

Poverty Is Complicated by Fred Wilgenburg

One thing I have learned in my time at Center of Hope is that poverty within our society is complicated. Though we are often tempted to place poverty in the one-size-fits-all category, that would be an inaccurate placement.

My friend Tom Foster has written for us recently—www.CenterofHopesf.org/newsletter/Iron-Sharpens-Iron/—with his perspective as someone who was homeless for many years before securing employment and housing. (Keep in mind that many who are in poverty are not homeless and unemployed.) “Those who say homelessness is a choice that people make are indeed correct. But, choice-making isn’t always as cut and dried as many would like to believe it is. Sometimes, whether through nature, nurture, or a combination of both, an individual’s choice-making system is malfunctioning.” Tom described his nature in the following way: “I was homeless. I have never really liked to work, as I am and have always been a dreamer, a philosopher, an artist.” Tom realizes some people see that as being lazy: “Homeless people are just lazy. Of course some are to be sure, but let’s focus on what we mean by “lazy.” It is a way of saying that homeless people don’t want to work. I understand that; I still hate working, like in my past, but I have never been lazy. On the contrary, I, like many homeless

people, was quite active. I, like many homeless people, just don’t like working (because) work is something you have to do.... Again, it is this concept of not wanting to work that has branded them as lazy, but really they just like freedom more, (and) chafe at being told what to do...” (Bear in mind that not all homeless people have the same nature described by Tom.)

Tom described his nurture in the following way: “I suffered some serious abuse, was bullied horrifically for being gentle and fat, and had inappropriate contact with a trusted adult role model. By the time I was a young teen and could start making choices, my choice-making programming was all out of whack.”

Tom, through circumstances of having children and being required to support them, and through coming into a relationship with God, got out of homelessness and poverty. Many do not for various reasons.

At Center of Hope, staff and volunteers are presently reading *Bridges Out of Poverty* by Ruby Payne. She lists the following resources as often lacking, therefore leading to poverty: Financial resources, Emotional resources, Mental resources, Spiritual resources, Physical resources (health and mobility), Support systems, Relationships/role models,

Knowledge of hidden rules (of the group you are seeking to enter—middle class), and Coping strategies. Those resources are often lacking because of a person’s nature and nurture as described above by Tom.

Author Ruby Payne writes scenarios of real-life cases of people in poverty going through the cycle of trying and failing. Some finally make it out, but many don’t.

Sometimes it feels like we as a staff of 8 are still as ignorant as I was when Center of Hope began 15 years ago. I know that is not the case, but poverty, as well as the people to whom we are called to minister, keep us scratching our heads. That’s probably good. For one thing, it challenged us to revise our Core Values. (If you are interested in reading them, I am happy to send them to you --- 605-201-9696, fred@centerofhopesf.org). It has reminded us that God is always the right answer to every person’s life. As complicated as life-situations may be, God and his grace are always sufficient in bringing real hope. That will not only be a warm-fuzzy spiritual experience, which can be difficult for people to contemplate; it can also be a tangible experience of love and guidance from God and his people (Church).

More on Page 2 

Welcome Maddie Borah, Center of Hope's new Faith Com- munity Nurse



Maddie joined the Center of Hope staff as the Faith Community Nurse in December 2015. Maddie graduated with her ASN from USD and BSN from Oklahoma Wesleyan. She brings 20 years of street EMS and 14 years of nursing experience to Center of Hope. It is Maddie's desire to carry out her passions for serving and ministering to those in need as God cares for each of his children. Maddie and her husband, Pastor Milt, have 4 children and 2 grandchildren.

Center of Hope is in need of ministry-

mind ed volunteers: There is a place for you as a **Greet-er**—a male who is interested in being flexible, meeting people with an open mind, wanting to building relationship, possibly helping with bagging, resume writing, email set up, internet job hunting, and most importantly, sharing Jesus. **Front Desk Host or Hostess**,—someone who is willing to help guests navigate where to receive help in the Care Center and through out Sioux Falls. It might possibly entail some data entry, filing, and prayer for and with guest. **Faith Commu-nity Nurse**—answering health related questions and concerns and doing some health screening. This position could possibly include personal visits, prayer, and mentoring. **Bike Mechanic**—fixing bikes for public use or working with someone to fix their personal bike. **Clothing organizer** —sorting, tagging, restocking clothing. Please contact Randi at Center of Hope if you could fill one of these spots. 334-9789 or Randi@centerofhopesf.org

**Center of Hope has a Big Need of Adult Bicycles,
Men's gloves and XXL Winter Clothing items.**

What Does the Center of Hope do? We...

- 1) distribute winter clothing & bikes-for-work at minimal prices, & Mother/baby Baskets as gifts.
- 2) We meet most guests in our Care Center.
- 3) We do many Pastoral interactions.
- 4) We have Sports Night for many young men and their families.
- 5) We have Bible Studies & Bible-based 12-steps.
- 6) We do Faith Community nursing.
- 7) We offer Journey Camp for children.
- 8) We coordinate "Sharing Christmas."
- 9) We offer a Mutual Work Support Program for guests.
- 10) We write "Iron Sharpens Iron."
- 11) We have a full bike shop for guests.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Center of Hope appreciates the gifts made in honor
of...Bev Fischer, Maria Kajzer, June Schnieder,
Jay & LouAnn Stark-Dykema,
and Stephana Vander Werff*

As always, we are happy to have you on our mailing list. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our list or have your newsletter sent electronically.



CENTER OF HOPE

Address:

225 E 11th St Suite 101
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: 605-334-9789

Fax: 605-274-0651

E-mail: info@centerofhopesf.org

Web: www.centerofhopesf.org

Facebook©: facebook.com/centerofhopesf