

November 2015

A NOTE FROM A FORMER GUEST....

... who received a Mother/Baby basket from Center of Hope. **Ministry is especially fulfilling when those who receive ministry, go and do ministry themselves.** Our Mother/Baby basket ministry has been around for 13 years. A basket contains new items including a crib-size quilt, a receiving blanket, diapers, socks, onesie t-shirt, bottles, a digital thermometer, a book on caring for a baby, and a devotional. We distribute over 100 baskets each year, mostly through referrals from the local hospitals.



"I brought my friend, Katie, to receive her Mother/Baby basket and she was brought to tears. (I knew to bring her since I received one a few years ago when my daughter was born.) She was so happy and wanted me to thank you folks for being so caring. Know that you have made her very happy. A happy mama makes a happy baby! I heard that you wanted to use my life story which I had shared with you, to inspire others. I am happy to have you print my story:

I have always considered myself a Christian, but often I have acted far from it. On November 23, 2009, my good friend committed suicide due to bullying and other circumstances. I used his death as an excuse to self-destruct. I began to experiment with drugs, and I drank heavily as well. Lying was my main defense. In 2010, I watched a good

friend of mine get his head run over by a vehicle, on accident by his brother. I watched his brother screaming and holding his brother's lifeless body. I began to feel that normal was a constant pain that would never end.

In November of 2010, I found out I was pregnant. I was fifteen years old. My baby's father convinced me to keep my daughter instead of give her up for adoption. He assured me that he would be a great father, yet his actions were much different. My pregnancy was a high risk one; my child was at risk for multiple disorders. As well, I was on bedrest for 3 1/2 months, I was anemic, and I fainted frequently.

My doctor told me about the Center of Hope. I walked in, and was greeted in the most friendly way. "What gender will your baby be?" a lady asked me. I said, "A little girl". She walked away with a smile on her face and came back with a basket full of beautiful things --- a beautiful quilt, clothes, bottles, swaddle blankets, diapers, and more. I was blown away and didn't know what to say. I was so alone, and in my loneliness, I saw a light, a light of hope and love. This stuck with me throughout everything.

The day she was born, I knew everyone I had lost was watching over me and my daughter. I found extreme comfort in that. When my daughter was about three months old, things started to go downhill again - except worse. I was involved in some horrible things. I was arrested and brought to multiple facilities. When I got released six months later, I contin-

ued to go right back to what I was doing, and in addition, I was raped and beaten. Everything I have said one couldn't understand unless in my shoes.

A week after new years 2014, I was praying to the Lord. I was just saying, "please, please, please God, please help me to understand this please help me please!" Suddenly, everything around me stood still. It felt as if a gigantic weight had been lifted off of my back. The suffering I had experienced, the numbness, the pain, it all went away. I felt light, and all I could see was a white light. Then, a voice, the same voice that had spoken to me years earlier, said, "stay put." The voice said to me, "I have not forgotten you my child." I was in awe. I could not speak, and since that moment, my life has been completely turned around.

The Lord led me home to my daughter. I found my calling - nursing. I am currently a nurse's assistant at McKennan Hospital, and am constantly commended by my coworkers, my patients, and my bosses. People say that when I walk into their room, there is a "light behind me" as if I were an angel. I also volunteer at Sanford Hospital as a pediatric companion. Although I face struggles every day, I trust God. He gets me through everything. My message to everyone who has ever been through anything horrible, to anyone who has ever made horrible mistakes in their lives, that God has not forgotten you. Though we were given the opportunity of free will, God can mix everything into his glorious plan for each of us. I used my friend's death as a reason to self-destruct. Satan then encourages that in keeping us from being the wonderful people we were meant to be. God has NOT forgotten you. my child. He never will." 

Abundance of thanks for the successful Fall Benefit Event.



Thanks to those who enjoyed , gave of their time, gave financially, and prayed for this event. Here are a few snap shots—>



To God be the Glory!

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

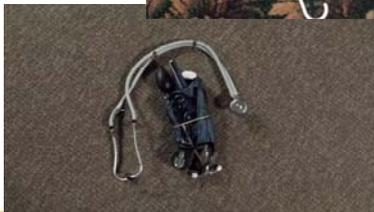
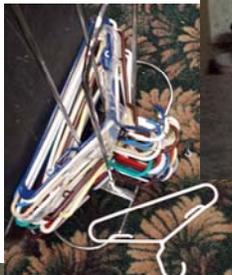
- 1) distribute winter clothing & bikes-for-work at minimal prices, & Mother/baby Baskets as gifts.
- 2) we meet most guests in our Care Center.
- 3) we have many Pastoral interactions.
- 4) we have Sports Night for many young men and their families.
- 5) we have Bible Studies & Bible-based 12-steps.
- 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

Please help us fill up our empty spots: 1) Regarding

clothing, especially men's XX and XXX sizes and school age children's winter items! We are also in need of belts, men's new long underwear, and socks.

2) New **quilts** for the Mother/Baby Baskets. 3) **Volunteers** for: Front Desk Hosts and Hostesses, Faith Community Nurses, & clothing processors. Thanks!!!!

Come join the team of God's servants!



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts made ...

In memory of: Julia Burgers, Aaron Engen, Art Getting, Elmer Lowe, Sophia Temple, and Edna Van Abbema,

As always, we are happy to have you on our mailing list. But, 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