



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

## THE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

*By George Dinkel, Executive Director*

**P**overty is something we see daily in our work here at the Center of Hope. What really is poverty? Poverty is defined as a complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. There are many causes of poverty such as a lack of education, divorce, addictions, fate, illness, and culture. Obviously the corona virus is a new cause of poverty in the lives of many.

Living in poverty is something feared and dreaded by most all people. We all strive to be successful and to make provisions and plans to protect ourselves from ever having to experience the pains and the dangers of living in poverty.

We recently helped a young mother with three young children who was living in a state of poverty. Her only source of income was cleaning houses. Due to the corona virus many of her clients discontinued using her services to help prevent the spread of the virus. Accordingly, she only made \$200 this past four weeks which is not sufficient to pay her mortgage payment of \$670 or her electricity bill which was \$354 the past month. This very high bill reflects the lack of insulation and outdated cooling system in her home. Without doubt she is living in a state of poverty as she truly does not have sufficient funds to buy food or clothing and is at risk of losing her home.

Although poverty is something feared and looked down upon by most everyone, it is interesting that St. Francis actually had a great love of poverty. He saw his Lady Poverty as a gateway to all the other virtues. He understood that Jesus left all the riches of Heaven to live a life of poverty on this earth when he took on flesh and

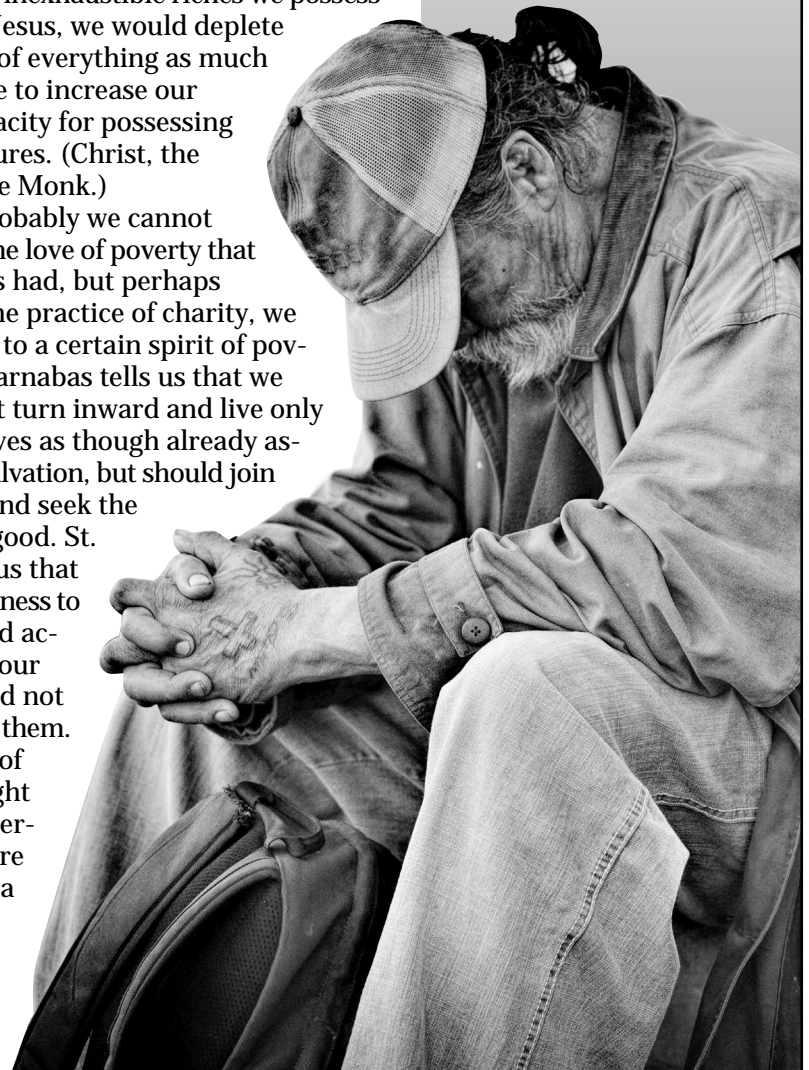
became man. He was born in a stable and had no place to lay his head.

What does this mean to us? Are we called to live in poverty? To what purpose? Is it necessary for salvation? The practice of the virtue of poverty is inseparable from the virtue of hope. So it is fundamental or a foundation to faith, hope and charity. The Christian who is poor and hopeful wants God alone. If we knew the gift of God, what inexhaustible riches we possess in Christ Jesus, we would deplete ourselves of everything as much as possible to increase our soul's capacity for possessing true treasures. (Christ, the ideal of the Monk.)

Most probably we cannot attain to the love of poverty that St. Francis had, but perhaps through the practice of charity, we can attain to a certain spirit of poverty. St. Barnabas tells us that we should not turn inward and live only for ourselves as though already assured of salvation, but should join together and seek the common good. St. Paul tells us that our willingness to give should accord with our means, and not go beyond them. The relief of others ought not impoverish us, there should be a certain equality.

*continued  
on page 2*

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Our plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may one day supply our need. You might ask how they will ever supply my need. I am rich and have enough to last all my life and they are so poor they will never have sufficient means to help me. Perhaps our need may not be so much in this present life but in the life to come at the time of the final judgement. If we can practice the spirit of poverty which is a driving force for our acts of charity, we will become truly blessed, for scripture tells us that "Blessed

are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

With all the suffering currently being endured by so many of our dear brothers and sisters through the effects of the corona virus, now is a perfect time to come to their aid, to relieve some of their suffering. Your help is greatly needed. Now is the time.

May God bring you blessings and peace and true hope through the practice of spiritual poverty.

## Covid-19 Update

We have been extremely busy here at the Center of Hope as the result of Covid-19. I can truly appreciate the plight of the health care workers at the height of the pandemic. The volume of calls we receive from people needing help is extremely high. The calls just keep coming and there is no end in sight. We continue to operate on a closed door basis to help prevent the spread of the virus and are doing all of our interviews by phone. I would like to especially recognize our staff, Adriana, Sr. Becky and Jane who are doing such an outstanding job of trying to stay on top of all these calls. They have had tremendous perseverance and patience. I am truly touched by their unending efforts.

I would also like to recognize our many volunteers that are likewise working tirelessly

taking call after call and coming out to our office in spite of the risk of the virus. The days pass quickly and we rarely have any personal time available during the day. I am sure God will greatly reward them for all their sacrifices.

We ask that you keep up the prayers for our little ministry and all those suffering from the virus. It seems like I'm asking for a lot of prayers in this newsletter. St John Vianney says that "Our hearts are small, but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God."

It looks like this virus may be around for some time. Our forefathers survived the great depression, the dust bowls and even several wars. I think we can offer up this little virus as our time of sacrifice. Stay safe and may God's blessings and peace be with you all.



## Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the many who have suffered the physical illness from the virus and have lost family members or friends.
- Please pray for L, a 20 year old mom with a newborn baby at home. She has been unemployed since March. She owes almost \$1,500 on her utility bills.
- Please pray for A, a 32 year old mom with 5 children. She currently is not working and owes \$1,100 on her rent and \$1,991 on her utilities bills.
- Please pray for the many people who have lost their jobs or have had their hours reduced as a result of the corona virus.

• Please pray for A&B who have 3 children. A has had no income since June. They currently owe \$1,120 on their rent and \$1,302 on their utilities.

• Please pray for R, a 26 year old mom with 2 young children. R has not been able to work since June. Her electricity was just turned off and she owes over \$1,100. In addition she owes \$300 on her water bill.

• Please pray for F & G and their 3 children. F had to stop working due to Covid-19. He is waiting for his test results so he will be able to return to work. They owe \$450 on their rent and over \$2000 on their utilities.

• Please pray for those we see that are suffering from domestic violence which has increased notably most likely from the additional stresses caused by loss of job and being home with nothing to do.

# VOLUNTEER MEMORIAL

Please pray for Barb Wattman and Regis Schulte, two of our dedicated volunteers who passed away recently. Both will be greatly missed. Barb loved being a part of the Center of Hope and spending time with our volunteers on Thursday mornings. She had a great artistic talent and spent many hours helping Sr. Becky weaving mats from plastic bags for the homeless and faithfully managed our recycling for many years.



Regis also loved coming to volunteer at the Center of Hope. He would be the first to volunteer for any substitute volunteer position we needed during the week. He often came to our office multiple times during the week. Regis grew up in my home town of Victoria, Kansas and we would often spend time reminiscing.

They are both a great loss to the Center of Hope and to me personally. I appreciate having had the opportunity to stand beside them helping those in need. Please keep them in your prayers.

*The gift of holy poverty is a treasure so valuable and Divine that we are not really worthy to carry it within ourselves. It is a heavenly strength that crushes underfoot all earthly and transitory things; it removes every obstacle from the soul that might hold it back from freely flying to God.* (St Francis)

*May the power of Your Love, O Lord, fiery and sweet as honey, wean my heart from all that is under heaven, so that I may die for love of Your love, You who were so good as to die for love of my love.* (St Francis)

## CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

### *IN HONOR OF*

Betty Butler  
Jane Hermann Birthday  
Ella Mae McGuire  
Mary Santiago Birthday  
Sr. Deborah Scholvanec, ASC Birthday  
Anthony Sota  
Rev. Kenneth Van Haverbeke

### *IN MEMORY OF*

Bethany Nicole Chawk  
Ken Meyer  
Mary Meyer  
Jeannie Rosenhamer  
Regis Schulte  
Joe Stuhlsatz  
Barbara Wattman

## Fund Development



Luke C., one of our dedicated donors to the Center of Hope for the past several years, recently decided to do some fundraising for the Center of Hope. He spent many of his spare hours weaving key chains and bracelets, which he sold with all the proceeds going to serve the many poor clients of the Center of Hope. He even inspired his brothers and cousins to join in this adventure and has raised \$476 for the poor families we serve. His unending kindness will not be forgotten and will bring about many blessings.



*Thank you Luke — you have a good and kind heart!!!*



## 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

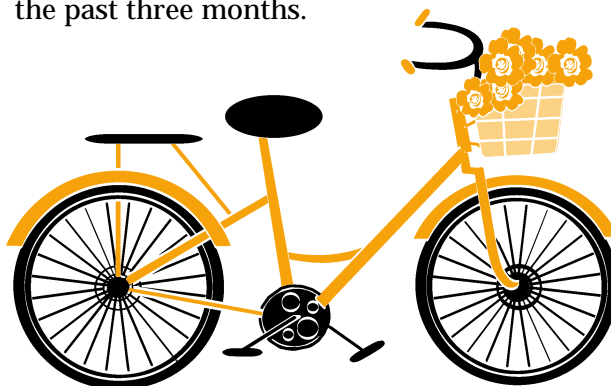
### CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 37 years of service to  
the Wichita community

# Because You Cared

For the past 12 months, the Center of Hope prevented 3,325 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 8,188 persons. \$1,669,190 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$271,028 was provided for 1,437 households.

Due to Covid-19 donations of food and other personal care products has been very minimal. St. Cecilia Parish has ventured out and made several donations and we continue to give out bicycles that have been donated by Jim and Phyllis Ramsey over the past three months.



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is a United Way  
funded agency*

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