



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

God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son

(John 3:16)



Christmas is the manifestation of God's love for us; His gift to us; the first Christmas Gift. Truly a time to REJOICE. A time to prepare, a time of great anticipation and longing. I was recently pondering about how I could kindle a special desire for the coming of Jesus this year. The same desire the Jewish people had for the coming of the Messiah. How can I experience the joy, simplicity and true meaning of Christmas? Certainly a peaceful night with a gentle snow fall, enjoying the company of friends and family, perhaps just sitting in a cozy chair watching a Christmas TV Special all help to give a "feeling" of Christmas. I have experienced these feelings in the past and look forward to them in the future, but somehow there still seems to be something missing. They don't seem to give me a deep or lasting satisfaction. There must be something more; something deeper; something that actually touches my soul and in a way perhaps even changes me.

We know the birth of Jesus is the focus and purpose of the Christmas Season. The knowledge that Jesus came to save us is without doubt the fundamental meaning, but there clearly are some important attached realities to consider.

It is interesting to note that Jesus was born in a lowly manger, among shepherds and common farm animals. St.

Vincent De Paul says that "Jesus willed to be born poor." He shared their poverty. He, for a time, left the majesty of Heaven to be one with us in the world.



Having a disposition to help the poor is not something that comes naturally to us. We need to pray for this virtue. This I believe will bring us the true meaning of Christmas: a spirit of poverty and humility which we share in through our helping the poor; in a way, our becoming one with them. This is what Jesus did at His nativity. He came to bring glad tidings to the poor. He became poor. He brought Hope to the poor.

Through our little ministry of homeless prevention we have the great opportunity to serve Jesus in the poor and to fulfil this calling. We help the poor in a real and effective way. By not being judgmental we, in a way, have solidarity with them. We enter into their lives and share in their struggles as we search for opportunities and solutions. We give them a small glimmer of Hope.

The poor have been given to us as a special gift. When we serve them, we serve Jesus. The Center of Hope is a direct link to the poor for those who have been granted this heart-felt desire to imitate Jesus by making a small sacrifice, for a time, to come to their aid; a simple way of becoming one with them.

We pray for the grace that all of us can enter into the Spirit of Christmas in serving and loving the poor and becoming one with them, which will bring a special and lasting peace and joy to our souls. Something the world cannot give. May you and your family have a special and joyful Christmas filled with the true Spirit of Christmas!!!!

Thank you for your most kind and generous support of our little ministry of homeless prevention and all those we serve!!!!

George Dinkel, Executive Director

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www.centerofhopeinc.org

Center of Hope's 2019 Annual Dinner

The Center of Hope Annual Dinner will be Sunday evening, April 28, 2019 at the Newman University Dugan Library. Our theme for the Dinner will be *"There is no place like home."* Please plan to attend as your support of this event provides much needed funds for rent and utility assistance. It's a fast paced evening with fun, food and drinks, and a great time to support those in need. Hope to see you there.



Bikes Wanted



If you have an adult bicycle stored in your garage that you haven't ridden for years and it is just taking up space, we could use it to give to those we see that have no transportation. You can drop the bike off at our office during working hours on Monday through Friday.

Some of the requests we receive daily show how desperate many are who turn to The Center of Hope.



Please Pray For Our Clients:

I am a mother of four children with the youngest being six-months. With my last child I was a high risk pregnancy with my unborn son having kidney problems. We have no heat, no hot water to take a bath, cannot cook or anything else. They are getting ready to take my house if I don't come up with some money. Can you PLEASE help me and my children? There is nowhere else to go.

I've been trying to call for weeks straight and understand that a lot of people need assistance! I'm about to get my electric cut off tomorrow, and was just trying to get an appointment if I can! It would be greatly appreciated, I just lost my daughter. I'm on my own and it will really be a big help.

I've been struggling financially and physically as a single parent after an abusive relationship. I was referred to you guys by a friend of mine.

I need assistance with utilities and rent to not become homeless. My husband and I are disabled and I have filed for disability and it is still pending. My husband's income is only \$1200 a month and we are really struggling. I am behind three months on rent and electricity. My electricity gets shut off on October 5, 2018.

I need help desperately! I am getting evicted today unless I can pay something to the landlord. I work fulltime but I got sick with a COPD flare-up and it landed me in the hospital hooked up to a breathing machine for a week. Please, please help me!

I really need help with my electric bill. They sent a shut off notice or that I needed to pay \$615 to keep it on. I just started my job and I have not yet had a full paycheck. I had a choice of either paying my electric bill or paying my rent and I decided my rent was the more important of the two. I am not the person to ask for help but this time I have no other choice than to ask for anything that will help me.

I'm on Social Security disability, lost the house and my utilities got shut off three weeks before I got my first check. It took five years to get it so I've been homeless for about a month-and-a-half. It's getting cold, I need help please and food.

I just got out of an abusive relationship. I am now staying with my mom but being with her is no better. She's trying to encourage me to go back to him after he threw me into a wall and choked me on my birthday. I need somewhere safe to go before he finds me again. Please help me. I'm running out of options.

SPOTLIGHT ON CASE MANAGEMENT



A client and her daughter working on the Weavers of Hope Project.

- ★ Dulce recently secured a management position and is starting at \$15 an hour. She is a single mother with four children. She continues in the case management program.
- ★ Tenara has put a total of 1005 volunteer service hours in at the Urban League Rise Up for Youth program. She enjoys assisting with the youth activities. Tenara will soon complete the traffic fine program and get her license re-instated.
- ★ Shemika completed her probationary period at her job and was offered permanent employment. This will give her more financial security so that she can address some very serious child support concerns.
- ★ Christal is working full-time at the VA and attending Butler Community College. She hopes to finish her first semester in the RN program with a B.
- ★ Samantha completed all her requirements for St. Francis and the court system and this past month she and her son were re-unified as a family.

Congratulations to the above case management participants.
All their hard work has paid off!!!

Give alms and behold, everything will be clean for you. (Luke 11:41)

The definition of *Alms* is: money or food given to poor people.

As we prepare our homes by cleaning and decorating for Christmas, it might be an opportune time to also clean and decorate our Spiritual Homes.



The Center of Hope is in need of a few volunteers to help with phone calls and completing client intake forms. The work is easy,

the hours are flexible, and the comradery is wonderful. *There is no pay, but the retirement package is heavenly.*

Please give us a call at 316-267-3999 if you are interested. Thanks!!!

CENTER OF HOPE RECOGNITION GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF



Jim Kastens
Kenneth Owens
Cairn Shaw

IN HONOR OF

George Dinkel
Larry Andrew Klenda
Rachel Lewis

*Though I am not bound to anyone,
I became a slave to all.
To the weak I became weak.
- I became all things to all men
That I might at least save some
I was eyes for the blind and feet for the lame;
I was a father to the poor.
- I became all things to all men
That I might at least save some.*

Center of Hope, Inc.

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Wishing Everyone a Season of Shared Peace.

“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 35 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because **You** Cared

For the past three months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,275 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 3,294 persons. \$474,447 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs.

Utility assistance for Project Diverse of \$78,744 was provided for 536 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 the Landlord Association Greater Wichita, St Cecilia Parish, Kris Sims and an anonymous donor blessed us with 94 bags of food and supplies in the past three months.



Center of Hope is a United Way funded agency



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