

April 2017

Another's Shoes By Maddie Borah, Faith Community Nurse

Recently the Center of Hope staff and the University of Sioux Falls nursing department teamed up to conduct USF's first Poverty Simulation. The object of this experience was to



sensitize all involved to the day-to-day realities of life faced by people with low incomes, and to motivate participants to become involved in activities which help reduce poverty in this country.

This was an amazing event that brought individuals and agencies together to gain insight on the true struggles of poverty. We learned that addressing poverty needs to be a team effort. As the agencies support and encourage the poor they overcome the "us and them" mentality.

This was not a game. The simulation represented a month in the life of a family, broken into 15 minute "weeks" in which the family was tasked with providing for their basic necessities. The simulation was conducted in a large room with the "families" seated in groups in the center of

the room. Around the perimeter of the room were tables representing community resources and services for the families such as a bank, grocery store, Community Action Agency, employer, daycare, school, mortgage company, health center, pawn shop, social services, payday loan facility, police department and jail. These tables were staffed by volunteers from our local agencies and community resources.

The experience concluded with a debriefing period in which all attendees had opportunity to share their feelings and experiences and talk about what they had learned through the simulation.

One of the things immediately obvious to us all was that transportation is a huge issue. A

car might seem to be the obvious answer to the need, but cars are expensive to buy, insure, maintain, and to keep fuel in the tank. Public transit is inefficient if you

have several places to go, or it might not be available.

Another observation was that being poor isn't easy. People in poverty are often working a couple of jobs at low wages. This means that it's hard to find the time to do the other things you need to in life. For instance, what if you get sick or someone in your family gets incarcerated? How do you provide adequate child care under those circumstances?

IMPACT FOR CENTER of HOPE Changing Hours!!!

The Poverty Simulation confirmed a plan we were putting in place to change our hours. Our feeling is that our current open hours of 11 to 5 are difficult for those who are working to utilize our services. Beginning May 1

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we are going to be open Thursday evenings & and Saturday mornings, but closed Mondays. We will experiment with this change until September 30. It is amazing what you learn when you walk-a-mile in someone else's shoes'.

If you would like to learn more about the Poverty Simulation you can do so at: www.povertysimulation.net/about

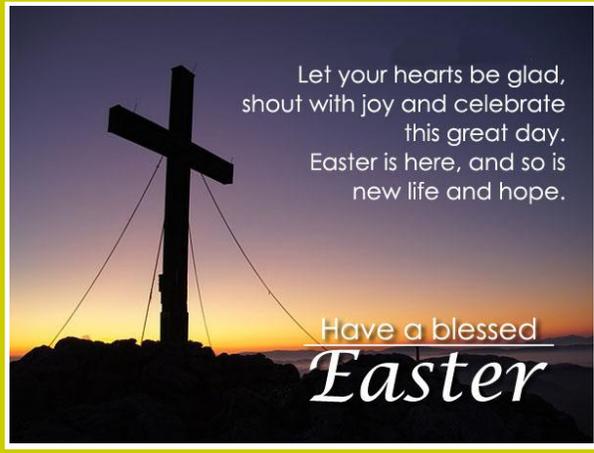
To see the Keloland news report on our experience you can do so at: www.keloland.com/news/article/news/walking-in-someone-else-s-shoes-to-understand-poverty



You can still Join In!

The Bicycle and Beat Brett Motorcycle Challenges began April 1 but run until September 30! There is still plenty of time to join in the fun!

Visit our website to join:
www.centerofhopesf.org

A Blessed Easter to You!

The staff and volunteers at Center of Hope pray you all enjoy a blessed Easter Celebration.

He is Risen!

How You Can Help

In this season of Lent and Easter our hearts are filled with a range of emotions as we meditate on the gift of salvation that was given to us. We are filled with joy and amazement that God could love us so much, before we even cared at all about Him. We are overcome with shame and sorrow when we honestly examine our lives and see the true depth of our depravity. Yet, our tears of sorrow become the tears of joy as we experience the grace and mercy of God in our lives.

It is that deep knowledge of God's love for them and how He meets their need that we seek to share with every one of our guests. We share that message in concrete terms with the items we provide and the words we speak, challenging them to surrender their lives to Christ.

Partner with us now to carry out this work with a monthly donation of an amount the Lord may lay on your heart. A monthly donation of even \$50 will make a significant impact in the lives of those in difficult circumstances. Thank you, Calvin

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts made in Memory of... Bruce Blake and Bruce Landegent

As always, we are happy to have you on our mailing list. Please let us know if we need to update your address or if we can send the newsletter electronically to you.



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