



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

Love Never Fails

by George Dinkel, Executive Director

God is love. When we live in love, we live in God. When we don't live in God, we don't really love. What does it actually mean to live in love? Jesus said that if we love Him we should keep His commandments. *(John 14:15)*

When we do not keep the commandments, when we sin, especially when we commit serious sin or we continue to live in sin, we are separated from God. Is this because God stops loving us, or is it more that we stop loving God? I recently read that the reasons we commit sin are because of malice, weakness, or from a lack of understanding or knowledge. But one common underlying factor is all sin is a lack of love of God.

(F. Osuna) Although we may lose our love of God, I don't think God ever stops loving us.

As we approach the celebration of Easter it is important for us to spend some time in preparation. Whenever any great feast approaches, we invite guests, clean our house, plan the menu, spend days preparing food. To prepare for Easter we make sacrifices, give something up, deny ourselves. We do this not only to share in some of the suffering Jesus endured on the cross, but also to help purify our hearts. We try to remove some of the worldliness that has taken possession of us to leave more room for the spiritual, the Holy Spirit. We receive the



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sacraments during this time to become more holy, to cleanse our hearts, to be forgiven of our sins.

God has prepared something very special for those who love Him, which can be known by us only through the Holy Spirit. *(1 Corin 2:7-15)* It is imperative that we guard our hearts—keep them united in Christ and pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. We must continually contemplate His love for

us and our love for Him.

It is so easy for our hearts to go astray. St. Peter denied Jesus three times. When we sin, we in a way also deny Jesus. We remove Him far from our thoughts or try to in some way justify our actions. We deny Jesus when we fail to see Him in the poor—when we turn our face from them and pretend not to see those in need, the homeless, the outcasts. We betray Jesus when we fail to share some of our surplus wealth with the poor.

Jesus said that if we seek Him we will find Him. Perhaps we can spend some time preparing for Easter by living a more contemplative life, by seeking silence and solitude. To truly love Him Who loves us so much. Love is so necessary for our peace and our salvation. St. Angela Merici used to remind the girls she was instructing in the Catholic faith that they really had a greater need to serve the poor than the poor had a need for their service. Perhaps we can come to see Him and love Him in the poor that live among us.

There were two hearts pierced at the time of the crucifixion. We see so many broken hearts that come to the Center of Hope for assistance. I often wish there was some way I could take away their pain. How can we heal these broken hearts?????

Only through love. For as Jesus assured us, love never fails. *(1 Corin 13:8)*

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

*sponsored by the
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Pray for Hope

I recently discovered a special devotion to the Blessed Mary titled "Our Lady of Hope." Through the prayers of six young children to "Our Lady of Hope," a small town in France was saved from an invading army. Since we are the Center of Hope, I thought it appropriate that we take "Our Lady of Hope" as our patroness.

I recently assisted a young mother of two young children who had attempted to commit suicide. She is receiving professional help, but she also needs help in a spiritual way. When I visited with her very briefly about faith, she was so interested and excited, I was deeply touched. You could sense



that she had a deep hunger and longing for faith.

I ask for your prayers for her and the many other clients we see who are struggling in so many ways. Please pray to the Blessed Mary, Our Lady of Hope for her intercession and for all those entrusted to our care at the Center of Hope. So many are suffering from broken hearts, lives shattered, and souls searching for truth and holiness. I read once that to pray for those who are in serious sin (and perhaps also those in serious need) is the best kind of almsgiving we can give, so please remember all these souls in your prayers and ask for the intercession of "Our Lady of Hope."

Pray for...

T, a single mom with two children, who had to leave a full time job to care for her disabled child. She is working part time but only made \$637 the past month.

R, a 25-year-old mom with four young children, has not been able to work full time due to suffering severe headaches. She has been able to stay pretty current on her rent but owes \$970 on her utility bills.

M, a single mom with five children, only made \$200 babysitting this past month. She owes \$932 on her Westar bill.

J, is a 61-year-old man who lives by himself and works construction. He had a stroke this past month and is unable to work at this time. He owes \$530 on his rent and \$576 on his utility bills. He does not know when or if he will be able to return to work.

L, a 33-year-old mom with six children, missed three weeks of work as a result of her daughter's medical condition. She owes \$1,180 on her rent and \$1,182 on her utility bills.

R, a 66-year-old man who lives by himself. He receives \$800 in Social Security income per month, which is close to meeting his monthly expenses, but due to a water leak, he currently owes \$1,104 on his water bill.

A, a 47-year-old lady who has been homeless the past year, is currently in a recovery home.



E, a single mom with three children, who only made \$300 this past month selling lunch to roofing workers. Due to inclement weather, roofing has been very slow, so her income was very low the past 30 days. Her husband was recently deported and she has not been able to find a job

K, a 36-year-old man, has not been working as he was caring for his mom who recently passed away. He currently is looking for a job but is two months behind on his rent totaling \$770.

S, a 32-year-old mom with a 4-year-old daughter, is a victim of domestic violence. She currently has no income but is looking for employment. She owes \$636 on her rent and \$854 on her utility bills.

A, is a 26-year-old mom with six young children, including a newborn baby boy who was born with a heart problem. She has a good job but only made \$445 this past month due to being on maternity leave. She won't be able to return to work for at least six weeks. She owes \$1100 on her rent and \$458 on her utility bills.

J, a 39-year-old mom with two children, has not been able to work as she has been staying with her 10-year-old son who is autistic. She has not been able to find a school that he can attend that would be able to care for his special needs.

Center of Hope Dinner

The Center of Hope is hosting the Annual Benefit Dinner on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at the Newman University Dugan Library & Conference Center. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a private reception for those purchasing a table and 5:30 p.m. with a wine and beer reception for all guests.

Roaring 20's is the theme this year, so we encourage those attending to dress in attire appropriate for the 1920's. We are planning on an award for the best dressed and will have some special surprises in store. The event includes a raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction with some really great items including Chiefs regular season game tickets and a signed Mahomes



jersey, vacation "get-a-ways" in Branson and Tulsa, a golf package including the Flint Hills Golf course, WSU Coach for a day, an HVAC replacement and many other spectacular items. To top off the evening event, we will sell keys to a locked treasure chest containing treasures valued in excess of \$2,200.

We look forward to seeing you at the Dinner. Reservations are required. Please register early so we have a place reserved especially for you. You can register by calling 267-3999 or mailing your registration to: Center of Hope, 400 N Emporia, Wichita KS 67202. A copy of the Dinner invitation can be downloaded from our website: centerofhopeinc.org.

We would especially like to recognize our Dinner Underwriters: Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Cargill, Emprise Bank, Fahnestock HVAC, House of Schwan, Learjet, Legacy Bank, Mill Creek Lumber, Newman University, Skyward Credit Union, Spirit AeroSystems, The Tap Inc, and Warren Homes. We sincerely appreciate their contributions to make this event special.

CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

IN HONOR OF

Betty Butler
Florence Connor
Jim Daniels
Rev. Ed Deimeke
Brenda Eck
Jane & Joe Farmer
Linda Guyot - 76th birthday
Rev. Leon Kerschen
Jerry Lazar
Ella Mae McGuire
Virginia Orth's Grandchildren
Andrew & Emily Purcell married 2/8/20
Anthony Sota
Rev. Ken VanHaverbeke
Robert & Mary Waddill
Carolyn Winn
Center of Hope Staff, Board of Directors,
Volunteers and Their Families

IN MEMORY OF

Charles & Teresa Beckett
Rosemary Beckman
Msgr. John Gilseman
Mary Meyer
David McFadden
Norbert Pacacha
Norma Trotnic
John VenJohn
Virginia Wagner

KENDRA SCOTT MOTHER'S DAY FOR HOPE

Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday May 10, 2020 this year. If you are looking for a unique gift for your mother and would like to help the poor, this is the perfect opportunity. A mother's love for her children is unending. Many of those we serve are young mothers with small children who are trying so hard to provide for their families and to keep them together with incomes well below the poverty guidelines.

The Kendra Scott store, which provides a collection of beautifully designed jewelry, is located in the Waterfront at 1423 N Webb Road, suite 117, and has offered to donate proceeds from sales made on May 7, 2020 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. So if you are looking for the perfect gift, a gift that will have a special meaning to your mother, a gift that will be such a blessing to many young mothers living among us, we encourage you to stop by the Kendra Scott store on May 7th. Happy Mother's Day!!!!

Building Renovation



We were very sad to find that on the day before New Year's Day, a driver had lost control of his vehicle and crashed into the side of our building and did extensive damage to our front lobby. We are very grateful that no one was injured in the accident and for the many graces God has blessed us with through those who have helped us in this difficult time. We had to temporarily move our entrance to the rear of the building and our rear hallway is now our lobby, but we are able to continue our operations as usual. Our volunteers and Board Members have been so helpful and understanding in working through this difficult time. Dondlinger Construction has done an amazing job in responding quickly to shore up the building which did incur structural damage and to help ensure the safe continuation of our services to all those in need.

Center of Hope, Inc.

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Sunday, April 19

ROARING 20's

THE COH ANNUAL DINNER

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PRIZES AND NOSTALGIA!
REGISTER TODAY!

“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

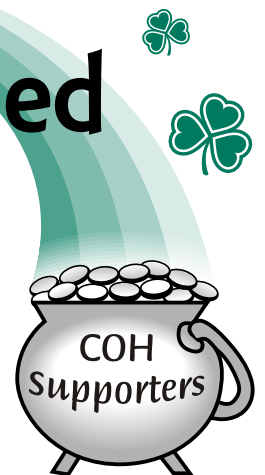
Offering hope for tomorrow
through assistance today

CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 36 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because You Cared

For the past six months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,962 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 4,981 persons. \$790,069 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$103,055 was provided for 715 households. In addition to the financial assistance paid to landlords and utility companies, families were given food, bicycles and 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 certain anonymous donors, St. Cecilia Parish, Judy Dusek, John & Glenna Weir, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Kirkpatrick Sprecker CPA’s and Blessed Sacrament Catholic School students blessed us with 498 bags of food and supplies in the past six months.



Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



Editor, George Dinkel
Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill