



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

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you our donors, the United Way, and the City of Wichita, who through our little ministry of homeless prevention, have helped 4,100 households, 10,700 people with \$1,530,000 of rent and utility assistance which has allowed these families to stay in their homes with their utilities on. This is a true testimony to the Holy Spirit working through you. The Holy Spirit gives us the grace to look at things in a spiritual way and not become too absorbed in the things of this world.

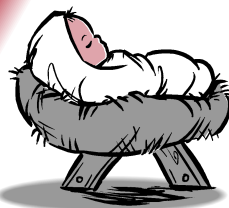
This is by far the most assistance we have ever provided through the Center of Hope and truly it has made a significant impact on the lives of many in our community. At the same time, as much as this assistance has helped to prevent homelessness, the number of homeless people seems to be increasing as the shelters are consistently full and at the same time I still see so many homeless persons in downtown Wichita.

There are over 60,000 people living in poverty in our area of service. Although the economy has improved, the situation of those living in poverty has not changed as they still have insufficient income, education, health services and are at times being taken advantage of by others or perhaps are making poor choices in their lives. In spite of our efforts, the need continues to increase. We operate on a basis that 100% of the donations we receive go directly to provide rent, utility and other emergency assistance paid directly to the landlord or utility companies. We have no reserve funds for this assistance and are at the point that we are exhausting our funds before the end of the month.

Christmas truly is a special time of year. We celebrate the Birth of Jesus who came to save us and to bring us out of this exile.

At the time of the nativity, if we look closely, we see Jesus coming to us in silence, humility and poverty.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



At the time of the nativity, if we look closely, we see Jesus coming to us in silence, humility and poverty. Perhaps Jesus was foretelling that He comes to us personally, in a special way through the Holy Spirit, when we structure our lives in silence, humility and poverty.

We know that Mary, the mother of Jesus was highly regarded by God because of her humility (Luke 1:48). Mary's father Joachim gave a third of his income to the Temple, a third of his income to the poor and the remaining one third he used to live on. St Francis of Assisi always had a special love for "Lady Poverty" and St Therese of Avila said that "It

is when I possess least that I have the fewest worries. I am more afflicted when there is excess of anything than when there is lack of it. If the rule of poverty is truly kept, both chastity and all the other virtues are fortified much better." (The Way of Perfection)

Psalms 112 tells us that the man who is blessed, lavishly gives to the poor and that his generosity shall endure forever, and he will be exalted in glory. St Augustine explains that he who is unwilling to give to the poor, seeks riches. But the Lord tells

us that by giving to the poor we will have treasure in heaven. Heavenly treasure is a more safe possession. At the end of times, the ungodly will see the Blessed man who gave to the poor honored and will be angry at themselves and say "Our pride, what has it profited us? Our riches, what has it given us?"

Perhaps through our participation in the spirit of silence, poverty and humility we can make this Christmas Season a special gift of love to Jesus who loved us so much. "The Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs and Other Principal Saints" calls us to sanctify this feast with devotion, adoration, praise, and love. This is the tribute we must offer our Savior. To be adored in silence and admiration not to be declared by words. To love Him is our happiness, and the highest dignity and honor to which we can aspire. We are bound to it upon justice. God, being infinite in all perfections, is infinitely worthy of our love, and we ought to love Him with an infinite love."

Again, we all at the Center of Hope thank you for your most kind generosity this past year and wish you and your families a Joyful & Merry Christmas filled with much love!!!

George Dinkel, Executive Director

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

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Sr. Renee Kirmer, ASC

We are very sorry to report the loss of Sr. Renee Kirmer who was a long time Board Member of Center of Hope. Sr. Renee had been a member of the Board for the past 14 years. She was instrumental in steering the organization during the transitional period occurring after Sr. Stella Rosenhamer, COH Foundress, retired. She was like a beacon of light to our organization, always shining and leading the way in a simple, humble and consistent manner which brought much stability to our little ministry of homelessness prevention. She could always be counted on to help at our Annual Dinner at the registration and check-out tables. Sr. Renee had been the Center of Hope's Board Treasurer and Secretary for many years. She truly was a tremendous blessing to the Center of Hope and all those we serve and she will be greatly missed. May God's Blessings and Peace be with her always!



Please Pray For Families We Have Served

For most of the people who come to the Center of Hope, we are usually their last hope of protecting themselves and their families from homelessness. As all the activities around the many holidays at this time of year emphasize lavish celebrations, festive meals and gifts, it only increases their anxiety as they try to work through their difficulties.

- Please pray for A, a 48-year-old man who lost his job recently. He will start a new job soon. His wife is on oxygen and they currently owe \$640 on their rent and \$1,646 on their Westar bill.
- Please pray for S, a 37-year-old mom who lives with her 17-year-old son. S recently lost her job at a fast food restaurant but starts a new job soon. She owes \$550 on her rent and \$587 on her utility bills.
- Please pray for M, a 36-year-old man who was recently released from jail. He is currently staying at a group home and starts a new job soon.
- Please pray for L, a 46-year-old man who injured his back at work and then was fired.

■ Please pray for M, a 33-year-old mom who lives with her 4-year-old daughter. M was working full time at a fast food restaurant until she had surgery and is on medical leave at this time with no income. She also goes to college for six hours a week. She currently owes \$675 on her rent and \$901 on her utilities.

■ Please pray for A, a 40-year-old lady who lives by herself. A was injured in a car accident. While she was in the surgeon's office she was notified that her insurance had been cancelled and she no longer had a job. She is receiving unemployment benefits, but they are not sufficient to cover her monthly expenses. She owes \$550 in rent and \$721 in utilities.

■ Please pray for M, a 24-year-old mom with three young children who recently lost her job. M owes \$550 on her rent and \$1,367 on her utilities.

■ Please pray for K, a 26-year-old mom who lives with her two children. She had a baby in May and her husband left last month. She has no income and owes \$890 on her rent and \$439 on her utilities.

■ Please pray for M, a 41-year-old mom who lives with her six children. Her husband was recently taken away by immigration. She has no income.

SPOTLIGHT

ON CASE MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES

The Weavers of Hope Ministry, a ministry making mats for the homeless, has just embarked on their first anniversary of operations. The women participating in this work see it as a labor of love, a way of giving their time and showing care for the less fortunate in our community. Over the past year, these women have made 27 mats for distribution.

The women commented about their work:



"When I am doing the matting, I think about the people who have to sleep on the hot or cold concrete and hope things get better for them...that it won't be long and they'll have a home."



"I'm glad to be doing community service...my work on the matts is from my heart! I pray that it brings a smile on their face when they get one of our mats."



"I say a prayer whenever I turn in my mats to give away, saying a prayer for whoever gets it."



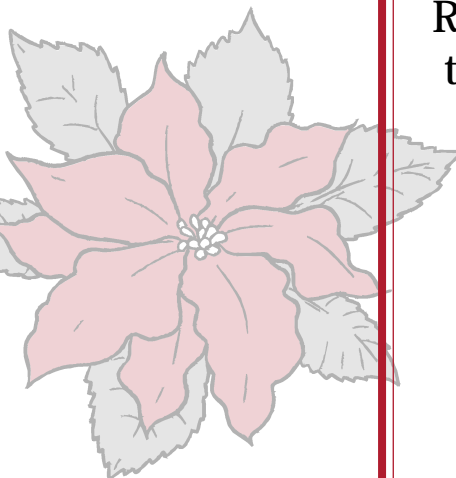
"I've seen on t.v. that we should be recycling so the rivers won't be polluted...I guess this is what we are doing using plastic bags to make mats...it's a way to help the environment."



"I hope it will bring a bit of comfort for the ones who get the mats...that they will know somebody is thinking about them while they're going through their struggle."

Center of Hope Annual Dinner 2018

Don't forget to save the date of Sunday evening, April 29, 2018 for the Center of Hope Dinner. Our theme for this Dinner will be "Love begins at home" (St Mother Teresa). The Dinner will be held at the Newman University Dugan Library and will include live and silent auctions with truly unique items. This is our only fundraising event of the year and provides much needed funds for rent and utility assistance. There is a tremendous need for this service. We can't do it without you!!!



Recognition Gifts to the Center of Hope

In Honor of

Rev. Ken Van Haverbeke
Rev. James Weldon

In Memory of

David Gitrich
Joan Kahn
Dr. George Khoury
Sr. Renee Kirmer, ASC
Doug Ring

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

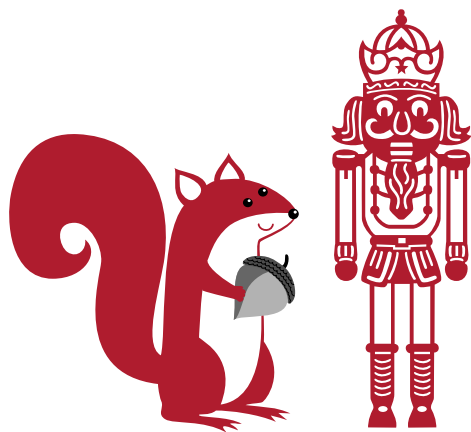
CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

Celebrating 34 years of service to
the Wichita community

Because **You** Cared

For the past three months, the Center of Hope prevented 1,135 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 3,100 persons. \$409,335 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$81,635 was provided for 586 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 Jim & Lois Daniels, John & Betty Didier, Hilary Langenfield, Rachel Lewis, Dr Wendy Reynolds DDS, Kris Sims, St. Cecilia Parish and Kay Ward contributed food and supplies this past three months.

Editor, George Dinkel

Coordinator, Mary Jobe-Waddill