



The Center Newsletter

The Center is a group of ministries seeking Christ-centered action to alleviate the pain of the oppressed and marginalized.

August, 2016

Community Partners and The Center Ministries:

- Safer Foundation
- Fishers of Men Ministries
- Solid Rock Cafe
- Street Team Homeless Outreach
- Skatechurch
- Friendly Thrift Center
- Sacred Heart Food Pantry at The Center
- Kids Against Hunger
- House of Refuge
- QC United
- The Sanctuary
- Table Tennis Club

The Center is open Monday—Friday 8 a.m— 2 p.m.

TUESDAY

“What came to be through Him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”

It started off an OK day and went downhill from there. I tried to glorify God in my conversations and thoughts, but the more I tried, the more I seemed to get thrown off base. I let my circumstances dictate my attitude. It wasn't until 3AM that I was able to hear the blessing in the day. That's right A.M. (God usually talks to me in the early morning hours...UGH!) HE reminded me, in spite of my bad attitude, that God blessed me with a glimpse of what a blessing our CENTER community is. Let me recap an ordinary Tuesday.

Let me list several ways I saw community come together:

- We had several young people come to the Center from Minnesota to help work around the Center.
- Our very own Jamie Neilson spent ALL afternoon working at Skate Church
- We had people talking about Jesus at the café as they helped wipe down all the tables.

- I was feeling overwhelmed with conversations and two neighborhood residents “took over” to hand out information.
- Gwen took the day to do yard work at The Center.
- The QC United people helped a church service that was meeting here.
- The Church service people helped someone find the food pantry.
- The Food Pantry people helped people get to the QC United event.

Sometimes when we all work in the same building it gets kind of difficult. BUT on this ordinary Tuesday, God blessed me with what living in community is all about. In these times I feel the BEST way to experience God's “light” is in community. Living and working with people is always a challenge. As my son Justice says, “It's God's people who hurt God's people”. After the reminder God gave me, I KNOW IT'S WORTH IT, especially in these challenging times. For those of us in the non-profit world, we know the importance of utilizing what we have to the max! It has been my experience that people don't do well in community because of a few reasons.

If everybody wants to be in the right, or even if only one person wants to be in the right, it is impossible to live or work in community. That is egotism or self-love. Touchiness, like being opinionated, is another form of self-love.

We must seek those things that bring us together; things we have in common. We must think of others with hearts filled with love. If only we could come to the point where we recognize that we are all in the same situation, all in the same state! The fact that we are all equal, and very similar in our situations, is quite amazing. When that becomes clear to us, much of our strong opinions, our wanting to be in the right, and our touchiness falls away.

At The Center our staff and those we work with are in a constant conversation about how to create “other thinking”. It sometimes causes me to miss the blessing, but God is faithful to shine light in dark places!

The Center is committed to working in community to best utilize what God has given to us. We work with other non-profits that do the same. Prayerfully we will continue to learn what it means.

From the desk of Pennie Kellenberger

**“Show me
Your
ways,
Lord,
teach me
Your
paths.”**

-Psalm 25:4



**“Do not judge,
and you will
not be judged.**

**Do not
condemn, and
you will not
be
condemned.
Forgive, and
you will be
forgiven.”**

-Luke 6:37

Announcing a NEW Partnership QC UNITED & RE-FL3X



The Center is now partnering with QC United. QC United is located in the EAST end of The Center. QC United is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to assisting urban youth in fully accessing educational opportunities so that they can pursue their dreams. QC United operates several unique and exciting programs endorsed by multiple Quad City school districts, law enforcement organizations, businesses and city leaders. The organization is overseen by a volunteer Executive Board of Directors. The Board meets monthly throughout the year in various locations throughout the Quad Cities. QC United members volunteer to participate at different levels depending on their interests, skills and time availability.

The first program developed by the founder of QC United, Ruben Moore, began in May 2000. Now in its 15th year, the Swing into Education Scholarship Program is the longest running financial aid program in the Quad Cities focused specifically on helping *local* urban youth attend *local* colleges. Since 2001, eighty eight accomplished students from

nine different Iowa and Illinois QC high schools have been awarded QC United scholarship grants. Today, five local colleges (Augustana College, Black Hawk College, St. Ambrose University, Scott Community College and Western Illinois University-Qc Campus), partner with QC United to provide matching fund awards. The Swing into Education Golf tournament, which is held the third Saturday each June, is the primary fundraiser for this scholarship program.

QC United has expanded programming over the years to assist urban youth in accessing educational opportunities that helps prepare them for a successful future. Currently, QC United presents the World of Work Symposium that focuses on teaching high school students about the soft skills required to work effectively in a global workforce. This one-day event is offered free to students and features a diverse group of professionals with international experiences. These professionals have an opportunity to share their experiences and insights with students in small group settings.

QC United has consistently emphasized the importance of

of social competency as an essential component of success in school and in the community; these skills include empathy, cultural/social awareness, tolerance, respect, self-awareness and self-management. In October, 2013, QC United introduced an original character, Pete the Purple Bull. This character was designed and created by QC United and is geared toward younger students. Pete is a big, cuddly Bull who has come to the human world to teach kids and reminds adults about the importance of being respectful and kind to each other. Pete the Purple Bull has become the leading locally-produced program that addresses social/emotional skills development. Pete and his Posse visit schools and community events to share these important lessons where he is warmly received by families, students and teachers alike.

Pete is the official host of Pete's Awesome CommUNITY Party. This is a celebration of National Bully Prevention Month.

QC United is growing and invites you to become involved. Consider becoming a volunteer. Explore the many ways you can support and/or sponsor one of our programs. Your questions and ideas are welcome!



By The Numbers June and July

Showers for the Homeless	160
Clothing Vouchers	189
Skatechurch	984
Safer Foundation Students	16
Open Mic—Attendance since last report	37
<u>Food Pantry Visits</u>	662
Actual number of people served	2,343
Children served	1176
(Families served that belonged to other pantry zones).	66

Praise God!

Our Ministries' Wish Lists

For the Homeless

Bus tokens
Gas cards
Hygiene items
Laundry Soap/Bleach
Jeans & Men's Pants
New Socks, Underwear
Fans
Bug Spray
Wet Wipes
Face Towels
Sun Block
Bottled Water



For the Safer Foundation

\$5/\$10 gift cards for fast food, Wal-Mart, Target
Cases of water
1-subject notebooks
Dry erase markers
Crayola markers
Clorox wipes, Kleenex, trash bags
Snack foods (granola bars, crackers, popcorn, anything individually wrapped).

The Center's Goals and Values

Goals:

To make contact and gain trust
To mentor and disciple
To equip leaders to a life of serving
To invite ministries to partner

Values:

Being a friend—relationships allow others to see God in real ways
Being a voice—confronting culture & voicing God's love, grace and forgiveness.
Being available—working in our neighborhoods, not in a building

We are friends to God's people by helping them find their voice—the voice inside that only God can give. The voice that says you are worthy and valuable! Loving and accepting people is healing. Our prayer is that people feel a little better when they leave than when they came. God is faithful!!

"The word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does.

Psalm 33:4

Thank you for Blessing Us!!!



Helping our homeless friends would not be possible without all the good people who support our efforts by giving so generously.

This month, a special "thank you" goes out to the following people:

1. Bill & Linda Porter
2. John Bates
3. Margot Hary
4. Pat Burroughs and the UMC Women's Group

5. Sheri Diekman

A special thanks goes out to the Bible School children from Park View Lutheran Church who blessed us with 3 boxes of packaged snacks for the homeless along with new socks.

Pictured on the right are two of the Bible School children with their mom who were kind enough to deliver all the snacks! What a great idea!! Thanks so much!!!!



Thank You Mahalo
Gracias Kiitos
Gracie Tack
Obrigado Toda
Thanks Takk
Merci



God's Work Reaps Reward for Wiley



Wiley Ross

For many years Wiley has worked as a custodian at The Center. He is also a manager at Hy-Vee. As a person strong in his faith, Wiley believes that we are our brother's keeper. He says, "we are to love one another, help one another, support one another, and encourage one another." It has been through his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving

grace that has allowed him to prosper in the face of his own past diversity. And so now he believes that he has been charged with the task of helping those who are struggling. "It's my prayer that with my help, they may be able to rise above their circumstances and begin to pay forward God's love."

To help those struggling, Wiley volunteers to feed God's people by bringing food here to The Center from Hy-Vee. As a manager at Hy-Vee, he is in the unique position of being able to see what food items Hy-Vee has available to donate. He spends many hours loading all the food in his car, traveling to The Center, then unloading it all at the Solid Rock Café. We are so grateful to Hy-Vee and Wiley for all the wonderful food he brings us to feed our homeless friends.

In addition to his hours feeding God's people, Wiley usually spends a week every year with the youth group from St. John's United Methodist Church

ministering to the people of the Lakota Indian Tribe on Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. He truly enjoys this mission trip and feels it's one of the most important weeks of his year. As he puts it, "I get the opportunity to show not only the Lakota people, but the youth of the Davenport ministry what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in service to our brothers and sisters. Most importantly having the chance to fulfill the great commission in sharing the good news of our salvation through Jesus with residents of the reservation."

Wiley lives what he preaches and his peers and managers at Hy-Vee took notice! They nominated him to receive the Ronald D. Pearson Citizenship Award. We were all very delighted that on July 14th, Wiley won that coveted award!!!

Congratulations Wiley!! You truly deserve it!!!



The Center is THRILLED to announce TWO options for Sunday Worship

1. House of Refuge, Pastor Johnson: Sunday School@10:00a.m. Church Service@11:30a.m.

2. The Sanctuary, Pastor Gary Ellis: Church Service@3:30p.m. Meal@5:00p.m.