

## **December 2011 Newsletter**

*By Pennie Kellenberger*

If you get out at all around Christmas every year, you'll find cheerfully decorated malls and shops, each with its own shiny Christmas tree, and streets lined with colorful lights. For those wondering what all the fuss is about, strapping banners shout "Merry Christmas" and the all-inclusive "Happy Holidays". If your timing is right, you might even run into Santa around a corner. And of course, those well-loved Christmas carols will be streaming in the air for everyone to hear, and there will be parties, presents and food. There is no escaping the lights, sights, and sounds of Christmas – and I love everything about it!

With so much to take in at this time of year, it's easy to forget what Christmas is all about. Christmas, to us, is about giving – as our Heavenly Father gave with his gift to us ... Jesus. So in the spirit of the season, we here at The Center have created a Christmas wish list for some of the families in the neighborhood.

**If you'd like to help, please contact us at 563-323-5295.**

Our prayer for you this season is that you find time to rest in God's presence so you can be a blessing to those around you.

*If you'd like to be redirected from our mail list to our electronic e-mail list, please contact Jolene at 563-323-5295*

### **The Center is:**

- A community whose purpose is found in Jesus Christ and exists to live like he did.
- A community that stands up for justice and speaks against oppression .
- A community where if you show up you belong.
- A community where it's not about what you do, but who you are. You are a child of God, born to manifest God's glory, not defined by appearance or actions.
- A community where people gather because there is no other place they would rather be.

*Christmas is a great time to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors.*

*The Center will be doing just that again this Christmas. If you would like to help a family with Christmas gifts, donate a ham, or participate in distribution of the hams to families in our neighborhoods, please call*

*OR stop in for coffee and conversation at THE CENTER.*

**The Center and staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year!**

The Center Newsletter is published monthly by  
The Center  
1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803  
563-323-5295



*Christmas Joy  
At  
The Center*

1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA

*December 17, 2011  
7pm*

*A night designed to bring joy to your Christmas  
season from Alive! Children's Theater*

*Music, Fun & Treats*



# New Year's Eve Party @ SkateChurch



Sponsor a student to come to the New Year's Eve Party at The Center for \$25.00.

Come to SkateChurch @ The Center for your New Year's Eve, help keep kids off the streets and in a safe and fun environment!

Volunteers needed—pick your hours!  
2 hour shifts!

Donations needed for the party are canned pop, bags of chips, granola bars and any other prepackaged snack. Gift cards are needed as prizes throughout the night for games that are played, \$5.00-\$10.00 gift cards fast food restaurants like McDonalds, Subway, Hardees, Taco Bell, etc.

**A special thanks to everyone at St Johns United Methodist Church for 385 items that were donated to The Center to help with the 150 Thanksgiving food baskets that were handed out on November 21st!**

**The Solid Rock Café will be closed for the Christmas Holiday for remodeling!  
We will be closed from December 23 through January 2, 2011!**

## **Street Team needs your HELP!**

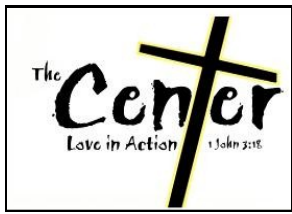
**As we are getting ready for the winter weather Street Team continues to partner with Kings Harvest and Davenport Community Schools working with overflow emergency shelters for families and our homeless youth. We are always in need of socks, blankets and gas cards.**

Grand Reopening of the  
Solid Rock Café @ The Center  
January 9-14, 2012

Stop in daily for the live entertainment from  
11am-1pm!

New specials everyday—  
stop in for a free sample!

Check out our FRESH new menu!



1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA

**November 12, 2011**

**Kids Against Hunger - Your Quad Cities packaging events**



**YoungLife and The Center would like to thank all the volunteers that continue to support our events for students with special needs.**

**Christmas Party Dance @ The Center for students with special needs!**

**6-8 pm**

**December 10, 2011**

**Games**

**Food**

**Crafts**

**Please call Jolene @ The Center 563-323-5295 by December 5th to RSVP for the Christmas Party Dance!**

**@ The Center  
1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA  
563-323-5295**



**\$5.00  
Donation**

**and lots of  
FUN**

# What's happening @ Fishers of Men Ministries in KENYA?



## Food Distribution

Because of almost 4 years of drought, the northeastern region of Kenya is parched. Rivers are bone dry and wells dug 40 feet into their beds don't even reach water. Crops are failing, and people and livestock are starving. Our team of 16 Americans traveled to FOM's Rock Revival Centre in the village of Muamba and brought food from nearby Mwingi to help feed these hungry people. It was their privilege to distribute almost 9 tons of corn, beans, rice and sugar to our struggling brothers and sisters in Christ. Hundreds of people were able to partake of this provision of God and all are now grateful to Him and the generous donors who made the purchase of this food possible.



## One Sponsor's Story — "These are our girls" *Mark & Mary Seabeta*

There were many blessings from God on our trip to Kenya, but perhaps the most special and memorable was the opportunity to actually meet and spend time with our sponsored children. Sponsored children were treated to a "shopping spree" to buy new clothes with their sponsors. Later the same day, they had dinner together at the hotel in Kitale and spent the rest of the evening getting to know one another. It was obvious from the big smiles and laughter that the children were equally thrilled to be with their sponsors. Although life-long bonds of friendship were established, our prayer is that the bonds will extend beyond this life into eternity.

## Special Needs Events (6-8pm)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

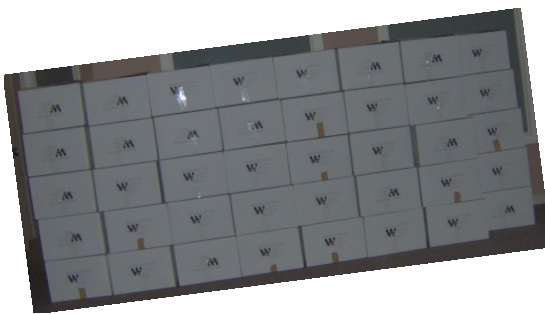
December 10 – Christmas Party

January 14 – Carnival

## The Center with the help of volunteers handed out 150 Thanksgiving baskets.

The Center would like to thank everyone that participated in the Thanksgiving basket drive. The Center was able to hand out 150 baskets on November 21, 2011. Without the dedication from volunteers and donors, this event would not have been a success.

**It is times like this that we at The Center realize how blessed we are by the support of our FRIENDS!**



**150 Boxes**



**AWESOME HELPERS!**

**Safer Foundation is having a Trivia Night Fundraiser at the Knights of Columbus in Davenport, Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7pm. It will be a Super bowl/football theme.**

**\$10 per person/8 person team.**

**To reserve a table call [563-322-7002](tel:563-322-7002).**

**Come and see the splendor of Christmas at The Friendly Thrift Store. We are full of so many wonderful Christmas donations!! Join us the week before Christmas for cookies and coffee and if your timing is just right...you can join our volunteers in some JOYFUL Christmas singing. We have been so blessed this year!**

**Nancy French - Site Manager**

**Thiara Smith - Scheduler and board president**



The Center  
1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

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DAVENPORT, IA

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## **Ministries @ The Center**

SkateChurch  
Safer Foundation  
Food Pantry @ The Center  
The Friendly Thrift Center  
Street Team  
Fishers of Men Ministries  
Living Faith  
Neighborhood Connection  
Quad City Prayer Center  
SHIIP  
Kids Against Hunger  
Solid Rock Café @ The Center  
Alive! Children's Theater  
Young Life Quad Cities

## **Our Mission:**

**The Center is a collection of ministries focused on being a beacon of light to the voiceless, powerless, and the marginalized members of our community by providing assistance to meet human needs and by providing a place where people can grow in their relationship with **God**.**