

Be Radical and Serve by Adam Hofer

Greetings from the Center of Hope! This last year was a challenge, to say the least. When Covid-19 came into Sioux Falls, people started to isolate themselves out of fear. The reality was people were dying. In fact, we lost seven regular guests that we know of this past year, even though several of them were not Covid-19 related. Covid-19 shifted the concept of love in our society from being a presence in peoples' lives to keeping a distance from people to keep them safe. The Church had a hard time balancing being faithful to the causes of Christ while also following CDC guidelines. Differences in opinions regarding Covid-19 led to conflict and broken relationships within the Church and in society as a whole. This past year was a tough one for us all. Regardless of what stance you took this past year, the reality is that there are people in poverty in our midst right now that could use your help.



Even though this past year has been a challenge for us, we are grateful for all the volunteers who have stepped forward in joining us as we love God and our neighbors. We were fortunate to have four groups from Central Church come last month to help us with Newsletters, cleaning, bike repair, and landscaping. The middle schoolers learned that

loving one's neighbor requires dedication and hard work. We appreciate service groups and hope to see more in the weeks ahead. However, we are looking for consistent volunteers who would be willing to come weekly. During Covid-19, many of our volunteers did not serve to ensure they would be Covid-free. Now that Covid-19 is behind us, we are having a hard time finding volunteers. If you feel compelled to join our volunteer family, please reach out to me at adam@centerofhopesf.org. We could use your help as we continue to share the love of Christ with our guests each day.

Poverty is more complex than having or not having money. Someone could have all the money in the world but could be spiritually dead because they do not have a relationship with Christ. Poverty could be financial, relational, or spiritual. Covid-19's presence did not diminish the poverty that plagues people. The Church needs to let the light of Christ shine like no other time before. The time to become radical for the faith is now. Isolation has led many in our community further into depression, anxiety, and loneliness, which in return led people further into unhealthy habits. We need to make our presence known to those people so that they know they are loved by the one who made the stars and to walk alongside them through whatever they are going through.



New Staff Member: Meet Rick!



Rick Timmer joined the Center of Hope Staff in June, 2021. Rick is married to his wife Julie for 34 years. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1987, and worked for a wholesale greenhouse near Boyden, IA, for 17 years. Following graduation from Sioux Falls Seminary in 2005, he served as Pastor at the First Reformed Church in Edgerton, MN, for 8 1/2 years, The Reformed Church in Dell Rapids, SD, for 4 1/2 years, and Inspiration Hills for 1 1/2 years. He also was a high school football coach for 8 years. He is a chosen instrument of God to carry His name in making disciples, encourage ministry, and invest in relationships that will bear much fruit. He will be working in the Geared To Empower Bike Ministry.

Interaction Highlight — John Blok

“Melissa” came to us via a referral. As we arranged to get her a bicycle for transportation to work, the discussion turned to spiritual matters. She said that she had faith in God, but never really got to the point of being “serious” about it. I asked what she thought might be holding her back and there wasn’t much of an answer that came to mind. So I asked if she might be open to praying right then and there to accept the free gift of Christ’s salvation into her life. She was surprised and relieved to know that this was possible and very willing, and so we prayed together. I believe that “Melissa’s” story is not uncommon, especially among those raised in a church or spiritually focused family. Often though, the unspoken message has been that God is just out of reach unless you have all your stuff together; unless you’re essentially perfect. The beauty of the Gospel is that it is not complicated or laden with pre-conditions. It is real, free and right now for anyone who will surrender their hearts and lives to what God has for us. Thanks be to God that He meets us right where we are, and that He loves us enough to not let us remain there! Pray today with me for “Melissa” and those like her who’s hearts are willing, but remain held back by the lie that they have to be all fixed up first.

Mission:

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people, to bring spiritual and physical health, and ultimately to change the community one life at a time.

Vision:

The Center of Hope encourages and mentors people with the hope of redemption through Jesus Christ. Our focus is holistically addressing physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of individual that can only come through creating relationship and accountability. We work in partnership with community organizations to engage in a consistent and positive interaction with guests.

Principles:

1. All people are created in God’s image.
2. Self sufficiency
3. Holistic Ministry
4. Reconciliation
5. Partnering to Serve

Your Gifts Change Lives:

Stock or Commodity Gifts—Talk to your financial advisor about gifting stocks and commodities to the Center of Hope.

Make it Double—Check with your employer to see if they will match your charitable contributions to the Center of Hope.

Be a Sustainer of Hope—A monthly gift will bring stability to individuals and families. Give online at: www.centerofhopesf.org

In-Kind Gifts—Winter clothing for all ages, [adult and kids bikes](#).

Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2020-2021

Apr.—June. Income \$ 61,975

2021-22 Budget Need \$393,343

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of — Mike Schulte

Help us save on postage by receiving your newsletter electronically! Send your email address to info@centerofhopesf.org Also, please let us know if we need to update your mailing address.