



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

Time is a Gift, Time is Precious

by George Dinkel, Executive Director

One of the most treasured joys I experience from working at the Center of Hope is the opportunity to work with our volunteers. We have been especially blessed these past several years with the gift of Rosemary Miano, our volunteer Volunteer Coordinator. Rosemary typically is in our office three to four days a week and stays from four to eight hours per day.

She is very organized and has kept us well stocked on forms, which contain information as to the many services available to low income families in the Wichita area. If volunteers are not available to cover their time, she often personally comes to cover for them. Rosemary, who is a retired attorney by trade, never tires of providing guidance and direction to our clients to ensure they are safe and obtaining all the assistance they are in need of. She and her husband have recently decided to move to South Carolina to be close to their newly born grandchild. We are sad to see her go, but sincerely appreciate the time we have been able to spend with her and all the time she has given to our little ministry and all those we serve.

Our volunteers in a very concrete way put into action the Words of Jesus who said that He "came not to be served, but to serve" (Matt 20:28 and Mark 10:45). We have over 40 volunteers at the Center of Hope that give their personal time to help others, to serve them with kindness and gentleness. We were made to love and we will be restless and unfulfilled until we learn to love. To give ourselves to God and to others is really the only thing that can bring us fulfillment and lasting happiness. The only cost is our time.

To most of us, our time is a very precious thing. It is amazing how little extra or "free" time we really have. What



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consumes our time, takes up our time? I was recently talking to Russell, a homeless man who was searching through our dumpster looking for food. He was in no hurry and really had nowhere he needed to be. He told me the one thing he had was time. I was touched by his simple response. Although he had nothing he really possessed something very valuable.

Obviously, our jobs and our families take a lot of our time. These are two critical demands for time that are not negotiable. That is probably why the majority of our volunteers are retired, a time in their life when there are less demands on their time by jobs and family. They recognize that they have some free time and instead of using it to pursue their own interests or wasting it uselessly, they have chosen to give some of it to help others.

In today's world there is an underlying theme or culture that says we really don't need anyone else. That we are self-sufficient. And indeed, we can quite easily become self-sufficient and get through life quite well not really needing anyone. Although this is true, we need to realize that there could be someone out there that needs us.

I recently received an email from a Carmelite Sister (A Voice from the Vineyard) who shared that, as a young Sister in Carmel, a friend told her that: "Your life is not for yourself. In fact, it is not for your own consolation at all, but for God's people."

How will we spend our time? Our Life? Solely for ourselves or perhaps we can make a little time for others. Jesus told His disciples, "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13). If we are His disciples, His followers, we are indeed called to love. May we all truly learn to love!!!!

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St. Clement, Pope:

"Let us then preserve the unity of the body that we form in Christ Jesus, and let everyone give his neighbor the deference to which his particular gifts entitle him. Let the strong care for the weak and the weak respect the strong. Let the wealthy assist the poor and the poor man thank God for giving him someone to supply his needs. The wise man should show his wisdom not by his eloquence but by his good works."



The Cry of the Poor

Ask yourself what you would do if you were in the shoes of some of our clients profiled here.

- Please pray for L, a 22-year-old mom with an 8-year-old daughter. She is currently on bed rest with her pregnancy and her only source of income is TAF cash assistance of \$326 per month.
- Please pray for S, a 33-year-old mom with 7 children. She currently has no income as she just lost her job. The home she rents had a water leak and now she owes over \$1200 on her water bill which she is responsible for. Her water is currently turned off.
- Please pray for M, a 29-year-old mom with 4 children. She is working and makes about \$1100 per month on her job and receives child support of \$320 per month. Her child support payment was late this month and she was not able to pay her Westar bill on time and broke her pay agreement. She now has to pay \$664 to keep her electricity on.
- Please pray for Brittany, a 30-year-old mom with 4 children. Brittany works for a restaurant. She got sick and missed a week of work and did not have sufficient money to pay her Westar bill to stay on her pay plan. She currently needs \$1,010 to keep her electricity on.
- Please pray for M, a 32-year-old mom with 4 children. M lost her job and has not been able to pay her bills. Her electricity has been off for two weeks and she needs over \$1000 to restore service.
- Please pray for R, a 39-year-old mom who lives with her 5 children. Her husband will be deported in two weeks and she has no income.
- Please pray for C, a 29-year-old mom with 3 young children. C has been unable to work as she is being treated for cancer. Her only source of income at this time is child support of \$383 per month. She owes over \$1400 on her rent.



SPOTLIGHT on Case Management

Case Management Spotlight for this issue is on Christal Porter who eloquently spoke at our annual dinner about her experience in the case management program. She is a single mom with children.

Christal has accomplished many personal and professional milestones while working with me over the past several years. To name just a few; she has secured gainful employment and has made valiant strides in budgeting to support her large family, she has gotten her driver's license reinstated, applied and was awarded a couple of scholarships to take pre-requisite courses for pursuing a nursing degree, went through a difficult high risk pregnancy, and continued to meet with me on a regular basis to accomplish the goals she set for herself.

Christal is a very strong, goal-oriented woman who has come a long way and will continue to do more. When I first met Christal she was barely getting by working at a home health agency for \$12 per hour as a CNA. She was facing many, many obstacles and was not in a very good emotional space. Little by little we began to address these obstacles and with her personal determination and some very hard work on her part her situation improved.

I felt great joy and admiration as she stood before those who were in attendance at our annual dinner and shared her story. Thank you Christal for your courage and willingness to talk about your experience in the case management program...we were all very touched by your words.

Sr. Becky Balthazor, ASC

In Memory of Dan McCarty



I was very sad to hear of the loss of one of our volunteers, Dan McCarty. Dan volunteered a few years ago after losing his job and having some free time on his hands. He enjoyed coming to the Center of Hope so much. He especially enjoyed working with the people and working with Sr. Jeannine. He truly brought hope to many people in need. He had a very tender and compassionate heart. He was a good friend and a true inspiration to me and to all of us at the Center of Hope. He will be greatly missed.

Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

IN HONOR OF

Jane Hermann
Jim Stevens
Rev. Jim Weldon
Rev. Ken Van Haverbeke

IN MEMORY OF

Beth Armstrong
Ellen Clair Girrens
Frank Kastor
Elaine Landes
Dan McCarty
Bud Mondry
Jack Novascone
John Parolo
Jeannie Rosenhamer

"I ask you, how can God's love survive in a man who has enough of this world's goods yet closes his heart to his brother when he sees him in need"?

1 John 3:17



Some of our younger Center of Hope Donors give some of their play time to help others!

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 ongoing 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 10 months, the Center of Hope prevented 3,390 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 8,602 persons. \$1,323,887 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$243,591 was provided for 1,515 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, Judy Dusek, Donna Ford, the Kansas County Clerk Association, K of C Council #3114, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Dr Wendy Reynolds, Kris Sims, Larry & Linda Webb, John & Glenna Weir and an anonymous donor blessed us with 900 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

