



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

A Quarterly Newsletter

# UNITED IN LOVE

*By George Dinkel, Executive Director*

**T**he Center of Hope typically provides rent and utility assistance to approximately 4000 households, 9000 persons per year. Over the past 37 years we have touched the lives of many of our dear neighbors. From the statistics we gather we know that 100% of those we assist will be able to stay in their homes at least another 30 days and that less than 20% will have been evicted within six months. I must admit though, that sometimes I still wonder whether our assistance really makes a lasting difference in lives or whether it is really appreciated. We work really hard providing this assistance and it would be very sad to know that all our work was really for no purpose, in vain. To do something in vain is to do something that is fruitless, lacking worth or not producing the desired outcome.

This is something to ponder when we think of Jesus sacrificing His life for us on the cross. All the unimaginable suffering He endured for my sins and all the heartbreaking sorrow the Blessed Mary had to experience because of me. How could I allow this to be undertaken for no purpose, bearing no fruit, not producing the desired outcome in me. Truly this would be the saddest of all sadness.

If I were not to seek God's forgiveness through the sacraments, if I did not try to amend my ways, if I failed to thank Him daily for His great love and suffering, this also would be one

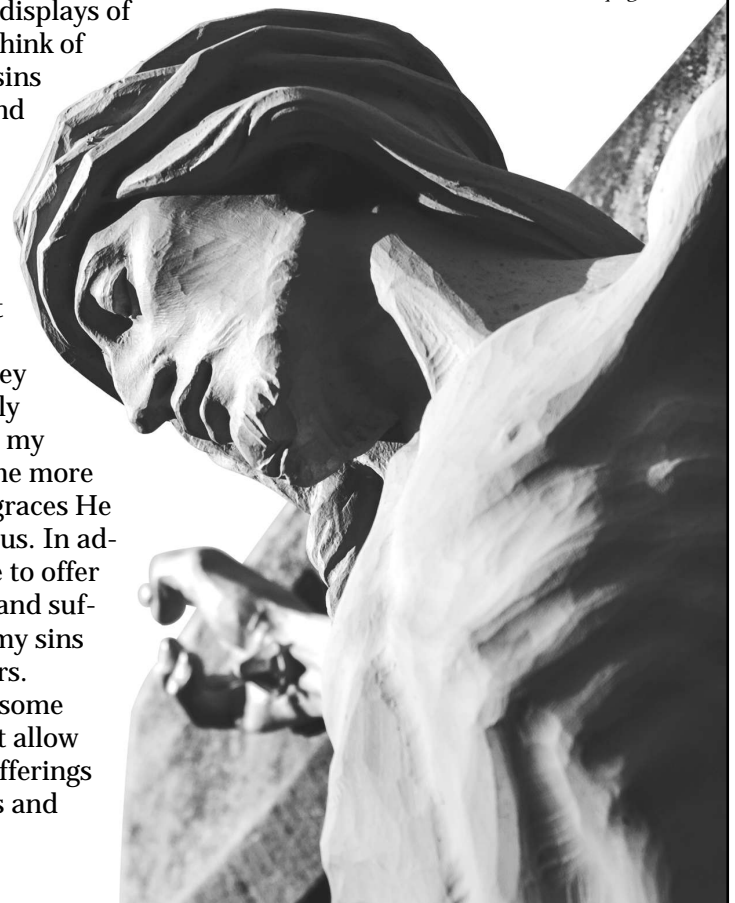
*When I truly recognize the reality of His sacrifice, how can it not make a permanent change or impact on my life?*

of the most horrible displays of ingratitude. When I think of all the suffering my sins have caused Jesus and all the sorrow I have caused the Blessed Mary, it makes me never want to ever sin again. Every additional sin I commit just adds to the suffering and sorrow they had to endure. It truly inspires me to mend my ways, to try to become more holy, to seek all the graces He wishes to bestow on us. In addition, it inspires me to offer up my own sorrows and sufferings not only for my sins but for those of others. Perhaps this may in some way lessen or at least allow me to share in the sufferings and sorrows of Jesus and

Mary. St Paul himself rejoiced in his sufferings and said they fill up those things that are wanting of the sufferings of Christ (Col 1:24).

I have included in this newsletter a few notes we have recently received from people we have served which brings much joy to my heart not for any glory or recognition for the Center of Hope, but simply as a testimony that your donations have made a difference in lives and that they are indeed grateful for your most

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**CENTER OF HOPE, INC.**

*sponsored by the  
Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

**Executive Director**

George Dinkel

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kind generosity.

Padre Pio tells us how sorrowful Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane when He saw how ungrateful many are for the sufferings He was to endure and how few would profit from the sacrifice of His Blood. (from The Agony of Jesus by Padre Pio)

How can we be more grateful for the love of Jesus? How can we more fully profit from His Passion? How can I more fully worship and praise Him?

When we seek the Lord we praise Him (Psalm 22) and we will indeed find Him when we search for Him with our whole heart and soul. (Deut 4:29-31). May we never abandon Jesus as He was abandoned in His Agony. May we always be united with Him in Love and His Suffering, especially in the Eucharist.



# CENTER OF HOPE ANNUAL DINNER

This time of year we are usually busy getting ready for our Annual Dinner. Due to covid-19 we will not be able to hold our Annual Dinner again this Spring. We will wait to see how the virus is progressing to see if it would be safe to host the Annual Dinner later this Fall or wait until next Spring. In any event, you have my authorization to enjoy a really good virtual dinner and make a donation to the Center of Hope in lieu of the Dinner. Thank you all for your most loyal and kind generosity and I look forward to seeing you all again sometime soon. Thanks!!!!!!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for all those who are struggling with loss of jobs and loss of loved ones as a result of covid-19 and all the many homeless out on the streets especially during the extreme cold temperatures we experienced in late winter.

- "I've been put out of my house with my 5 kids and have nowhere to go."
- "I could really use some assistance. I haven't received unemployment benefits for the last three months so I have yet to pay rent since December and my landlord has decided to sell the home leaving me with less than a month to find a home to live in forcing me to possibly become homeless as Kansas unemployment has yet to get my funds processed. My water is also expected to be shut off by Monday. If you could please help me I appreciate it."
- "Need emergency rent help. We received a notice of forcible entry and them keeping anything worth value for our back rent. If we don't pay by the 11th and be evicted and lose everything in the process. We have been unable to pay our rent to our apartment that we moved into back in November, after being homeless since the beginning of the covid epidemic."
- "I need help. I am 2 months behind in rent of 625.00 a month and now I'm behind with my electric and my gas bill. I applied for LEAP but no answer. My gas bill is 254.73 and my electric bill is 329.42. Please I need help due to COVID 19...my son is on disability and on dialysis 4 days a week."
- "My power is off now I have a 1 year old. I also have a 4, 11 and 15 year old part of the time. I'm desperately trying. I've called and been everywhere. I've spent all I had and I feel defeated. Can I come to the office tomorrow?"
- "Since the covid my husband has not worked and we are in need of help. We are both elderly and living off my \$580 a month Social Security check and going deeper into debt. We cannot fill our prescriptions and both have severe health issues and on lots of medication. Our utility bills we are not able to pay. Our mortgage is overdue. we have no where to turn. We have gotten some commodities but now we don't know where to turn. I am 71 and have worked all my life but now scared as no where to turn. Please help me."
- "My 12 year old daughter was diagnosed April 2020 with a brain tumor called diffuse leptomeningeal glioneuronal neoplasm. She is undergoing treatment with her team of oncologists. I'm interested in applying for financial help during this time since I have had to switch from a 2 income family to just one and it has been so tough. I'd be willing to provide you with any information you need to evaluate our eligibility. Thank you and look forward to talking with you soon."



# Testimonies of Gratitude

*These statements from COH clients and supporters gives our volunteers and donors positive feedback and helps keep them inspired.*

## Kind words are not forgotten

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.

## Assistance makes a difference

My recent donation was an expression of gratitude. When I was a struggling college student behind on rent, Center of Hope helped me to avoid eviction. You asked only that I return the favor in the form of a donation when, or if, I was able. Since that time, I completed my degree and went on to obtain a graduate degree. I am a health professional in Wichita and agree that our community and nation are suffering in so many ways. If I can be of service to someone in need of health assistance I would be happy to take a pro bono client during this difficult time.

Again, thank you for supporting me and the Wichita community. What you do is important and appreciated. You are changing lives. Let me know if I can be of service in any way.

## Thanks!!

I just want to thank the wonderful lady that I spoke to earlier. She had a warm spirit and I'm so grateful that she was the one who was chosen to speak with me. At times like this (especially with this economy), a lot of families are suffering (like myself). When you are already at your lowest you shouldn't have to feel like you're a burden. Believe me, I'm already embarrassed and ashamed to ask for help. But I'm so Blessed to have met a beautiful genuine Angel. I want to thank her for making me feel at ease. I pray for you all and may you continue to Bless others like myself. I'm not perfect but I'm very grateful and humbled. Thank you again. Honestly I can't thank you enough.

## Someone cares

Thanks for your attention and for this kind message. It helps to know someone out there cares, even in the midst of overwhelming circumstances for many of us. I really appreciate your personal attention and prayers. It's been a spiritual journey to surrender certain things beyond my control and to do what I can and then give it to God. I'm an older guy and modern ways seem to have become so impersonal and many times demeaning. Thanks again for taking the time to write. My dear father passed away from Covid recently, and my mom has been in quarantine getting over it. I haven't been able to see them and it's been a very strange and sad way of facing adversity. I know God works in mysterious ways and will continue living in faith, hoping I can gain strength to help others as you do. Take good care and be careful. God bless you all...

## Praying together

Thank you so much and please thank the others involved in this...those of you who work to raise funds can know that every penny is a big help. The prayers work on levels we don't always understand, but I can always tell the difference when we're praying together. There is strength in numbers, even when one is weak. This will help, of course to strengthen my faith, as well as to get me through a rough financial crisis. It's humbling to ask for help and to receive takes grace and gratitude. Thank you and thank God. I hope you're continually blessed and will include you and your mission in my prayers. I know there are others struggling and that I'm not alone. I hope to be able to improve my situation so I can help others too. Take good care.

## A letter from a landlord

I'm writing to personally praise the impact the Center of Hope has on the lives of so many impoverished people. I want you to know how much I appreciate your help and support. My tenants would be lost without your compassionate guidance. I wish they had the ability to explain to you the life-changing difference you and your staff make in their lives, but I see it. You and your staff provide the tools and encouragement that set them on a path to success.

Please know I am sincerely grateful to have your continued support in the fight against poverty and addiction. I look forward to continuing to be your ally as a provider of safe, comfortable homes that can inspire hope in people who, not long ago, had none.

# 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 37 years of service to  
the Wichita community

## Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

### *In Honor of*

Sr. Jeannine Bahr, ASC Birthday Virginia Orth Grandchildren  
Betty Butler Anthony Sota  
Rev. Matt Davied Rev. Derek Thome  
Greg & Peggy Duick Rev. Kenneth Van Haverbeke  
Rev. John Jirak Center of Hope Staff, Volunteers,  
Sr. JoAnn Mark, ASC BOD & Families  
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### *In Memory of*

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*Editor, George Dinkel*  
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