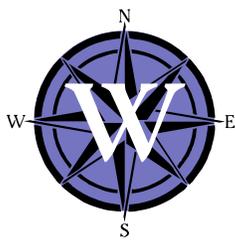




## May Peace Be Your Guide



Why is there so much stress and anxiety in our world? When Jesus was born, the angels said "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will." (Luke 2) The birth of Jesus did indeed bring peace to the earth. But why is there such lack of peace in the world? It is not merely limited to those who are poor and those who are homeless or in danger of being homeless. I venture to guess that many of us, myself included, are at times not really totally at peace. Why is this and how can we get there?

I have recently come to realize the great necessity of keeping guard over my heart in my prayer and spiritual life. Our heart is such a powerful force in our lives as it has the gift of love which is the greatest of the theological virtues. But our hearts are difficult to control. St. Bernard said that "Nothing in me is more elusive than my heart. Whenever it leaves me and pursues wrong thoughts it offends God."

Our heart is continually moved by many desires. The more we indulge our thoughts, the greater will be our hunger and desire for many things. (F Osuna) The more we desire other things or pursue wrong thoughts the more anxiety we feel in our heart. We can actually feel this movement of our heart; it is a feeling of emptiness, a certain stress or anxiety, a lack of peace.

One of the things that really attracted me to the Center of Hope was not only the assistance provided to those in need, but the much love and kindness shown to those we serve. One person we recently helped was under much stress as his Westar service was about to be turned off. He had a disabled child in the house and had no way to pay the amount needed. A co-worker of his told us what a difference our help made in his life. He returned to work the next day and was like a new person. He had hope.

A 32-year-old mom we recently helped from being evicted has three young children in her household. Her



### *Christmas, a Time for Peace*

fiancé recently left and her hours were reduced at work so she only made \$629 this past month. She was suffering so much emotional turmoil she could hardly hold back her tears.

Another family that just had a newborn in their household was suffering stress from having their water turned off for over a week. They could not bathe the newborn child properly and he had to be hospitalized due to a severe rash he developed.

Jesus told the apostles that He would give them peace, *His peace*, not the peace that the world gives. (John 14:27) So it seems that there are two different types of peace. The peace the world gives and the Peace that comes from God.

We all pray for peace in the world, freedom from wars and from stress and anxiety and this is good. There is also a

much deeper peace, an inner peace that comes from God, a peace the world cannot give.

Perhaps this Christmas Season can be a time for us to *leave the world behind* and seek the Peace that comes from God. Perhaps we can guard our thoughts and our hearts and keep them centered on Jesus and His great love for us. We can come to know the presence of the Holy Spirit within our hearts and pray to Him with a pure heart.

If we can truly grow in our love and union with God, we will grow in our love of neighbor. True love for someone is when we care for them, when we are concerned for them and somehow feel responsible for them and ask nothing in return.

The world cannot bring us peace, but we can bring Peace to the world - only through God's Presence in our hearts. When we love others and help them to overcome the stress and anxiety they are experiencing we truly become disciples of Jesus.

"Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices." (St Theresa of Avila)

We pray that God give you Peace, the Peace the world cannot give.

*George Dinkel, Executive Director*

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Mark  
Your  
Calendar!

# CENTER OF HOPE ANNUAL DINNER 2020

The Center of Hope Annual Dinner will be Sunday evening, April 19, 2020 at the Newman University Dugan Library. Our theme for this year's Dinner will be "Love Anchors the Soul". Please plan to attend as your support of this event provides much needed funds for rent and utility assistance. A fast paced evening with fun, food and drinks and a great time to support those in need. We hope to see you there.

*We are serving the  
God of peace  
who one day will  
unite us in  
Heaven to enjoy eternity.*

*St. Maria De Mattias*



## Prayer Requests

*Prayers are an intangible that our clients are in special need of. Please remember our clients in your prayers.*

- Please pray for M, a 21 year old mom with two young children. Her husband is no longer in the household due to domestic violence. She has no income coming in.
- Please pray for R, a 54 year old man who lives with his wife. R was working in a machine shop but had to stop in August due to surgery. He has not been able to return to work and is behind four months on his mortgage and has lost his job.
- Please pray for J, a 40 year old mom with two children. J lost her job after being on maternity leave and is currently looking to find another job. She owes over \$1200 on her electric bill.
- Please pray for A, a 50 year old lady who struggles with a mental disability. Her mom and husband both passed away this past year and she had been living with an aunt but is now homeless and vulnerable.
- Please pray for G, a 28 year old mom with three young children. G had been making income as an Uber driver until her car broke down. She currently owes over \$1000 on her electric bill.
- Please pray for V, a 20 year old lady who is a high risk pregnancy and currently has no job, no income and owes \$961 on her electric bill.
- Please pray for H, a 41 year old mom who lives with her three children. H has been unable to work after being treated for cancer and having a double mastectomy.
- Please pray for C, a 37 year old lady who lives with her two children. One of the children is disabled. C had to quit her job because of sexual harassment issues and currently does not have sufficient income to cover her expenses. Her water and gas have both been shut off for several months.



*Center of Hope sees so many families, especially with young children, who are struggling to make it from day-to-day. When the families leave after their visit with a sense of hope, we can't help but think of the Peace brought to the world by the birth of Jesus.*



## A Recent Letter From a Future Case Management Client

A friend suggested I call Center of Hope for help. The dread, or fear that I had upon walking in vanished in a lobby full of people all struggling as I was, all of whom wore fatigue from the battle. This room represented all ethnicities and all ages. The wait was short and the intake volunteer named Mary was professional and efficient.

I'm a trained, displaced journalist who was raised in Wichita, raised two children here. I worked at the university and the newspaper. I never expected to find myself here needing help from strangers, with no resources to pull myself through. My mistrust and skepticism was Olympic, and I was reluctant to accept help.

Sr. Becky made my processing easy. She is steadfast and compassionate in her goal, which is to help people like me. She helped me with a long-game plan, immediate assistance and accepted me in her two year case management program to help guide my reintegration into society after surviving cancer and caretaking two parents until they passed. She also gave me a care package containing the best peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and ramen. Hunger is real for the middle class. If it weren't for places like Center of Hope, many lights would shine less brightly.

My Uber driver said, "Oh man, Center of Hope saved me and my three kids last winter. I'm a contractor for contractors and jobs get thin sometimes."

I am profoundly grateful for who you were today, when I was most humbled. I don't know that I'll win this round, but I know you gave me hope. Thanks for that.

Maureen

## A Prayer from St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace  
where there is hatred, let me sow love  
where there is injury, pardon  
where there is doubt, faith  
where there is error, truth  
where there is despair, hope  
where there is darkness, light  
and where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
to be understood, as to understand  
to be loved, as to love  
for it is in giving that we receive  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen



### CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

#### IN MEMORY OF

Helen Bergkamp  
Kenneth Owens  
Sr. Stella Rosenhamer ASC  
Joe Stuever, Sr.

#### IN HONOR OF

Jim Daniels  
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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 36 years of service to  
the Wichita community

# Because You Cared

For the past three months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,173 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,971 persons. \$462,816 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$60,646 was provided for 408 households. In addition to the 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 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 St Cecilia Parish, Jessica Nelson, Angela Winn blessed us with 37 bags of food and supplies in the past three months.



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

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency

