



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

Hearts United in Love



With the hot summer months approaching, we may start to wonder about the effects of climate change, but I would like to focus a little on the extreme culture change we are currently experiencing. Just as the climate change is anticipated to continue at an unprecedented rate but is not really that noticeable by us individually, so too, the culture change is occurring at an unprecedented rate and is not clearly perceivable either.

In the Liturgy of Hours Office of readings, Psalm 95 is repeated daily which tells us how God had endured the Israelite people for forty years and that they are a people whose hearts went astray and that they did not know His ways and that He swore in His anger they would not enter into His rest.

I recently reviewed the clients we have served over the past two months and noted that 73% of those with children in the household were single parent households. The dad was not present in the home. In addition, of the remaining 27% that did have a two-parent household, the majority of these were not married.

This is a significant change from the culture over the past 50 years. Clearly it is important that children have both parents in the household. I thought it was interesting that the word "family" is used 312 times in Scripture, which reflects its significance and presence throughout our faith history.

I believe that it is also important for children to see



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noticed how difficult it is to guard my own heart, to not let it go astray. In addition, I have come to realize how little control I actually have over my heart. It became clearly apparent that I needed God's help to keep my wondering heart in check. I eventually came across a prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from St. Margaret Mary Alacoque which asks Jesus to place our weak hearts in His Own Divine Heart, continually under His protection and guidance, so that we may persevere in doing good and in fleeing evil until our last breath. This simple prayer has allowed me to become more singularly united with Jesus in love in a very special way.

In today's world, with the culture change rapidly occurring throughout the world, it is increasingly difficult to tell the difference between right and wrong; what God would want us to do. Satan tries to cloud things by mixing good with evil by telling only half-truths as he did when he told Eve that if she ate of the fruit, she would surely not die.

But how can we really know what course to take? We cannot simply do what everyone else is doing. We cannot

their parents praying. This is fundamental to the growth of their faith. I often remember riding in the car with my grandparents and they would ask me if I would join in praying the rosary with them on the drive. An ASC Sister used to tell me how she remembered her dad staying up late praying. Family prayer is the foundation for a child's faith life and helps foster vocations.

Is climate change for real? Is there anything we can do to change it? Is it something to be feared or concerned about? We might ask these same questions about the culture change.

Over the years I have

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allow culture to continue to change unchecked. We have to discern issues and courses of action for ourselves and discernment is not easy at times. We know that Satan has no patience and loves to create dissension, so it would seem prudent that two important virtues to keep in our quiver when dealing with his deceptions are patience and peace. These two little virtues are sure ways to com-

bat his impatience and attempts to create dissension. I pray that all of us may be granted the Divine virtue of Patience and that we allow God's Peace to be our guide.

May we all surrender our hearts to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus for His protection & guidance. May our lives be a true light to the world.

Sit Amore Dei,
George



Please Pray For

Your prayers are needed to support our clients who face tremendous odds in holding their families and their lives together, especially in the difficult times in which we live.

- A 38-year-old mom with four children who recently lost her job at a temp agency. She only made \$352 this past month at this job. She owes \$3,960 in rent. She is looking for a new job.
- A, a 22-year-old mom with two young children and who is currently unable to work due to a high risk pregnancy. She has been unemployed for the past four weeks and has no income. She owes \$550 on her rent and \$911 on her Everygy bill.
- R & I and their seven children. R lost his job in August due to the corona virus and they have had no income coming in. They owe \$2100 (3 months) on their rent and over \$1000 on their electric bill.
- S, a 28-year-old mom with six children, which includes a set of newborn twins. S is on maternity leave and will return to work as soon as she can get daycare arranged for the children. She owes one month's rent of \$675 and over \$700 on her Everygy bill.
- L and E have five children. L's hours have been reduced at work due to the corona virus and only made \$860 this past month. They owe \$1482 on their electricity bill, \$600 on their gas bill and \$1,054 on their water bill.
- A is a 26-year-old mom with two children. A lost her job due to a domestic violence incident and currently has no income coming in. She owes two month's rent totaling \$1033.
- H, a 41-year-old mom with four children, lost her job in September due to the corona virus. She is now going through a divorce and owes \$2500 on her rent.
- M is a 22-year-old mom with an infant that is in NICU. M, who was placed on maternity leave early due to the corona virus, lost her job. She has only made \$186 in the past month. She owes over three month's rent of \$2250 and \$550 on her utilities.
- L lives with her 16-year-old grandson. L lost her job due to the corona virus. Her grandson is working at a fast food restaurant but only made \$288 this past month. They owe \$1,900 on their rent and \$1,651 on their utilities.
- R & M have four children. R has been out of work for some time. They owe two months' rent of \$1200 and \$2,997 on their utilities.
- K, a 28-year-old mom has two children. K was off work for mental medical leave. When she was released to return to work, she was not able to go in as her children were out of school due to the corona virus. Her only source of income this past month was child support of \$148. She owes over two months' rent of \$1510 and \$1,048 on her utilities.
- A is a 39-year-old mom with three children. A only made \$120 this past month as she was off due to the corona virus. She owes \$495 on her rent and \$5,300 on her utilities.
- M, a 28-year-old mom, with four young children lost her job and has had no income from the past month. She owes over three months' rent of \$2300 and \$1,893 on her utilities.
- A has three children. A lost her job due to the corona virus and has had no income in the past month. She owes \$850 on her rent and \$846 on her utilities.
- I, the mother of two, lost her job and has had no income in the past month. She owes \$950 on her rent and \$1,789 on her utilities.
- M, a 46-year-old mom has six children. M is working and did make \$924 this past month, which is not sufficient income to cover her monthly expenses. She owes \$825 on her rent and \$5,644 on her utilities.
- B, a 26-year-old mom of four children, has had no income in the past month and owes \$3000 on her utilities.

Update

CENTER OF HOPE ANNUAL DINNER

We are excited to report that we are planning to have the Center of Hope Annual Dinner next Spring, April 24, 2022. We will plan on sending out a save the Date Announcement later this fall and the invitations will be mailed in March of 2022. Please save the date and plan to attend. We look forward to the opportunity to reunite with all our faithful donors and raising much needed funds for all the poor families struggling in our community. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!

See you in '22!



Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

In Honor of

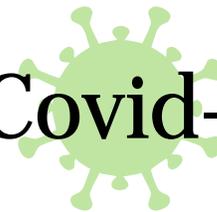
Jordan Santiago
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In Memory of

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Ella Mae McGuire
Ken & Mary Meyer
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H. Les Winn

Update

COH's response to Covid-19



The pandemic has now been with us for over a year. When the virus first started, we closed our doors and provided very little assistance as many people had received the first round of the stimulus checks and they could not be evicted due to the Governor's mandate and their utilities could not be turned off.

In June, we started to provide assistance via telephone interviews and had a waiting list of up to 150 names to call at one time. Over the next several months, we made some minor changes in our telephone interview process which allowed us to get the list to a more manageable number of around 30 names. For the next nine months, our phones literally were ringing off the hook. At any one time, we had hundreds of people trying to call in simultaneously for assistance. Our staff and volunteers were basically non-stop busy.

The assistance we provided through the nine months ending March 31, 2021 amounted to \$1,172,000 for 2,375 households, which is \$215,000 more than the assistance we provided for the nine months ending March 31, 2020 of \$956,000 for 2,422 households. The number of households we were able to serve via telephone calls remained about the same as we had provided prior to the pandemic, but the amount of assistance increased by 20% which reflects the many households we were able to help with several months of rent assistance as they were so far behind.

I sincerely appreciate and recognize all you donors who helped make this possible and the Center of Hope staff and volunteers that worked so diligently during these stressful times to make this possible. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Center of Hope, Inc.

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*Stay cool, &
have a Happy,
Heathy
Summer!*



“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 four months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,008 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 2,207 persons. \$493,000 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs.

Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$86,000 was provided for 467 households.

Due to Covid-19, donations of food and other personal care products have been very minimal.

Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



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Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill