



CENTER OF HOPE

August 2024

Center of Hope Newsletter

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

Flooded by Adam Hofer



As the rain fell, I could see the water rise. After hours and days fighting the water, there were times when I felt hopeless as if my efforts were of no use because the water kept coming. However, after dealing with the water for a week, the crisis was over. All I feel now is gratitude for the help I received. Yet, when I was going through the crisis, I was flooded with emotions, and I was confronted with a simple truth:

We all experience floods.

Recently, I brought a homeless man to the DMV to get an ID. Like so many others, this man would need an ID to be considered for employment, even at temp agencies. From our perspective, the solution is simple: Get an ID! However, this man had internal floods, thoughts and worries, building up in his mind. How am I to get to the DMV from the homeless shelter without transportation? If I get an ID, will someone steal it again? How am I to pay for the ID? Should I even

try anymore? As I drove him the fifteen minutes to the DMV, I could not help but think how long it would have taken him on his own. When we walked into the DMV, we waited in a line. After getting our service number, he needed to fill out an ID application. As he looked at the application, I could tell he was getting frustrated, and yet again, he was flooded with emotion and was noticeably angry. I asked him what was wrong. He told me that he was unable to see the application because he lost his glasses. Yet again, another "flood." And when I read off the questions, he was unable to think straight due to lack of sleep. We handled it together. Within 40 minutes, he spoke with a DMV worker and faced additional challenges. All that mattered was we left the DMV with an ID and found our way back to the homeless shelter. What took us an hour would have taken him half a day! Unfortunately, the ID was one of many hurdles for him to overcome to climb out of poverty, which often puts him in a

state of hopelessness. The waters of life keep coming!

The reality is many in our community live with continual internal floods that make them wonder if the waters will ever stop rising. Maybe they experienced trauma as a youth and are continually flooded with thoughts of distrust. Maybe a felony charge left them in a state of fear for what the future may *not* bring. Maybe anxiety leaks into their mind and without ever being shown how to regulate their emotions in healthy ways, they are overwhelmed with it.

The question to consider is this:

Who or what do you cling to when floods come? Often if we aren't careful, we cling to the unhealthy. However, my hope is that you cling to God knowing full well that this flood will pass and that there is more to look forward to than the floods behind us or are currently facing. Unexpected floods like a stolen ID or a water-infested basement are nothing compared to the peace that God can bring! As we face our floods, cling to Him and reflect His love and kindness by helping others with their floods. I am thankful we have a God who walks alongside us through our floods. We are called to do likewise.

"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings" - Psalms 61:1-4



Clothing Ministry How does it work?

The Center of Hope exists to walk alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health, and ultimately change our community one life at a time. Part of our mission is to walk alongside our struggling brothers and sisters as they embark to get back on their feet from poverty. Clothing, for many of us, are items that are relatively easy to get. However, for many who are struggling financially, clothing costs make life difficult for themselves and their households. Our Clothing Ministry addresses this community need in two ways:

First, we offer free clothing through our Mercy Ministry program to individuals and families who are in crisis. Additional free clothing is available for those transitioning out of prison and struggling households. We understand that people fall within different stages of poverty alleviation (relief, rehabilitation, and development). For those who fall within the relief stage, providing free clothing is responsible and beneficial. Much of our clothing donations go through our Mercy Ministry program!

Second, we offer highly affordable clothing options for those who want to "stretch their dollar." We offer this service to give dignity to our guests for they earned it themselves. There is NO SHAME, just DIGNITY. Our prices are unbeatable (approx. 50% of most thrift store prices!). People often come for clothing. Yet, they leave with a friend for our Care Center pastors' offices are right in our Care Center with an open door policy!

So how can you help? DONATE CLOTHING AND WINTER GEAR!! We rely on your clothing donations as we care for our struggling brothers and sisters in Sioux Falls and beyond. We accept donations of clothing, winter gear, bicycles, backpacks for people transitioning out of prison, and hygiene items Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Let's Connect — Mission Moments, Pulpit Supplies, and MORE!

Out of our gratitude, we want you to know that we value our partnership in ministry. If you are a pastor, elder, or deacon of a church, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need pulpit supply help or if you want us to update your congregation on what God has been doing at the Center of Hope. We would love to join you for worship! All for HIS glory and honor.

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 — Lillian Meints, Ferdinand Tilstra, and Marian Phelps

Your Gifts SPREADS HOPE:

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 2024-25

April—To Date. Income
\$113,749.69

2023-24 Budget Need
\$409,672.04

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.