



CENTER OF HOPE

December 2020

Center of Hope Newsletter

Sowing Seeds of God's Love...Physically and Spiritually

Christmas – Christ Came to Dwell with His People by Adam Hofer

Greetings from the Center of Hope. Christ the Savior is born! As a faith-based organization, it is our mission to point our guests to Christ walking with them through life like Jesus did in his ministry. The fact that our holy God loved us enough to dwell with us should give us chills and a deep sense of gratitude. Our world is broken, full of conflict, death, and disease. In addition to external conflicts, wars are active internally within all people, especially with our guests going through mental illnesses, addictions, and other forms of struggles. Why in the world would God want to dwell with us? Because he loves us and desires for us to live life to the fullest!

Over the last four years, I have been working with a guest who will be called Kenneth for the purpose of this article. I first got to know him in the Bike Ministry teaching him how to maintain his bike. He came frequently to talk about life, improve his bike, often joking around with the Bike Ministry team. A couple of years later, he became homeless and asked me if I could help him get connected to a homeless shelter. Since I worked at the St. Francis House before working at the Center of Hope, I contacted the

staff and connected him with the ministry. While staying there, he participated in my weekly men's Bible study. Even though Kenneth has gone through hard times since I have known him, he always came to me with a big



smile on his face as if nothing in his life was going wrong. Below the surface, a war was brewing.

Recently, he came into the Center of Hope for help. His car broke down. He needed a job yet again. He also had misplaced his ID. He was not his usual self. The war inside was starting to come to the surface. He needed a friend. We spoke for a while about recent developments in his life. I connected him to our Earn-A-Bike program so that he would have a bike for his job search.

Pastor Brett helped him with an ID. Within our conversation, he made a joke about killing himself. I did not let that slide. Life was hard on him. He was hopeless. The details of the conversation will remain confidential. However, the conversation shows that mental illness is prevalent in many of our guests. Sometimes the war within is too strong to handle alone.

The fact that Jesus came to dwell in this world full of internal and external brokenness should result in us falling at the feet of Jesus each day. We are called as the people of God to reflect Christ's likeness in the world. Just as Jesus dwelled with us, we dwell with the struggling among us.

If you are interested in dwelling with our guests as they go through struggles and helping them get back on their feet, there are opportunities to serve at the Center of Hope. As you celebrate this Christmas season, celebrating that Jesus came to this world out of His love for us, keep our guests in your prayers and consider dwelling with them by participating in one of our programs or programs at other nonprofits in the Sioux Falls area.

God bless you.

What Happened with the Fall Benefit?—Cal Ver Mulm

What can we expect from holding our Annual Fall Benefit online? What are we going to do? Will we be able to raise the funds we need for the ministry this way? There were so many questions as we planned and prepared for this year's Fall Benefit. The beautiful thing is, that God provided. He led us to focus on what He has been doing this past year through the Center. He provided a way to communicate with you what He has done. He provided as well the funds we need for His work here.

If you missed the benefit you can watch the entire program or watch it in segments by going to **YouTube** and searching for centerofhopesf.org. The program is entitled Fall Benefit 2020 livestream. During the program you will hear testimonies of guests, staff and volunteers. You will also hear about an exciting new program in our bike ministry called Geared to Empower. That will be kicking off January 1, 2021!

The night of the Benefit you raised for the Center of Hope just over \$29,000. With gifts coming in afterwards, you raised \$32,434! We are so very thankful for your generosity in supporting the ministry. To everyone who enjoyed the event and all who make this ministry possible by giving, volunteering, and praying. Thank you!

Quick Note: We want to tell you about a provision in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that allows people to deduct \$300 for charitable donations. If you donate up to \$300 in cash to a qualified organization like the Center of Hope, your adjusted gross income will be reduced up to \$300. Check with your tax consultant about this universal deduction as you consider donating at the end of this year.

**NOTE: Our new address is:
1905 E 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.**

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:

Be a Sustainer of Hope—Set up a monthly gift via credit card or automated bank transfer. Either method can be done easily on our website. www.centerofhopesf.org/financial-gift

Make it Double—Double your gift by checking with your employer to see if they will match your charitable contributions.

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

In-Kind Gifts—Winter clothing for all ages, and adult bikes.

Financial Update

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

April—Nov. Income \$231,986

2020-21 Budget Need \$382,781

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of — Verladyne De Loof

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Also, please let us know if we need to update your mailing address.**