



# THE CENTER



## It's all a matter of perspective by Pennie Kellenberger

What if it's all a matter of perspective? His that is. His perfect, all-knowing perspective. Over Christmas my son was home from the "land of the Sun", California. When it was time for him to return west it was a very icy, snowy, overcast, typical winter day in Iowa. He said he didn't want to return to California but wanted to stay in Iowa because he loved the way the snow matches the white sky and the ice shines on each branch of the trees. WHAT? I thought you have lost your mind. He said everyday in California was the same- blue skies. I said "oh what I would do for a blue sky". The day after he left the Lord blessed me with a blue sky and icy trees. It reminded me that life sometimes is funny and whether it is good or bad might only be a MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.

What if, and this is a hypothetical, the length of our trial was determined by our response to it? As people, families, and organizations including the Center have journeyed through rough terrain this past year, I've chosen to keep one thing at the forefront of my mind: **I know that we will get through this because God has helped us to get through every other difficult situation we have ever faced.** Not always without scraped knees or battered elbows, but we've made it through and learned from it. We've had stories to share, and testimonies to tell. We've seen God's goodness and faithfulness, and we have survived. We have been victors and not victims through each one.

When we have a relationship with God, we have the assurance that **HE wants the best for us.** His plans for us are good, not to harm! *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans for a future and a hope.'"* (Jeremiah 29:11). Our desire ought to be to stay obedient to what we know HE wants us to do, and learn from each situation. Seasons come and go, and the winter makes the blue skies that much brighter. The Center has been blessed with a group of givers like yourselves that understand that! Thank you for making 2020 a teachable year for us. We HAD to trust the LORD and He showed up like a blue sky. I am so excited to what the LORD will do in 2021!



WRITING SO MANY THANK-YOU'S



THANK YOU TO THE MOLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR LUNCH



DONATIONS FROM MISS JR. IOWA

# Perspective by Jerry Scottos, Street Team Outreach Worker

Perspective is defined as *a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something*. There are many ways to think about something. It is easy to be negative in our lives when things are not going our way. We all can get down or unsettled when things don't go our way. At The Center, the people we serve may struggle with many issues at once and on an ongoing basis. As staff, we try to help people improve their perspective on how things are going.

One of my goals in working with people is to help them manage their situations and see the good in those around them. I am reminded of a gentleman who has been coming into The Center for well over a year. He is homeless and has been in and out of the shelters on both sides of the river many times. In between, he lives on the street or stays with anyone who will take him in for the night. He came into The Center recently, and was visibly upset. When I went to sit down and talk to him he told me he was upset because he finally got awarded his social security disability but he was having trouble figuring out how he was supposed to receive his check. I assured him that it would come in the mail but my reassurance did not help ease his mind. We called the social security office who gave us the line, "the check is in the mail." Due to his stress, he was lamenting how hard it is to live on the streets and that he has been homeless on and off for more than 12 years. He started talking about Covid and how everyone is so worried about how it is affecting their lives. He said Covid has not changed his life because nothing has changed for him other than having to wear a mask, making it difficult for him to breathe.

Jerry and his friend John



As I thought about it I could see his perspective. But I also see it from a different perspective, as well. What he sees as his life not changing during Covid, I see as stability and continued community, due to support from The Center. He has still been able to come to a warm place where people care about him. When all other businesses and government buildings in the city were shut down due to Covid, The Center was still open. He was still able to talk to the dedicated staff who risked their own health to stay open for those in need during a particularly tough time in our country. He was still able to get a hot cup of coffee and a warm lunch due to the community members who generously support The Center and show love in action on a daily basis. If we don't love them, who will?

He was not in a mood for me to tell him this but it got me thinking of how much all of your support means to those who come to The Center. Without your prayers and support, people would not be able to come for coffee, a meal, and most of all, fellowship from a community that cares about them and notices when they are having a bad day. They are able to spend time with a community that does not judge them, but sees each of them as a child of God. Your prayers are the reason The Center has been so successful, and we are grateful.

## SO MANY THANKS



NEW FISHING POLE FOR GARY



ASBURY UMC SERVING

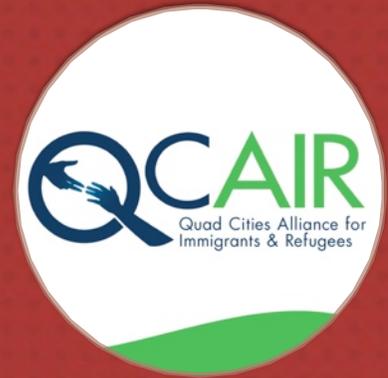


JAMES IN NEW COVERALLS



LARRY CARING FOR OUR PLANTS

# PARTNERS OF THE CENTER



## **skatechurch**

Fishers of Men Kenya

Beyond the Challenge

**Neighborhood Connection**

Solid Rock Cafe



## **Friendly Thrift Center/ Food Pantry**

### WISH LIST

1. CASES OF WATER
2. WARM GLOVES
3. BUS TOKENS
4. GAS CARDS
5. FROZEN READY TO BAKE MEALS FOR LUNCHES
6. HAMBURGER
7. CASES OF POP FOR SKATECHURCH
8. HAND WARMERS
9. RAZORS FOR MEN

### Why Partner By Pennie Kellenberger

I am a goal writer. Now, I said a goal writer not always a goal achiever. I do try however. What seems to be on the minds of most people in the early months of the year is how to reach our goals for the next year. As a non-profit, we are no different. We are asking ourselves "how can we keep moving our mission forward", "how can we meet our fundraising deadlines", and "how can we accomplish our goals".

Fortunately, The Center has an understanding about the importance of nonprofit collaboration. That is why we actively have several nonprofits in our building, and seek to work with other nonprofits in our community. We have learned four principals in the last 20 years of seeking to collaborate with others. We partner because it.....

1. **Saves on administrative costs.**
2. **Improves range of services.**
3. **Brings about new ideas.**
4. **Strengthens advocacy voices.**



Connor, Associate Director of The Center Praying for and with skate church students.

Isaiah 58:8-9 Then your light will break through like the dawn and your healing will quickly appear and you righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard”

When I think about my perspective the Lord brings me back to Isaiah. It is not that my perspective is bad all the time or that the Lord has blessed me with some degree of insight, but that I can not see all that the Lord is doing, all of the time

His plan is full and complete not lacking anything, That should encourage, me and fill me with hope so that my faith saturates all that I am doing and all that I will do.

His plan is perfect. His perspective is perfect!

## **Please Send Support!**

**Enclosed you will find an envelope Please give as you are lead to help us with our operational cost during this difficult time.**

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**Facebook: The Center  
Skatechurch**

**Instagram:  
skatechurch.davenport**

by the numbers for January 2021...

showers-78

lunches-611

Thrift Center Vouchers-29

Sign-in Sheet- 1,020

Conversations about Jesus.... too many to count