to participate in case management planning for one-to-two years focusing on, but not limited to, three core areas: employment, education and financial literacy.

The Center of Hope Case Management Director, Sister Becky Balthazor, ASC strongly believes in a person / family centered approach. She takes into account the reality of life as seen from the client's perspective. When a client commits to the Case Management Program, they agree to formulate

Sister Becky feels that it is critical to understand that the families she works with are trapped in a culture of poverty.

She takes into account the reality of life as seen from the client's perspective.

a quarterly case plan with the assistance of the case manager with pertinent goals set in the core areas mentioned above. A review is done at the end of each quarter recognizing the client's accomplishments as well as identifying unmet goals or needed areas of growth. At the conclusion of each quarterly review, the client is provided funds, based on their goal attainment, to be used to address obstacles that are keeping them from becoming self-sufficient.

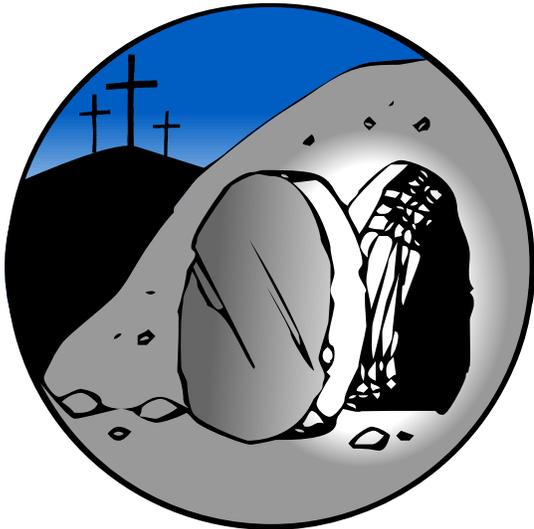
Sister Becky feels that it is critical to understand that the families she works with are trapped in a culture of poverty. What has been very meaningful to her and her clients over the past several years is the evolving *relationship* which underpins all the hard work that is done in the program. The purpose and hope of case planning is to empower these families to *make the choices that provide long term sustainable benefits and lasting lifestyle changes*. Sister Becky recognizes the importance of teaching life skills and providing counseling to her clients, but more importantly she feels that a strong mentoring relationship is imperative. From this trusting relationship, the person discovers the truth of their self-worth, abilities, gifts, and begins to live out of that truth. Therein lies a way to successful living.

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 34 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because You Cared

For the past six months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,971 families from experiencing homelessness. Included in those families were 5,176 persons. \$733,967 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve provided \$172,299 for 1,148 households. In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food, bicycles, and personal care products from our store-room, provided budgeting assistance and counseled for special needs.

Many thanks to all the parishes, business, and individuals who brought blankets, canned and boxed food, paper products and personal and home cleaning products. Most recently Mary Bateman, Jim & Lois Daniels, Judy



Dusek & Via Christi St. Frances Nurses, Rachel Lewis, Josephine Mohr, Lee Pham, Sister Bok Soon, ASC, Chris Sims, Tom & Mary Horner, Kyle Jacobs, Kansas Youth Ministries, Landlord Association Greater Wichita, Marcia Moralez, St. Cecilia Parish (Haysville), St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Joseph Parish (Conway Springs), and an anonymous donor blessed us with 620 bags of food and supplies in the past three months.



Center of Hope Corporate Sponsor



Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency

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Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill