



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

# Divine Mercy

By George Dinkel, Executive Director

One of the many joys of working at the Center of Hope's little ministry of homeless prevention is just to listen to our volunteers interact with the many families needing assistance. They are so often under so much stress and anxiety, so much suffering. One of my volunteers came to my office apologizing as she had two calls that morning from persons seeking assistance who were crying so deeply that she began crying as much as they did. Truly, there is much suffering not only in the world, but among our dear neighbors, living in our own community. We know through scripture that suffering brings us closer to God. This will only come about if we can keep the love of God deep within our hearts alive. It is already there, we just need to nurture it and have faith. When Jesus suffered the agony of the cross, He took with Him, His great love for God the Father, and His great love for us, poor sinners. He also, being both God and man, had a faith which we cannot really fathom. If we only had a small-small piece of this faith, it would truly change our lives during this short time on earth, and for eternity, for ever and ever.

Our volunteers through listening to the poor are in a way able to help share their suffering and share with them words of love, which gives them hope, just as we receive hope on Easter from the resurrection of Jesus. I receive so many comments from people sending their information to us by email, as to how kind our volunteer was to them and

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*sponsored by the*  
*Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

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how much they were touched by the words of our volunteer. Our words, which are a manifestation of the love in our hearts, can truly bring a moment of relief to the misery of those suffering. When Jesus was crucified it is only by the words of the good thief which came from the depth of his heart that he was granted everlasting happiness..

A lady we recently helped gave up her job out of love for her husband to care for him until he passed away in December. They were able to get by on his social security income, but now she has no income and owes \$2,176 on her rent and \$607 on her Evergy bill. She will probably have a difficult time finding a good job at her age, but her words give testimony to her strong faith and a certain peacefulness as she has total trust that God will take care of her. She gave up the security of her job to care for her husband and now her

security comes from her deep faith.

The word mercy comes from the Latin word *miser cordia* which translates to relieve misery. Our words may not be able to change things, but they can change hearts - they can help relieve misery. God's Divine Mercy is without doubt rooted in his love for us. The celebration of the Passion, the Easter Resurrection and Divine Mercy Sunday truly bring to life the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

I see these three virtues come to life each day at the Center of Hope as our volunteers share their faith with those seeking assistance, giving them a small glimmer of Hope, and helping to relieve their misery through their words of love. This truly is a special blessing to witness each day.

May God's Blessings and Peace be with you and may we always speak words of mercy rooted in love. Your friend in Christ!!!



## Please Pray for Our Clients

M and her daughter M who both lost their jobs, currently owe almost \$2000 on their rent. They have four young children in the household.

K, a 57-year-old dad lives with his 11-year-old daughter. K has had bone and muscle deterioration in his hip, which has caused him to miss much work over the past several months and owes over \$4,000 on his rent. He is currently scheduled for a hip replacement.

L, is a 52-year-old lady whose only source of income is working for Door Dash. She fell and broke both of her arms and only made \$465 this past month. She was able to pay her rent but not her outstanding electric bill of \$491.

K, a 74-year-old man has been living in a camper for the past four years. He is just now moving into an apartment.

J, a 29-year-old mom lives with her 11-year-old daughter. J only made \$725 this past month as she lost her job and was in the hospital after having seizures. She is now on medication which is helping with the seizures but is needing to find a new job.

S, is a 27-year-old mom with two young children. S was in a coma and was in the hospital for 10 days this past month. She is currently wearing a heart monitor. Her grandma took care of the children when she was in the hospital. The father of the children is out of state. She was current on her rent but owed over \$1500 on her utilities.

L and Z have three children. Their youngest child who is only 5-months-old was diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Z lost his job after taking time off for the child's medical needs. They currently owe \$2465 on their rent and over \$1500 on their utilities.

S, a 37-year-old mom, has three children. Her husband passed away recently so they went from a two-income household to a one-income household. She currently owes \$3040 on her rent and \$1200 on her utilities.

K, a 37-year-old mom lives with her three children. K does work and is pretty current on her bills except that she has to pay water at her rental and recently had a water leak. She currently owes the water department \$3758 and needs to pay \$690 just to set up a pay agreement to keep the service on.

# COH Scavenger Hunt & On-Line Auction!



The Center of Hope Silent auction fundraiser is scheduled to open on April 13th and will close on Saturday April 20th in conjunction with the first ever COH Scavenger Hunt for Hope. You can access the silent auction with the following link: <https://huntforhope.cbo.io>.

Please take a look at the various auction items and help support our little ministry

of homeless prevention. !00% of the proceeds will be used to help pay rent and utility assistance for those in need. The auction items will be on display for live viewing at the *First Man Brewery* on Saturday April 20th. Our Annual Dinner will be held this year on Saturday October 5th at the Newman University Dugan Center. Hope to see you there.

## *He loved them to the end*

John 13

At the Last Supper, when Jesus gave the disciples the gift of the Eucharist, truly His Body and his Blood, we are told that "He loved His own who were in the world, and He loved them to the end.

We clearly see God's love for us when we meditate on the suffering of Jesus on the cross, but He shows His love for us "to the end" through the Eucharist. Jesus longs to be united with us through this most precious sacrament. The Eucharist is the fulfillment of this scripture passage. Through His Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus is united with the Father and through the Eucharist, He stays united with us.

I never really thought of God wanting to be united with me. How could He possibly desire to be united with me in love? This is a great mystery, but nonetheless, it is true and gives me a great sense of humility, not only because I am unworthy, but because of the great ingratitude and lack of attention I have given in return. I feel a sense of detachment from everything, wanting to give my all to the One who truly loves me so



much. God chose this Sacrament as the means to communicate His love and His desire to be united with me to the end.

For a long time one of my daily prayers has been that I might be given the grace to love God with my whole heart, my whole mind and my whole soul, to be united with Him in love. It never really occurred to me that this too is His desire.

May God's Peace and Blessings be with you this Easter Season. May we all come to Love Jesus more deeply each day and be united with Him to the end, through the most precious gift of the Eucharist.

## CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

### *In Honor of*

Darrell & Judy Ary  
George Dinkel  
Jerry Ewald  
Jane Hermann  
Victoria Jackson  
Fr. Mike Nolan

Fr. Kenneth Van Haverbeke  
Shepherds Crossing Residents -  
December Birthdays

### *In Memory of*

Dave & Ruth Aldag  
Bert & Donna Beckman  
Cliff Bieberle  
Mitch & Betty Butler  
Ladean Chambers  
Bryan Coulter  
Bonnie Farr  
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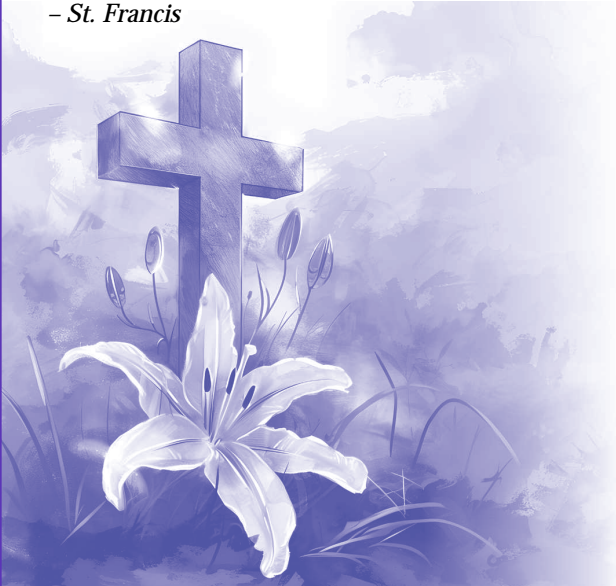
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*“The love of Him who loved  
us much, is much to be loved”*

– St. Francis



“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.

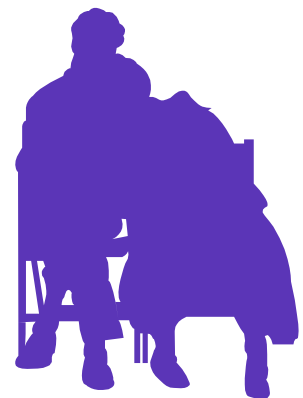
### VISION STATEMENT

Offering hope for tomorrow  
through assistance today

CENTER OF HOPE, INC.  
Celebrating 40 years of service to  
the Wichita community

# Because You Cared

For the past seven months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,550 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 4,048 persons. \$741,528 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$139,530 was provided for 982 households across the state of Kansas. We would like to recognize Susan Sloan, Chris Sims, Mike & Connie Hotze, and St. Cecilia Parish for their continuing contributions of food and supplies.



*No act of devotion on the part  
of the Faithful gives God more  
pleasure than that which is  
lavished on His poor.*

– Saint Leo the Great



Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency

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