



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

**S**ince inception, the Center of Hope has operated on the basis that 100% of the donations we receive are used directly for rent and utility assistance. None is used to pay any operating, administrative or salary costs. This policy may be a little counter cultural but has been such a blessing as it has allowed us to help so many poor families with meaningful assistance that gives them the opportunity to recover from whatever has caused them to be in danger of being homeless. Although this policy has provided the most benefit to those seeking our service, it does come at a cost as it greatly limits the Center of Hope's availability to provide these services. Much sacrifice has been made over the years by the ASC Sisters, the Center of Hope staff and Board members as we do not have the funds to have multiple employees and positions most other agencies do. We do not have fund development staff, accounting staff, secretarial staff or program director staff.

In a way, I have really enjoyed this working model, as it truly is more of a ministry than a business. Working with our staff, volunteers, the ASC Sisters and Board members who have made such sacrifices over the years brings a certain spirit of giving and concern for the poor and for Jesus in the poor. We try to do God's will and serve the poor through the Holy Spirit's fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is such a joy to see the manifestation of these fruits in our daily service to the poor.

At the same time, I also see more tension and frustration surrounding our ministry over the past several



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years, especially since the COVID pandemic. We have always had a high demand for our service and realize and recognize that we cannot help everyone. As Saint Mother Therese of Calcutta said when asked how she feels when she sees so many poor people in Calcutta literally dying in the streets, she responded that she just loves the one in front of her as much as she can. During the month of May we received 123,000 calls for assistance and we simply are not able to meet this demand with our little ministry of only three employees. We have made some changes to make it easier for those in most critical need to obtain assistance, such as those

with utilities already turned off or those truly homeless living in the streets. We currently have a volunteer that meets some of the most at risk clients in person to provide the individual attention they need. In addition, we have a dedicated phone line and case worker for those who are homeless or whose utilities are already turned off as they are in a more at-risk situation.

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.  
*sponsored by the*  
*Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

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Hope is one of the three theological virtues necessary for our salvation. St. Paul tells us that HOPE means waiting with patient endurance (Romans 8). It would seem that it is related to the Holy Spirit's fruits of patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control. It is not something anyone can really give you as it is a gift of the Holy Spirit and comes from within you.

Jesus has a special love and concern for the poor and suffering. Many of those we serve have stumbled and fallen so many times and have no one to help them up. They learn great patience and endurance calling and praying continuously for help. They have nowhere else to turn, their hearts are being torn apart. It is only Jesus

who can fill their hearts with the virtues which will bring true peace and joy and are essential to salvation. Please pray for Holy Perseverance and Patient Endurance for us and for all those we serve. We may not know for certain whether we have any of these virtues instilled in our soul, but one sure test would be if we find any feelings of charity and love within our hearts for the poor. This is what we will be judged on and this is what God is calling us to practice in this short time on this earth.

Your help is truly needed by so many in need. 123,000 calls in one month is a lot of need. May God's blessings and peace be with you. As always, your friend in Christ, George

# Please Pray

*For those who turn to COH as their last resort in these difficult circumstances.*

*Please pray for L*, a 50-year-old man who has kidney disease and just started dialysis and has to go every other day. He has two teenage children, and the mom is working overtime as he is no longer able to work. They owe \$1434 on their electric bill and \$662 on their water bill.

*Please pray for M*, a 34-year-old mom with 7 children in the home. Her income was only \$1300, and she owes \$1866 on her electric bill and \$1209 on her gas bill. Her rent is \$650 a month which takes most of her income.

*Please pray for B*, a 48-year-old disabled woman who is on oxygen. She only receives \$938 in Social Security income a month. She inherited her mom's house, but this winter the furnace went out and the pipes froze. She used all her money for repairs and now owes over \$1,100 on her utilities.

*Please pray for K*, a 28-year-old mom with 3 children. The youngest child who is 9-months-old has a tumor on his heart. She is working but due to car repairs is not able to keep up on her bills. She owes \$1145 on her electric bill and \$366 on her water bill.

*Please pray for S*, a 42-year-old woman who lost her job after having a stroke and seizure. She currently has no income and owes \$736 on her electric bill and \$948 on her rent payment.

*Please pray for K*, a 35-year-old woman who is just getting released from treatment for her addiction and is entering a group recovery home.

*Please pray for S*, a 31-year-old mom with a 2-year-old son. S missed work for 3 months after having a stroke. She is now back to work but only made \$452 this past month. She owes \$785 on her electric bill.

*Please pray B*, a 21-year-old mom with 3 young children who has been off work due to her current high risk pregnancy. She had no income for the past month and owes \$715 on her rent and \$759 on her electric bill.

*Please pray for N*, a 34-year-old mom with 3 children. N lost her job and has had no income for the past month other than \$800 for plasma. She currently owes \$603 on her electric bill and \$930 on her rent.

# The Center of Hope Dinner

1 0 - 5 - 2 4



The Center of Hope will host the Annual Benefit Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, at the Newman University Dugan Library &

Conference Center. The doors open at 4:30 p.m. with a private reception for those purchasing a table and 5:00 p.m. with a wine and beer reception for all guests. We will have a live and silent auction and the entertainment for the evening will be the *Dueling Pianos* which is a local group and will be a lot of fun. Be sure to bring along your special song requests. We will be sending out invitations in late August and look forward to seeing you there. If you would like to register early you can call 316-267-3999 or send an email to: [george@centerofhopeinc.org](mailto:george@centerofhopeinc.org).

Hope to see you there to help our many poor neighbors living in our community.

## Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

### *In Honor of*

Archie Macias

Rev. Michael Nolan

40th Anniversary of Ordination

### *In Memory of*

Sr. Philomena Bahr, ASC

Denis Berns

Gavin Buchanan

Elyn Gonzales

Bill Orender

Marilyn Wedemeier

Glenna Weir



## Broken Hearts

This month we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The two hearts pierced at the time of the Crucifixion and we witness a every mass at the Consecration.

It seems that throughout scripture, the number three is a recurring and very prominent number. It would seem that the third and only heart remaining to be pierced would be our own heart as God asks of us to rend our hearts, and not our garments, and turn to the Lord our God, for He is gracious and merciful, patient, and rich in mercy. (Joel 2) It is in the brokenness of our hearts that God enters and unites us with Him. It is in the brokenness of the hearts of all those we serve that we become like St. John and bring them into our homes.



## R E C A P

# SCAVENGER HUNT



The Center of Hope extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in our inaugural scavenger hunt, "Hunt for Hope."

On April 20th, teams of four navigated Derby with enthusiasm, tackling the challenges and enjoying countless laughs along the way. From arm-wrestling firefighters to serenading strangers, the day was filled with unforgettable moments and camaraderie.

We are already looking forward to next April and hope to see you all again for another exciting "Hunt for Hope."

A special shout out to our 2024 Hunt for Hope participating teams:

Caldwell Realty  
Quality Granite and Interiors  
ECG Insurance  
United Way  
Edward Jones  
Unkel Irrigation

A.C.E. Enterprises  
Security First Titles  
Regnum Builders  
Evergy  
Mill Creek

Your support and participation made this event a tremendous success. Thank you once again for your involvement and enthusiasm.

## Center of Hope, Inc.

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### *Mark your calendar for* **The Center of Hope Annual Dinner**

10 - 5 - 24



*“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 ten months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,115 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 5,383 persons, \$990,362 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$211,962 was provided for 1,351 households across the state of Kansas. We would like to recognize Judy and Dennis Dusek, Jo Fernandez, Partners for Wichita, and St. Cecilia Parish for their continuing contributions of food and supplies.

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

*Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency*

