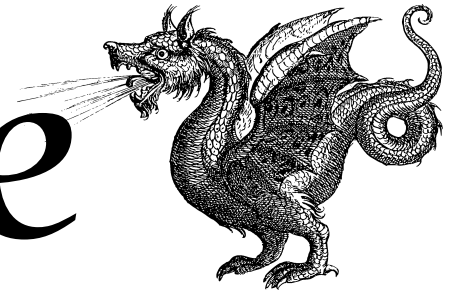


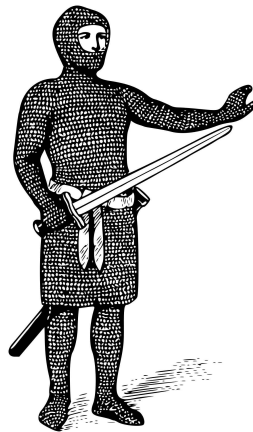


The Center of Hope, Inc. is a homelessness prevention program and 100% of your contribution is used in direct service to the poor.

The Battle



Every day seems to be a new battle. Every day I pray for the gift of wisdom, to know how to best help the people we serve. Currently there are battles going on in Israel and the Ukraine and throughout the world. The continuing battles with China, Korea, the border conflicts, the elections. Even at the Center of Hope there is the daily battle of not only reviewing the many applications for assistance and trying to discern which ones are truly in need and how we can best serve them but also sharing in the sorrow and pain they are experiencing.



This past week when I came to work, I noticed a young mom with four children sleeping out in the parking lot next to our office. She had a friend bring them from a nearby town as she was hoping to stay in a shelter in Wichita, but that did not work out. She had just talked to the children about having to possibly give up custody of them, as she was simply not able to care for them. She has no family close by as she was raised by her grandmother who lives out of state and has no idea where her mother is. She has no one to help her, is all alone and abandoned. She was in tears and felt such a failure for not being able to provide for her family, but really it was probably her mom and the father of her children that really failed her. Truly she was doing battle.

If you read the prayer requests included in this newsletter you will get an idea of the many different battles those we serve are engaging in each and every day. The greatest battle though, truly is the battle going on within our own soul, as we strive to stay faithful and in loving union with God rather than giving into despair or anger, following our own will or the way of the world. In this battle raging in our soul, we must strive to become united with Jesus who comes to us

through the sacraments, but most especially the Eucharist. Through the sacraments and prayer we become more like Jesus.

A good book to read sometime is *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis. It has many useful thoughts for us to imitate Him, to become more like Him and to actually become united with Him in love. When Jesus opened the scroll in his hometown of Nazareth He read the passage that said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those who are captives, to help the blind see, to let those oppressed go free." (Luke 4:16-30) This is what Jesus did for us out of His great love for us, even when we do not and did not deserve it. As we imitate Jesus, become more like Him, become united with Him in love, we do this for our Dear Neighbors, out of love for Him and out of love for them, even when they do not necessarily deserve it. To bring glad tidings and hope to the poor, to help unloose those bound in poverty, to help others see Jesus present in souls and lives.

It is true Jesus won the battle for us, but He still calls us to enter into the battle ourselves and join forces with Him in the salvation of our souls and those of others. Let us not be fearful or discouraged, He will give us the strength to overcome the battle if we ask Him.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Fr. Kapaun, Pray for us.
Your friend in Christ,
George

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CENTER OF HOPE, INC.

*sponsored by the
Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

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Help Needed

We are in need of a couple of volunteers to take calls and complete applications for those seeking assistance with rent or utilities. The application is very easy to complete with no special skills required other than a loving heart willing to listen to those in need. Currently we have openings for Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday morning from 9-12 am. This would be on a weekly basis, but we are very flexible with the times and days you can make it. We also need a few substitute volunteers who can help when our regular volunteers cannot make it in. If you know of someone interested, please call me at 316-267-3999 or email me at george@centerofhopeinc.org.

New Addition to our COH Family

We are very excited to announce the addition of Ann Sigwing to our Center of Hope staff. Ann grew up in rural Sedgwick County, a native of Garden Plain, Kansas. She is married with four grown children and has lived in Cheney for the past 32 years. Ann has served on our Board of Directors for several years and has been very active in helping prepare for our Annual Dinner Fundraisers. She has much experience in working with customers through her prior employment at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative in Cheney. She truly is a faith filled person who will be a blessing to the Center of Hope and to all those we serve for many years to come!!!



Please Pray For

P is a 36-year-old mom who lives with her eight children/foster children. She is a nurse who had to take 10 days off work as she had COVID. She could not return until after her test showed she was negative. She owes \$852 on rent and has an eviction notice; also, due to a water leak, her water bill is \$1,338.

S, a 32-year-old mom with an infant son, has been on maternity leave and has just returned back to work. She was able to keep up with her rent payment but owed \$540 on her Evergy bill, which has been disconnected.

M is a 31-year-old woman who recently lost her job at a local aircraft company. She currently has no income and owes \$1,068 on her Evergy bill, which has been disconnected.

C, a 51-year-old dad lives with his spouse and five children. He lost his job in March and had to go on dialysis. He has filed for disability, which is currently in process. His wife did work but only made \$500. They owe \$1,000 in rent and have an eviction notice; \$981 to Evergy and \$350 on their water bill.

T a 30-year-old woman lives with her five young children. She lost her job and is waiting to start a new job. She owes \$1,780 for rent and has an eviction notice.

M is a 28-year-old recovering alcoholic, who has no income but starts a job in two weeks.

T a 41-year-old mom with two children is fleeing a domestic violence situation. She currently has no income other than DCF Cash Assistance of \$200.

J lives alone with her 5-year-old son. She has been hospitalized with a difficult pregnancy, which resulted in her losing her job. She only made \$577 and owes over \$1,000 on her rent.

R, a 41-year-old lady, lost her job due to medical issues. She went through a divorce and suffered a mental breakdown. She continues to suffer from depression and was in a state hospital this summer. She has no income and owes \$650 on rent.

E is a 39-year-old father who lives with his two young children. He was homeless from November through May. His only source of income is DCF cash assistance of \$403 and food stamps of \$766. He owes Evergy \$1,500.

B, a 40-year-old Mom with three children, has a disabled son who is suffering from kidney failure and had to be airlifted to Children's Mercy Hospital. She owes \$550 on rent and \$900 on utility bills.

D is a 49-year-old mom with two children. The father abandoned the family as he was abusive with the autistic child. The mom cleans a house once a week for the rent payment. She owed \$386 on her city utility bill.

ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER OCT. 5

Register Today!

The Center of Hope will host the Annual Benefit Dinner on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at the Dugan Library & Conference Center on the Newman University campus. Doors open at 5pm with a PRIVATE RECEPTION for Table Sponsors and their guests, and a WINE & BEER RECEPTION for all guests at 5:30pm. We will have a DINNER & PROGRAM beginning at 6:30pm, featuring a LIVE and Silent Auction. The finale to the evening will be competitive entertainment from a fun local group performing DUELING PIANOS.



Be sure to bring your special song requests. It's not too late to register by calling 316-267-3999 or email george@centerofhopeinc.org. You can also make bids online for our Silent Auction items by going to DuelforHope.CBO.IO. Please join us to help the many poor neighbors living in our community.



You can use your cel phone to access more information about the Dinner and Silent Auction.

Center of Hope Recognition Gifts

In Honor of

Joe and Gladys Schneider
Randy & Marilyn Wells 50th Anniversary

In Memory of

Lavern Augustine, Sr.
Dave & Ruth Ann Aldag
Steve Braet
Gavin Buchanan
Ladeen Chambers
Grant Cox
Eileen Dreiling

Dean Johnson
Bruce McCurry
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*Prayer accompanied by
fasting and giving to
the poor is good, it is
better to give to the
poor than to store up
gold, for giving to the
poor expiates every sin.*

Tobit 12:8-9, Luke 6:37-38

GOD BLESS AND
SEE YOU
SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 2024

"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 twelve months, the Center of Hope prevented 2,575 families from having to experience homelessness. Included in those families were 6,602 persons. \$1,208,877 was dispersed for rent, utilities and emergency needs. Utility assistance for Project Deserve of \$264,460 was provided for 1,754 households across the state of Kansas. We would like to recognize Chris Sims, Susan Sloan, St. Cecilia Parish and St. Francis of Assisi 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

