



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

# Hopeline

A Quarterly Newsletter



## ADVENT

is truly a mystical time of year which I am coming to appreciate much more as I advance in age, and hopefully in wisdom. It is a special time of anticipation, of waiting on something known, but at the same time something unknown. Advent spans the four Sundays before Christmas. The dictionary definition of Advent is a time of preparation, a time of coming into a place or coming into being. It is a spiritual time in which we not only anticipate Jesus' coming into our world to be among us, but also His coming into our souls through the gift of grace. This is echoed in the hymns we sing during this time:

"Come thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee"

"Our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if He were still to come into this world" (St. Charles Borromeo). Jesus does come to us in our hearts when we love Him. Scripture testifies to this "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

How can I make my heart more ready to love Jesus? How can I prepare my heart for Him?"

I would expect that when the Blessed Virgin Mary was greeted by the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, she in some way had a premonition that this choice was not easy and would entail a difficult journey. This thought resonated with me in the assistance we recently provided to three moms who were facing difficult decisions.

**The first case** was a young mom who was seeking assistance as her husband had just been incarcerated and would be so for some time. She also recently had given birth to a young child. She currently has no income coming in and has little hope of any coming in the future. She was weeping as she told us she had put her child up for adoption as she knew she was unable to care for the child.

**Another young mom** came to us needing assistance to pay her rent as she had no income due to her being on maternity leave. Her dad was along with her during the appointment for transportation but also for moral support. She proceeded to tell us that she was pregnant after having been raped. She gave birth to the child and then put the child up for adoption. It was important for her to ensure the child would grow up with good parents. She felt very comfortable

with the family that adopted her child and that they would provide for the child in a loving environment.

**The third situation** was a young lady whose husband had passed away last month. She had not been able to work since his death which was especially difficult as he had committed suicide. They had been trying to have children and just shortly after he had passed away she found out she was expecting a child. She realizes that it will be difficult for her to provide for the child as a single parent.

**Each of the situations** is filled with a deep despair and a certain feeling of hopelessness. Not something we would think of or even really talk of during the joy and excitement of the approaching Christmas Season. There is a thread of hope in these stories which links me back to the Blessed Virgin Mary's "fiat" – her saying yes to the Angel's request. Even though making these choices would not be easy, would result in some suffering, the mothers chose to trust in God and made choices that were best for the little innocent children.

**Shortly after providing this assistance**, I received a surprise donation from St. Peter Schulte School students that collected baby items during respect life week and wanted



Students from St. Peter - Schulte School deliver baby items for COH families.

to donate them to the families that come to us seeking assistance. Kind of like the three Kings bringing gifts to the infant Jesus. It was such a blessing to see these young children so excited about helping families experiencing such tragedies in their lives. They are so innocent and pure; they cannot even grasp the depth of these sufferings.

**I think that is what Jesus is calling us to do**, to prepare our hearts for Him, to seek to love Him in a deeper way. When we do,

we will be more open and willing to help those in our community who are on the doorstep of hopelessness. As Jesus tells us, anything we do for the least of our brothers, we do unto Him. We ask that you please be generous throughout this next year. The demand for our service is ever increasing and at times it seems we won't have sufficient funds to meet these needs. We can only do it with your most gracious generosity, which in turn, if done for the Lord, will be rewarded in heaven in a way we cannot even imagine. Now is the time to provide for this reward.

*May you and your family have a most joyful and Blessed Christmas, filled with God's Peace and Love.*

*- Center of Hope Staff*

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*sponsored by the  
Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

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[www.centerofhopeinc.org](http://www.centerofhopeinc.org)

## Benefit Christmas Concert

The Damm Music Center has graciously agreed to host the third annual Christmas Concert at Gracepoint Church, 9035 W. Central Ave, for the benefit of the Center of Hope. The concert is free and will be performed by the music instructors, relatives, students and employees of Damm Music. The music and showmanship are excellent and very entertaining.



The concert will be held on **Thursday December 19, 2013** and starts at **8pm**. There is no charge for the concert, but a free will offering will be made for the Center of Hope. What better way is there to spend a Thursday evening than to help those in most need in our community and enjoy an evening filled with Christmas Musical Spirit.

### HELP WANTED: **Volunteer Tax Preparer**



The Center of Hope will again be a free tax preparation site under the IRS VITA Program. We prepared in excess of 730 returns last year with total refunds in excess of \$900,000. If you would be interested in using your financial skills to help those in need, or if you need to find something for your retired spouse to do during the winter season, we sure could use your help. If interested, give us a call at 267-3999 or stop by our office.

## Families We Have Served

**Following are sketches of several recent clients helped by Center of Hope. As you can see from these brief descriptions of their circumstances, these clients are in great distress and need your prayers. Please pray for them.**



**K**, a 43-year-old mom, lives with her 2 children and roommate. She recently had cancer surgery and will not be able to work for some time.

**R**, 53, lives with his wife. He works in the aircraft industry and is being treated for a brain tumor. As a result, he can't work.

**C**, 36, has 3 children. C missed work when she was hospitalized and lost income during that time. She sought help for \$665 on her rent, \$733 on her Westar bill and \$280 on her gas bill.

**K**, a 49-year-old man lives by himself. K broke his heel at work and will require several surgeries. His employer may not carry work comp insurance and has had no income since the accident. He will have no income coming in during his recovery and currently owes \$1,125 on his rent.

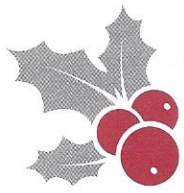
**J**, 50, lives with her husband. J suffers from seizures and has been in and out of the hospital. She will soon have surgery. Although she has a job, she's been unable to work for a while.

**E**, 39, lives with his wife and 4 children. E had 3rd degree burns to his hand after trying to remove a skillet from the stove that had caught fire. He had to have skin grafts and will not be able to return to work for 6 months. His wife does have some income, but it will not be sufficient to cover their expenses. They will probably lose their vehicle on which they are making \$300 per month payments.

**D**, a 26-year-old mom has three children. D lost her job in June. She was expecting a child at the time. D's infant baby was born near the end of August but passed away due to a heart condition. D was not able to pay her rent as she had to pay for the funeral of her infant daughter.

**S**, is a 50-year-old man who lives with his wife. S had a heart attack in July and had to stop working. He just recently returned to work, but they currently owe \$1396 in rent and \$1104 on their Westar Bill.

**T**, 36, has 3 children. T missed 2 weeks of work while she was hospitalized. She had a liver transplant 2 years ago and is having problems with the organ rejection medication. She currently owes \$852 on her Westar bill and \$485 on her water bill.



# Celebrate the Season

Prairie Land Food has some very attractive holiday food packages available for purchase.

- ★ Do you have a family gathering that you will be hosting for the holidays?
- ★ Do you know a family in your church or neighborhood who is going through a very difficult time?
- ★ Would you like to do something for one of our Center of Hope families?

## Prairie Land Food may be your answer!

Prairie Land Food is a great alternative to help defray the rising cost of food and makes it possible to purchase and enjoy healthy food for your family or others.

A typical basic Prairie Land Food pack which includes frozen meats and fresh produce.



Center of Hope partners with Prairie Land Food to make this possible.

Consider ordering one of the month's selections like the Prairie Pack, which is a variety of meats and fresh fruits and vegetables for only

\$28.00. Or you can select and purchase any of the featured Holiday Specials.

Stop by the Center of Hope or call Sr. Becky (409-4959) to place your order.

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Heavenly Father

We rejoice in celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

As we reflect upon the Holy Family's Journey into Bethlehem, we pray that

We would be compassionate enough

To welcome them into our homes.

Thank you for the gift of the Messiah,

May we serve Him well. Amen.



## COH Benefits from Johnston's Half Marathon

We are very pleased to announce that the Center of Hope received a donation of \$4,500 from the Johnston's Charitable Foundation. These funds were raised from the half marathon and 5k run that Johnston's hosted on Sunday Sept. 15, 2013. The Center of Hope was excited to be named one of the beneficiaries of the event.

The race wound through the streets of Wichita in the Riverside Park area on a perfect cool and sunny morning. The event was very entertaining and a great family affair which included food, a live band playing, really nice shirts for participants, and a professionally certified course.

We are very thankful for JV and Veronica Johnston for all their hard work, for sponsoring this event and choosing the Center of Hope as one of the recipients of the proceeds. They are already planning for an event next year on September 14, 2014. Hope to see you there.

### HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

#### *In Honor of Special Events:*

Sr. Betty Adams – 50th Anniversary

Sr. Jeannine Bahr - Birthday

Charles & Dolores Crum

Jim Daniels - 85th Birthday

Paul Eck - Birthday

Mike Girrens

Msgr. John Gilsean

Mike Van Haverbeke

Dr. Randy Oehmke

Bonnie Thompson

Fr. Ken Van Haverbeke

Robert & Mary Jobe-Waddill - Birthday

Sr. Therese Wetta - 50th Anniversary

#### *Memorials*

Sr. Stella Rosenhamer

Dr. Erach Tallaty

## Save the Date for the 2014 Benefit Dinner

Each year, the COH board sponsors a benefit dinner which is a principal source of income for our work. The food is fantastic and the auction items awesome. This is a not-to-be-missed event, so mark your calendars for the 2014 Benefit Dinner to be held on **Sunday, April 27, 2014.**

# 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 30 years of service to  
the Wichita community

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



# Because You Cared

For the past three months, the Center of Hope prevented 879 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 1,357 children. \$263,731 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs.

In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food 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 Judy Dusek, St. Cecilia Parish, Michele Kammerer, St. Peter the Apostle Parish and School, Lewis Bacher, United Way, Kyle Jacobs, and Darrell Johnson have blessed us with 245 bags of food and supplies.