

Eyes to See By Maddie Borah, Faith Community Nurse

Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. Matthew 6:22

In a world of darkness, many are intrigued and stimulated by the overwhelming abundance of sights and sounds. Some are God's gracious gift to us, created to draw us close to Him in an expression of awe. Some are not, as they tend to create distraction and cause busy-ness that allows no time for the priorities in life. We often live in the present state of focusing on what we do not have when we should be giving glory and thanks for all that we do.

I was in kindergarten before I learned the difference between trees and bushes. Not because I didn't physically know the difference, but because I was so visually impaired that I couldn't see the difference. All that changed when I got my first pair of glasses. The clear distinction of moving from the "have-not" to the "have" was so impactful that I still remember that event decades later. The clear, crisp colors that danced before my eyes were almost dizzying as the blurred dull blobs of what I had known as my reality disappeared. I had to learn a new way to interact with my environment as the past practices and rituals were now out of sync with my new-found existence.

I no longer had to sit in the front

of class. I no longer had to wonder what the movie on that big outdoor screen was really about. I no longer had to be at the end of line because I was afraid I would trip or because I simply just didn't know where I was supposed to be going.

Today, as the Faith Community Nurse at Center of Hope, I have the incredible opportunity to offer that hope of vision to qualified individuals through a generous grant from Sammons Financial and a gracious partnership with Sioux Falls Family Vision.

I met Barb, a humble soul with an infectious, bubbly personality. She became the first recipient of the Vision Grant vouchers. Not only did she receive great care and a new pair of glasses, she has been able to obtain employment and no longer feels homebound due to the inability to drive due to her poor eyesight.



Barb and Maddie celebrate!

As Barb wrote in the beautiful thank you card – "I can SEE, I can DRIVE! A person doesn't realize how much our sight is important. I was home-bound, limited. Not anymore. I have my glasses and now I can see, and I can drive. Thank you so very much!"



Jesus gives a wonderful example of what the body of Christ is to look like, especially in medical terms that nurses love. He tells us we are individually created to serve a specific purpose, much like the intricate anatomy of the human body. None is any less or any more important than the other. And much like the human body, when all parts work as they have been created, we are to rejoice in this good news. However, when one part is dysfunctional, then other parts are also affected and when one part is suffering, all parts will suffer.

Let us rejoice in the reconciliation of the body of Christ. Let us give thanks for the restoration of Barb's eyesight. And most of all, let us give thanks to the Great Physician, who makes all things possible.

April is “Big Squeeze” Month

The mission of The Big Squeeze is to increase awareness of high blood pressure and the need for screenings throughout Sioux Falls as well as working with healthcare providers to ensure that patients receive educations and tools to manage blood pressure outside of the normal range.

The University of Sioux Falls was the launch site for this year’s event. The Center of Hope has been blessed with the opportunity to work with the University of Sioux Falls nursing students in providing this service to individuals at the Center of Hope and The Ransom church.

Health assessments are available each Tuesday in the month of April from 11-3p and Saturday, April 23rd 9-1p at the Center of Hope.



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

- 1) share the love, grace, and salvation of Jesus with people who walk in the door.
- 2) distribute winter clothing, bikes -for-work at minimal prices, & have computers available for job search and resume preparation.
- 3) do many Pastoral and Faith Community Nurse interactions.
- 4) walk along side people as we read and study God’s word through Bible Studies, Iron Sharpen Iron blog, Sports Night, Journey Camp for children, and one on one conversations.
- 5) We reach out to people through “Sharing Christmas” & Mutual Work Support Program for guests.



“Thank you Fred” Open House

Please join us May 7, 9:30—11:30 am to “Bless Fred Wilgenburg”. Center of Hope has appreciated and been honored to have had Fred’s leadership and guidance for the past 16 years. To thank and send him on his way to a new ministry adventure, please join us in the Community Room across the hall from the Center of Hope (225 E. 11th St) for

coffee, punch, and cookies.

If you have a special memory about Fred or any words of thanks for him please bring them in written form, or mail them to:

Center of Hope
attn.: Fred Wilgenburg
225 E. 11th Street, Suite 101
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts made in Memory of... Bernice Bartels, Alma Drenth, Mildred Kuenen, and Melvin Paulson.

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.

How You Can Help

*Would you consider a gift this month of \$200 or \$100 or even \$50 to support the great work of our Faith Community nurse?

*Spring Cleaning?—we are always looking for winter clothes, jeans and black pants, sweaters and backpacks or bikes.



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