



CENTER OF HOPE

October 2021

Center of Hope Newsletter

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

Reflecting Christ's Light by Adam Hofer

The hardest time to be faithful to the causes of Christ is when doing so is inconvenient. A couple of nights ago, I was relaxing with my wife at home under a warm blanket when I received a call from one of our guests. He was going through a rough time and was lashing out at me calling me names. I was initially taken aback. However, I realized that he may be trying to push me away because he wanted to isolate himself. I kept on listening to him rant, but eventually, he broke down and told me he needed help. I could tell he was drinking and did not want him to get arrested for being drunk in public. I told him to stay on the phone with me and jumped in my car. The whole drive I spoke with him. I eventually found him on the streets and told him to get in the car. He was in rough shape. I brought him to a local restaurant to get food for him so he would sober up. For the next three hours, we spoke of all the things he was going through and ways to address them in healthy ways. We also talked about his spiritual walk. I learned in our conversation that he was going through marriage issues. The thoughts of losing his wife led him to the bottle that night. He could not imagine a life without her. He



believed a life without her was not worth living. He wanted to die because the pains of this world were just too great for him to bear. My talk with him may have saved his life. I am not writing this to make myself appear high and mighty. I'm writing this to show that reflecting the light of Christ often means stepping out of your comfort zone and stepping into dark areas of people's lives. Being the light of Christ is often messy and inconvenient. I did not plan on spending three-plus hours with him that night. I planned on spending time with my wife. However, I am glad I went because I was given an opportunity to reflect His light on a soul that needed His presence more than ever.

Reflecting the light of Christ may look different to you in your context. Maybe reflecting the light of Christ means you reach out to a friend you know is going through a hard time. Maybe it means you teach the youth at your church about Christ. Maybe it means you serve at a local nonprofit. Regardless of what your context is, consider new ways of reflecting His light each day. The reality is the forces of darkness are active in this world. The world needs to see the light of Christ! We the Church are put on this Earth for that purpose and that purpose alone. Evangelize! Serve! Show that you care! Go and be who God made you to be!

Fall Benefit—November 13 at 5:30pm: What To Expect

Our Fall Benefit will be on Saturday November 13 at 5:30 pm at Sioux Falls Christian. We are excited to have a live event where people can come together, enjoy a buffet meal, bid on silent auction items, and hear how God has been at work through the Center of Hope this past year. Unlike previous years, we will be using **ClickBid**, which will allow you to bid on silent auction items in person or online. Each guest of the Fall Benefit will register for the night through ClickBid and can bid on items without needing to leave their tables. However, people can bid at the silent auction tables as well. Registration for the event will be open in the near future. Using ClickBid will speed up the check-in and check-out process and will allow us to shift easier online if Covid-19 spikes. We would love to have you participate! As we move closer to the event, more information on the evening will be available on our website: www.centerofhopesf.org.

Sharing Christmas is ramping up!

Christmas is a time when the Church reflects on and celebrates the birth of Christ. Out of His love for us, He came to dwell with His people. He came humbly as a helpless baby in the manger. Out of our gratitude for His love for us, we reflect His love to those around us, especially those who are struggling, through the act of giving. You will have an opportunity to do just that this Christmas season through the Sharing Christmas program. We will be needing volunteers to help with data entry, receiving and sorting gifts, loading gift delivery vehicles for closed sponsorships, and manning the Sharing Christmas Store. Unlike last year, the Sharing Christmas Store will be at the Center of Hope! Anyone who has used the traditional sponsorship program more than three times will participate in the Sharing Christmas Store where they could buy gifts for their families at a tenth of the cost. If you are interested in volunteering in the Sharing Christmas program, please email Adam Hofer at adam@centerofhopesf.org.

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

Financial Update

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.

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

April—August. Income \$136,119

2021-22 Budget Need \$393,343

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.