

### Loving Well by Adam Hofer



what you can do for them. Love is not rooted in being popular in the eyes of others but rather in bringing forth the truth. We ought to be patient, kind, respectful, calm, and truthful with the people we interact with daily, even if their worldview is different from our own. How others treat us should not dictate if we love them or not. We are to love regardless. We ought to live a life of love as Jesus did in His ministry. Let us be known as disciples of Jesus by how we love others (John 13:35).

**What does it mean to love well?** If you asked this question to a hundred people, you would get a hundred answers. The problem with the question is “love” is viewed differently by most people. We assume that we are all on the same page on what love is. However, love for one person is seen as hate for another person. Is love an action or a feeling? Is love acceptance and tolerance? If so, what does that mean as we care for people? Does love mean we allow others to learn lessons the hard way, or is there space for accountability in love? Does love mean we turn a blind eye to the sin of others? Is living a life of love a life of self-denial? Is love selfish? We must ask these questions when we speak of love. So I return to the question: What does it mean to love well?

To answer that question, we must return to the basics of Christianity. Saying God is love is not enough

because many do not even know what love is, especially outside the Church, and God is so much more than love. He is also holy and just. What love is could be debated all day. However, all our arguments would be lacking and would have no authority outside of Scripture. What we do know is this: **“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”** (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). From the passage, we can glean that love is an action. We ought to choose to love, even when we aren’t feeling particularly “loving” towards others. Love is not rooted in pride but rather in the betterment of others. Love is not rooted in what others can do for you but rather in

At the Center of Hope, we do our best to love well. There is much discernment and discipline in how we choose to love our guests. Walking the fine line between compassion and accountability is a challenge. We often evaluate the best ways to love our guests regarding the three stages of poverty alleviation (relief, rehabilitation, and development) because we know that each person is at a different stage in their development. Caring for one person in one way may be harmful if done with another person depending on where they are in those stages. Regardless, we will continue to be patient and kind to each person who walks through our doors, speak truth into their lives, open their eyes to their potential so that they can live into their purpose of loving God and others in their unique way, and educate them on what it means to love well. Go and do likewise.

## Thank You — Breakfast Fundraiser

We would like to thank each of you who participated in our Breakfast Fundraiser this year. The morning was a great time of connection and fun. We appreciated your financial support. However, we also appreciated being present with each of you for the morning. Your presence in itself is a gift to us. **A special thank you goes to Davenport Evans for sponsoring the event, First Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Falls for letting us use their space and bouncy house free of charge for the morning, and Falls Area Bicyclists for leading a 10-mile bike ride. As you have blessed us, we will bless our guests!**



## Center of Hope Free Evening Clinic Update

The Center of Hope Free Evening Clinic for the uninsured began in January after Center of Hope merged with Destiny After Hours Clinic. Since we merged with Destiny After Hours Clinic, we added two new services: eye vouchers for those who need glasses and urgent medication authorization for those who cannot afford their medication. Thanks to your generosity, we can cover the costs of these services to help our guests stay healthy and productive.

## Calling All Volunteers! - We could use YOUR help.

We are looking for kingdom-minded individuals to join our volunteer family, especially in our Bike Ministry and Care Center. Ideally, we are looking for volunteers who would be available to come consistently to serve weekly. No experience is required. Training will be provided for all volunteers. If you are interested in serving at the Center of Hope, please reach out to Adam Hofer via email at [adam@centerofhopesf.org](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org).

## Most Needed Items

Seasonal and winter clothing items, Belts (all sizes), Wallets, Blankets, WD40, All Purpose Grease, and Chain oil.

### 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

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of — *Wilbert Gene Van Hill and Nancy Teerink*

### 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](http://www.centerofhopesf.org)

### Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2023-24

April—To Date. Income  
\$82,377

2023-24 Budget Need  
\$381,265

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