

The Center  
1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803  
563-323-5295

## Volume 2



### February 2012 Newsletter

The writer of this letter wishes to remain anonymous, but her story is so reflective of our mission here at The Center! Pennie

The first time I walked through the doors of The Center, I had no idea why God brought me here. All I knew was I needed help and a friend was on the other side of the glass doors. She would smile her great big welcoming smile as she always has in the 10 years I have known her. Only, what I was about to embark on was much deeper and personal than I had ever experienced in my life and she was just the person to help me through it.

I was destitute, which translates to "lacking necessities of life". Just six months ago I was making an average income of \$27,000 a year. I had a home and all the amenities a home could have, along with two cars, four kids, three grandbabies, two girlfriends of the older boys, and a partridge in a pear tree! My kids were like anyone else's kids...they would comment how they just "loved me" or in a half smile tell me how beautiful I was when they wanted more than I could normally give. They would challenge my authority to get by with a little more, but overall, they were all great kids with great personalities who loved me and respected me. I was an avid church-goer on Sundays, said Grace at each dinner, and I helped those that requested a need from me. I always taught my kids that if ever they are lost in life, go to a church and I promise they will help you find your way. But on the other hand, I hardly ever picked up a Bible to just read it willingly outside of church. I was good with whom I was and was in my comfort zone.

Sitting at church, I remember praying for God to use me as he sees fit to help others. I thought that meant that I open my home to those in need of shelter, but it went much deeper. Over the course of six months I had made a choice to reunite with my younger children's father, which then led to me giving up my home to move to another state, my car breaking down, to having all that I owned in a storage unit stolen from me. Then having no job when I came back, to my older kids losing all respect for me and not even a "Hey, you look good, come in!" I was homeless, penniless and had the clothes I left with, when all went sour between my second time around "Ex."

My friend on the other side of the glass doors of The Center said a prayer and suggested a shelter for my two younger children that still relied on me. Are you serious? But, I listened and continued on. That evening, and after finding out all my belongings had been stolen, I headed to a soup kitchen to feed my children. I walked in and sat at the round table. I looked around and all the scary weathered worn faces were all staring back at me. I lowered my head and thought... "God, what have I done?" As I sat sobbing, the scary man next to me asked, "What happened?" My son retorted, "Our storage unit was robbed and we have nothing!" Scared to lift my head, the other scarier man, with a remorseful look on his leathery face and white lips from the bitter cold he had just come in from asked who would do such a thing. Suddenly, the scary men were humanized and not so scary monsters after all. My son and daughter spoke up as if tattling on the person who stole from us. They were kind hearted and gave us the ropes on how things work and to watch out for the "Bum Rush" when seconds are called. I couldn't help to laugh out loud.

**Continued on Page 2**

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

## **Continued From Page 1**

The next couple of days, I came into The Center, hoping my friend would have pleaded with my older children to allow me to move back into the comforts of my home, but instead I received her great big welcoming smile each time. She would suggest some resources in the community to do laundry or to get a hot meal.

Then on the third day, with her warm welcoming smile, she said "Today you are not a victim!" I held onto that thought as I headed out the doors and into my van that housed what was left of all that I owned. As I headed down the street, I made a left hand turn from Locust to Harrison, but to my surprise, pulled over by the police who were on foot directing traffic due to road construction. I thought as she in her angry face yelled at me about not seeing the "No left turn" sign, that I AM NOT A VICTIM! I kept that thought and prayed to God....repeating the words, "I am not a victim..I am not a victim." The police officer returned with my license in hand, but this time a smile on her face. She said that I must have just been following to close and said please be careful next time. She let me go! Or was this God's work? I headed down to another soup kitchen that had a spread of food and even a larger spread of people waiting outside the doors to get in.

I came in and signed my name, took a number then found a seat. The people sitting across from me had the same familiar worn out look, and homeless leathery face look, but must have been church goers too, as they were fluent in God's word. Then the person sitting next to me, chimed in on God's word and all his miracles. Suddenly, something was different and I got it...this was a test from God. I told the lady sitting across from me how I am not a victim and the story about the police officer. She said I was not suppose to be here, but He was using me for His will. A warm sensation came over me as if I had been touched in a great way. I felt a change at that moment. Then this man came up and sat down in his tattered clothes and asked me "Who are you here with?" I looked around...."Everyone!" I am one of you!

Each day, I revel in my Bible. I go to Sunday school and am looking forward to the next Sunday to receive His word. In losing everything, I have gained more knowledge and understanding of God's everyday miracles and all his blessings. I have learned that when people are ugly toward you, it too is a gift which gives you the opportunity to reflect of what is in your heart. And the gifts of Forgiveness is a true testament of your faith, and the best person to stand behind to do battles for you is God.

Today I still see my friend on the other side of the glass doors at The Center, but now, it is I too that has the warm welcoming smile!

## **The Friendly Thrift Center**

After a very busy Christmas season, business has slowed down enough for us to play catch-up in the back room. Our volunteers enjoy sprucing up our showroom with the change of seasons and we are now sporting Valentine's Day merchandise.

We have been grateful for donations of mittens, scarves and hats, as well as blankets which have been made available for both our customers and those who have come to us with vouchers.

We are looking forward to having a dressing room added to our display space. Nancy is planning to set up a Craig's list account on our new computer when internet becomes available.

# VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE!

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**FEBRUARY 11, 2012**

**6-8PM**

**\$5.00 Donation**

DANCING

FOOD

CRAFTS

GAMES

PICTURES AND LOTS OF FUN!

PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 6, 2012  
563-323-5295 OR  
[jolenespeth@thecenter-davenport.com](mailto:jolenespeth@thecenter-davenport.com)

**THE CENTER  
1411 BRADY ST.  
DAVENPORT, IA**

**YL younglife**

**Capernaum**

**The Food Pantry** is located in our neighborhood and a person/family in need can visit The Food Pantry to receive 3-5 days of emergency food for free.

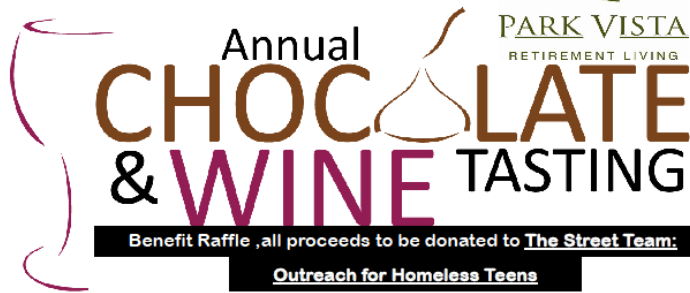
The Food Pantry will ask you for identification (Drivers License or State ID) and documentation showing your residence address (Utility Bill, Rent Receipt, Etc. that comes through the mail) with a date within the last 30 days.

The Food Pantry, spearheaded by Deacon Bob McCoy, is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am-11:30am. Our Food Pantry serves neighborhoods south of Kimberly Road to 8th Street and Brady Street to Bettendorf.

Bar soap, peanut butter, boxed potatoes and canned meats are always appreciated.

**You are Invited To:**

1455 20th Avenue, East Moline, IL



Chef Aaron Presents Chocolate Delights served up with some dazzling Wine in our Bistro, Thursday February 9th 4-6 PM. Please Join Us!

For more information call us at 309-752-9711.

Kids Against Hunger has six packaging events scheduled in February

- Kids for Christ – PV Elementary
- City Center Ministry
- Building Families Forever
- SAI BABA – Hindu Temple
- Kids for Christ – Paul Norton Ele

Your church, school, service club or business could feed kids in Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti and the Quad Cities too!.

*The Center will be having their 2nd Annual Dinner/Theater Fundraiser on May 5, 2012.*

*Please contact Jolene @ The Center if you would like to help with the fundraiser.*

*Donations are needed for the Silent Auction, if you would like to donate a basket, or have something you would like to donate, we will make a basket!*

YoungLife Capernaum had a carnival @ The Center for students with special needs on January 14, 2012.

**Students had a great time playing games, eating, conversation and a message from God!**



To become a part of these events ,  
contact Jolene @ The Center  
563-323-5295 or  
jolenespeth@thecenter-davenport.com



# Alive! Children's Theater

February 18, 2012

Show starts at 7pm

The Center  
1411 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA

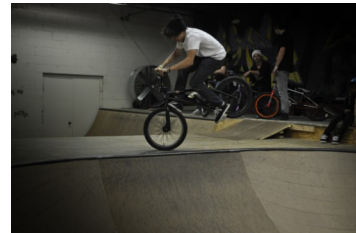
No admission charge!  
Donations accepted!

Comedy Relief is  
an Improv team  
comprised of  
students and adults.



*Improv Comedy is an interactive performance by a team of players who use suggestions from the audience to play out a scene or sketch on stage totally unscripted..*

*Improvise is to compose, perform or deliver without previous operation. So, in short, you—THE AUDIENCE controls what we do. The outcome is unexpected, hilarious and good, clean family fun!*



Middle School and High School skaters and bikers are welcome to bring their bikes and boards and skate in our 3 level indoor skate park.

High School only-Wednesday Nights Post High School-Thursdays  
Skaters Only-Fridays

Bikers Only- Saturdays

SkateChurch operates these days and is closed the last weekend of each month.

### Admission

\$3 admission with SkateChurch ID card-\$4 without

\*Children 5th grade and younger are welcome at SkateChurch, however they must be accompanied by an adult parent/guardian for the entire time they are at SkateChurch.

HELMETS parentally enforced!

**The Friendly Thrift Center** has served the Quad City community since 1970 when six Davenport and Bettendorf United Methodist Churches came together to form an organization of charitable, benevolent and educational purposes. Staffed completely by volunteers, the Friendly Thrift Center sells donated new and used clothing and household goods at very affordable prices to persons of need in the community. Open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Saturday, it provides a pleasant, welcoming place for all who shop there.

In addition to goods sold at reasonable prices, items are given without charge to individuals and families who are unable to pay even nominal charges as vouched by other agencies.

The organization is self-supporting and any funds remaining after operating expenses are distributed by grants to other non-profit social services agencies serving the Quad City community.

Donations are always welcome during hours of operation.  
We are always looking for volunteers to receive, sort and sell merchandise.

## **Safer Foundation**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Safer Sacks Fundraiser**

Supporting "Safer Sacks" is an easy way for your business or organization to get involved with helping a local non-profit. One hundred percent (100%) of the money raised goes toward benefiting individuals served through Safer Foundation's Employment Services and Youth Empowerment Programs. And it's as easy as buying a lunch or better yet treating your staff or co-workers to lunch.

What can be easier??

The details are as follows:

- This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Pre-order forms and further instruction will be distributed the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Lunch consists of a croissant sandwich with ham, turkey and cheese, (condiments on the side) chips, cookie and fruit.
- The cost is \$5 per lunch if picked up or \$6 if delivered.
- To participate, each business must designate a contact person who will take responsibility for coordinating the event within their workplace. (this responsibility is minimal)

*If interested in participating or in sponsoring the event, contact Sue Davison at 563.322.7002 or by e-mail at [sue.davison@saferfoundation.org](mailto:sue.davison@saferfoundation.org).*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CrossTrainers 6:30-7:30am Kelly's Medical (6-10 People) Ron's Group 11:30-1pm	2 CPN 7:30-8:30am QCPC/OBF 6:30-800pm Upstairs	3	4 QCPC Training 9am—Noon Safer Classroom
5 Private Party 2pm	6	7 Maximize 6-7:30am	8 CrossTrainers 6:30-7:30am Ron's Group 11:30-1pm	9 CPN 7:30-8:30am QCPC/OBF 6:30-800pm Upstairs Maximize 4-6:15pm	10	11 KAH—By Pennies Office 9am-noon Family Life 8:45-11:30am Special Needs Valentine's Day Dance 6-8pm
12 Seek & Soak 6pm	13 Ministry Meeting 6pm	14 Maximize 6-7:30am	15 CrossTrainers 6:30-7:30am Davenport Schools 1-4pm approx 40 SCUMM 1pm (Office) Ron's Group 11:30-1pm Lay Leaders 4:45pm	16 CPN 7:30-8:30am Safer Graduation QCPC/OBF 6:30-800pm Upstairs	17 Private Party 7-11pm	18 Alive! Children's Theater 7pm
19	20	21 Molyneaux Ins 11:20am-1:30pm Center Management Meeting 5:30pm	22 CrossTrainers 6:30-7:30am Art Display 9am-2pm Ron's Group 11:30-1pm	23 CPN 7:30-8:30am QCPC/OBF 6:30-800pm Upstairs Art Display 9am-2pm	24 Art Display 9am-2pm	25 Art Display 9am-2pm
26 Women At The Well 5th Anniversary Art Show Reception 3-4pm	27	28	29 CrossTrainers 6:30-7:30am Ron's Group 11:30-1pm			

**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.

**Safer Foundation**

Monday-Friday  
8:00am-3:00pm

**Food Pantry @ The Center**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00am-11:30am

**Street Team : Homeless Outreach**

Monday-Friday 12:00pm-5:00pm

**Living Faith**

Sunday 7:00am-12:00pm  
Tuesday 6pm

**Skate Church**

Wednesday-Saturday  
6:00pm-10:00pm

**The Friendly Thrift Center**

Monday-Saturday  
9:00am-1:00pm

**Solid Rock Café**

Monday-Saturday  
9am-2pm  
Sunday Closed

**Table Tennis**

Wednesday 6:00-10:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

**Call 563-323-5295  
for reservations and questions!**



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  
Kids Against Hunger  
Solid Rock Café @ The Center  
Alive! Children's Theater  
Young Life Quad Cities Capernaum

## **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.****