

From One Chapter to the Next by Adam Hofer and Steve Harrison

On September 9, we celebrated Brett Rockvam as he retired from Center of Hope after more than twenty years of faithful service. To thank him for his dedication, our staff and volunteers surprised him with a pizza party—a simple opportunity to celebrate his years of service and say goodbye as he begins a new chapter.

Although Brett stepped down as Executive Director of Center of Hope two and a half years ago, his impact on my life and ministry deserves to be recognized.

While I was a seminary student in the Kairos Project at Sioux Falls Seminary, now Kairos University, I was surrounded by a team of mentors: a faculty mentor, a ministry mentor, and a character mentor. Brett served as my ministry mentor, walking alongside me as I grew in ministry and learned what it meant to serve people responsibly.

Brett also gave me opportunities to spread my wings. He trusted me with different areas of ministry and allowed me to get my feet wet in multiple programs. Those experiences helped me grow as a leader, deepen my faith, and become more of the man God was calling me to be.

For all of this, I am grateful. In fact, we are all grateful for him. We are grateful for Brett's faithful service. We are grateful for his heart for those who are struggling. We are grateful for the investment he made in our lives and ministry. **Enjoy your retirement—you have certainly earned it!**

Meet our new Spiritual Counselor addition: **Steve Harrison!**

My name is Steve Harrison, originally from Rapid City. I am married to my lovely wife, Casey, and together we are



grateful for the life God has given us and the opportunities He continues to place before us.

I have followed Jesus since the day He rescued me while I was incarcerated. What began in a place I never expected to encounter freedom became the beginning of a completely different life. During my sentence, I stayed very closely connected to the church. It was there that I was disciplined, challenged, encouraged, and ultimately matured as a follower of Christ. I am incredibly grateful for the men and women who were willing to minister grace to me when I needed it most.

Their investment in my life helped me understand that my past did not have to define my future.

Now, as I begin this new position, I find myself almost incredulous when I look back over the years and see how God was preparing me for this moment. Experiences I once considered nothing more than painful chapters of my story now look like

pieces of a much larger picture.

How did He know that one day I would have the opportunity to help set other captives free? How did He know that the places where I experienced brokenness would eventually become places from which I could encourage others? How did He know that my life, with all its failures, struggles, and redemption, would have usefulness in His kingdom?

I certainly did not know.

But God did.

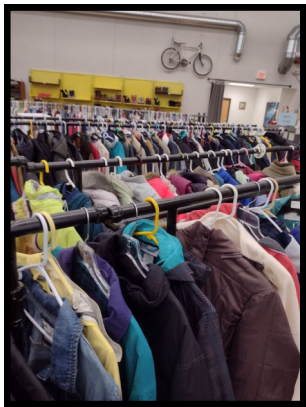
I am stepping into this new season with tremendous gratitude and humility. I know firsthand that freedom is possible, that God's grace can reach us in the darkest places, and that God can take a life that seems beyond repair and give it purpose.



I am excited to see what He will do through this next chapter, and I am honored to be part of Center of Hope and its mission to bring hope, freedom, and restoration to others.

\$25,000 MATCHING GIFT for Fall Benefit Gifts!

You are invited! We would love for you and your family to join us for **Center of Hope's 24th Annual Fall Benefit** on **Saturday, November 7, from 4:30-7:00 p.m.** at **Celebrate Church** in Sioux Falls! This will be a special evening of **worship, a delicious meal, guest testimonies, ministry updates, a silent auction, desserts, door prizes, fun activities, and more.** Most importantly, it will be an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing through Center of Hope and the lives being changed through this ministry. Register TODAY: <https://2026fallbenefit.cbo.io>



Center of Hope is now OPEN ON SATURDAYS!

To live into our mission of walking alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health more effectively, we have decided to expand our Hours of Operation to include Saturdays. Starting this October, our new Hours of Operation will be **Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm!**

Help Restart Lives in our Clothing Ministry!

Our Clothing Ministry does more than provide clothing—it helps **restart lives** as people transition from homelessness, crisis, or incarceration toward self-sufficiency.

Our Clothing Ministry has **four** branches:

- 1) **Coats For Kids program.** Through the Sioux Falls School District, children from financially struggling families receive free winter clothing and gear.
- 2) **Mercy Ministry program.** We provide free clothing and winter gear to individuals and families experiencing crisis in our community. We keep a close record to ensure we don't create long-term dependency.
- 3) **New Beginnings Prison Reentry Clothing Assistance program.** This clothing assistance program was a dream of one of our past Prison Transition mentees, Kelly Rayson, who is currently the Family Unit Director at Union Gospel Mission. Once I heard about his dream, I said, "Instead of just dreaming about it, let's make this happen together!" Six months later, the program is blessing many lives. Through this program, returning citizens from prison receive three sets of clothing, new steel-toed boots/shoes, and a Prison Transition Aid Backpack (containing a new Bible, up-to-date felony-friendly employment and landlord options, devotionals, and other helpful reentry resources).
- 4) **Community Closet.** Guests getting back on their feet can purchase clothing and winter gear at highly subsidized prices. This provides a stepping stone toward self-sufficiency.

We need your help! Please consider making Center of Hope your drop-off place for clothing and winter gear donations. Our greatest needs right now are for **men's coats, gloves/mittens (all sizes), winter hats, children's coats (all sizes), and snow pants/coveralls.**

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Center of Hope appreciates the gifts In Memory of:
Eleanor Schoolmeester and Mark Smith

In Honor of:
Brett Rockvam

Help Us, Help People: Partner to Empower

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 OR via Venmo: @CenterofHopeSFSD

In-Kind Gifts—Clothing, Winter gear, Bicycles, Hygiene items, Backpacks for people transitioning out of prison, encouragement cards/letters, office supplies (contact before donating)

Financial Update

Fiscal year runs from April to March, for the year 2026-27

April—To Date Income

\$134,745.51

2026-27 Budget Need

\$545,313