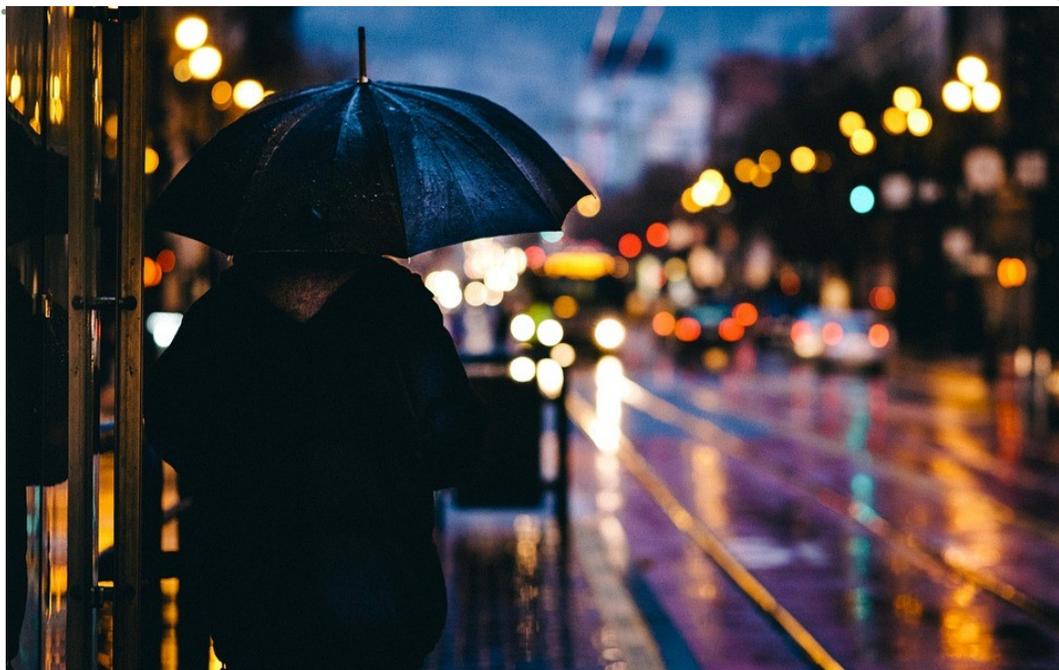


Loving Oneself by Adam Hofer

I often think of a man whom I invested in a couple of years ago. He was a Native American man fresh out of prison and was struggling with meth and alcohol addiction at a local treatment center. He came in initially for a bicycle. Yet, he kept coming back to the Center of Hope to speak with me in my office. On the surface level, he was an unemployed addict. On a deeper level, he was a man struggling with the traumas of his youth and the generational sin of addiction. He was told from a young age that he was worthless and was treated brutally by his family. He was introduced to alcohol before his teenage years began and has been struggling with addiction ever since. He once told me that he used to wake up on the streets of Rapid City and the first thought he had was where he was going to find the money for more alcohol. Thankfully, we celebrated his one year of sobriety together and connected him with full-time work. He was doing well. We spoke of his life and how he was to deal with his traumas in healthy ways. More importantly, we spoke of his walk with God. Yet, the hardest challenge for him was getting past his self-hatred. We spoke extensively about his negative outlook of himself. When you are taught to hate yourself from a young age, getting out of that mindset is difficult. He understood that God loved him deeply and that He died on the cross for him. Yet, he did not love himself. When he got out of the treatment center, he immediately fell back into addiction



and disappeared from view. I was reminded that there was a vast difference between compliance and surrender.

Even though he fell back into addiction, I do not view my time with him as a failure. Ministry work is difficult. I wish the process was clear-cut. Yet, ministry work is not a sprint; it is a marathon. I am confident that when he resurfaces, he will come back to the Center of Hope to speak with me. When he does, we will begin where we left off as I do with so many other guests.

As we approach the Christmas season, I want you to remember to love yourself. You are uniquely made by a God who loves you deeply. There is only one you and there will only ever be one you throughout all of history. You were made for the times we are in now and are made for

a purpose. You are to love God and others in your own way and give God glory through everything you do. In addition to loving yourself, you are to open people's eyes to their own uniqueness and to celebrate with them their unique purpose.

Fall Benefit 2022 UPDATE

Thank you to all who attended our Fall Benefit! We raised \$30,000 because of your generosity. Our financial goal was to raise \$50,000 to ensure we start this next year on good financial footing and to start our new **Center of Hope Free Evening Medical Clinic** strong. However, we are grateful for what we received and will be good stewards of what was given. If you would like to help us reach our \$50,000 financial goal, please consider sending us back a donation in the enclosed envelope with "Fall Benefit" in the memo.

Center of Hope Free Evening Medical Clinic — Starting January 1

We have exciting news! The Destiny After Hours Medical Clinic and Center of Hope are merging! The clinic will be available for uninsured residents of our community Wednesday and Thursday nights, which makes the Center of Hope to be one of the only places in Sioux Falls to get medical care in the evenings for uninsured residents. There will be a doctor and nurses present during clinic hours. The Center of Hope prides itself on our ability to care for people in holistic ways. This merger will help us provide care to our guests more effectively. Your donations today will help us move forward with this new program with ease.



We Are Hiring! Our Faith Community Nurse is retiring!

Our Faith Community Nurse, Gloria Weber, will be retiring this month. She worked for the Center of Hope during a most difficult time—the season of Covid-19. Discerning the best course of action to keep our guests and us safe while maintaining our ministry efforts

was difficult. Yet, we figured it out together. Thank you, Gloria, for your faithful service at the Center of Hope.

With that said, **we are looking for a new mission-minded community nurse to join our team!** This new nurse would be an afternoon nurse that would be responsible for 1) being a Medical Pastor that addresses our guests' physical and spiritual health, 2) assisting in our Care Center, 3) being a Center of Hope liaison and advocate to community agencies, 4) leading outreach efforts to our community, and 5) overseeing the operations of the Center of Hope Free Clinic. This is a part-time position. Apply today!

Newsletter Delivery Preference: Mail or Email?

We are in the process of updating how we send out our Newsletters every other month and need your help. Many of you receive both mail and email Newsletters. If that is how you want to receive them, that works for us! However, if you prefer receiving our Newsletters either in the mail or via email, please contact me via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org. I will then change your Newsletter delivery preference.

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 — Marilyn Vander Kooi

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

Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2021-2022

April—To Date. Income
\$199,150

2022-23 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.