



The Center Newsletter

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

February, 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
- Fresh Start Ministries
- Table Tennis Club

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

God Shows Abundant Love to The Center

Abundant:

- A. Marked by great plenty
- B. Amply supplied

Love:

Unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another as:

- A. The fatherly concern of God for humankind
- B. Brotherly concern for others

I trust in the abundant love and overflowing generosity that is forever.

-Psalm 52:10

February tends to remind us of our loves and our obligation to love. It presents an opportunity to renew our love toward God and to give thanks for the abundant unconditional love we receive from Him.

I have experienced God's abundant love at THE CENTER in two very real ways. First, a homeless friend came to my office in tears needing to return home. His brother had a massive heart attack and was not expected to live. He wanted to return home to see his brother before his death, but was nervous because it was the first time in 25 years he was sober. We prayed for God's provision and peace. Within the half hour a donor stepped up to purchase a ticket and he called home. His family wel-

comed him home with open arms and PLENTY of LOVE.



Second, we were helping a neighbor in crisis. As she poured her heart out at the long list of things that went wrong that week, it ended with, "and we don't have any toilet paper". While I was at the store purchasing toilet paper for her and her family, the youth group from Sacred Heart called me to let me know they had a weird idea. They wanted to do a white paper drive. Immediately God answered her prayer! Not only did He answer her prayer, He answered it in more ways than we could have imagined! That reminds me how much God loves us when he comes through with our small requests in such big ways.

This is something we can absolutely depend on: That Jesus came into the world filled with abundant love - love strong enough to sacrifice all - so we might be saved and regenerated. We have been saved by God's abundant love. No matter the

sin or failing, regardless the bad habits we get ourselves into, God's abundant love has been made real to us. His abundant love and the promise of salvation is for us, and that is beyond question.

As we consider, contemplate on, and honor those we love during this month, let us first and foremost be thankful for the unconditional love God has for us. Let us recommit to loving Him back.

While our love can be weak and imperfect, it will be made more and more perfect if we dedicate ourselves to its growth by growing our faith in Jesus, and through an increase in hope, charity, and love. We will also come to love our families, friends, our family in faith, and in fact all of humanity in a more perfect way. Our love will become more abundant because of the abundance of love we have in Jesus.

The Lord's grace is available - ready to be poured out on us abundantly. Come, let us discover His love together, and share in it.



From the desk of Pennie Kellenberger

“Great is your love, O Lord, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies”.

Psalm 57:10



“Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”

Isaiah 58:7



It's NOT Business as Usual

A Neighborhood Gathering Place:

***Participation *Community *Welcoming *Faithful**

Our Café has a new direction. We will no longer be open for “business as usual”. We will be closing our business part of the café, but still using the area to serve the community as a gathering space. Instead of a menu, we will be offering community meals for community donations. The ministries in the building will be using the café for educational purposes, meetings, and a space for good conversations.

We are looking for HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS who can spend one morning a week.

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

TWO Goals:

**Neighborhood Ministry Gatherings
Ministry Site Lunch Spot**



Margot Hary, Myrtle Graves, Mike Gaymen

Hospitality was the operative word on Wednesday, January 27th, as a gracious neighbor, Myrtle Graves, brought in Chicken and Dumplings for lunch to share with our homeless friends. Our Street Team members, Margo Hary, Michael Gayman, and Chris Dunn were also on hand to help serve the lunch. We all sat and ate with our friends! Sharing a meal invites conversation—conversation leads to stories, laughter, and a building of trust between the staff and our friends. Warm, welcoming feelings are conveyed, and our friends discover just how much we care about them and the struggles they go through. We also rejoice with them when they experience highlights in their lives. On this particular day a lady was happy that she was able to get into a shelter, one of the men shared that his bike was stolen, and another lady was offered a job!!! We prayed with them thanking God for the day and asking Him to bless us all!! We now have the word out that we need another bike for our friend!! Hospitality . . . A life line for our friends!!!



By The Numbers

December and January

Showers for the Homeless	236
Clothing Vouchers	137
Skatechurch	1572
Safer Foundation Students	27
Open Mic—Attendance since last report	29
<u>Food Pantry Visits</u>	622
Actual number of people served	2,234
Children served	1,017
Solid Rock Café	241

Praise God!

Our Ministries' Wish Lists

For the Homeless

- Bus tokens
- Gas cards
- Hygiene items
- Laundry Soap/Bleach
- Jeans & Men's Pants
- New Wool Socks
- Long Thermal Underwear
- Blankets
- Warm Gloves
- Boots



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).

Volunteer Opportunity

We are in need of someone who possesses good computer skills to help our friends in the Computer Lab here at The Center. We would designate a day of your choosing and inform everyone to come for help on that day. The day you choose would need to be consistent from week to week.

Our friends need help with job searches, resume building, completing applications, and maneuvering around various government sites.

If you can help us one day a week, please contact us at 563-323-5295. Thank you!!

“Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”

Psalm 31:24

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. Lynne Dvorak | 5. Ida Lloyd | 17. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nash |
| 2. Gloria Faso | 6. Teresa Moreland | 18. Debra & Bob Thornton |
| 3. Bob Becker | 7. Allan Dietz | 19. Cedar Valley United Methodist Church |
| 4. Carol Hauser & Girl Scout Troup 4122 | 8. James Brubaker III | 20. Nestlé Purina Company |
| | 9. John & Mary Shaw | 21. Patricia Hansen |
| | 10. Park View Lutheran Church | 22. Joan Miller |
| | 11. Shirley Mirfield & the ladies' church group | 23. Jackie Holden |
| | 12. Lynn Henderson | 24. Kay-Nelle Hartwig |
| | 13. Nancy Ballanger | 25. Patricia Horn |
| | 14. Dr. & Mrs. Lanny Powell | |
| | 15. Mrs. Toni O'Connor | |
| | 16. Mrs. Frances Carroll | |

For all who donated without leaving your name, we appreciate your generosity!!



A special “thank you” goes out to all the kids at Sacred Heart who donated toilet paper this month!! Wow!! Great idea!!

Safer Sack Seeks Sponsors, Customers

by Janece Hicks

The 2016 Safer Sack fundraiser is scheduled for April 14. Whether you are a business, organization or an individual, don't miss the opportunity to sponsor this annual fundraiser, which helps keep vital programming going. Your generous support helps cover the costs of lunch supplies and the many items needed to ensure a successful event. Last year more than **\$13,000** was raised to benefit local programs.

All sponsors are listed (along with their logo) in an event brochure placed in each lunch bag which is valuable exposure for the business. Last year, more than 2,000 lunches were sold. Special thanks to **Davenport Noon Optimist Club,**

Mid States Transmission Parts, and **Dahl Ford** who have already committed to sponsoring this year's event.



We're also seeking new lunch customers. Orders can be picked up or conveniently delivered to your workplace for orders of 10 or more. The details are as follows:

- This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, April 14th. Pre-order

forms and further instruction will be distributed the week of March 7th.

- Lunch consists of a croissant sandwich with ham, turkey and cheese, (condiments on the side), chips, cookie and fruit.
- The cost is \$6 per lunch if picked up or \$7 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 being a sponsor or contact person, contact **Sue Davison at 563-322-7002.**



Being a Friend to the Homeless

by Margot Hary



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Center's Street Team reaches out to the homeless to build relationships with them, to build their trust, to give them hope, to provide respect, and to give love, guidance, and encouragement. To be the light of Jesus!



One way we provide the homeless with love and dignity is through the

Laundry Ministry where the homeless are allowed to do their own laundry the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We meet them at a Laundromat and provide quarters, laundry detergent, and our time

to listen and to love.

Imagine putting your only clothing into one washing machine – socks, underwear, jeans, shirt, and sweatshirt – whatever fits, to clean them “to be made new”.

That's it! God wants the old gone and to create a new! As the homeless place their laundry into the washing machine, we ask them to come to God - get rid of the old - pour the laundry detergent over their clothes as if God's blood is being poured over them, allowing God to do His work in them.

And, as they place their clothes in the dryer, we imagine the tumbling being done with the Street Team all around them – those who are in their lives and truly want changes for them and a relationship with Jesus Christ!

How can you help? By providing a one-time gift to be a friend of the homeless.

This money provides bus tokens, winter boots, transportation to medical appointments, and also helps with their laundry. The Center also provides a one-time help with rent or deposit to give them a jump start out of homelessness.

Will you pray for them also? Pray for the homeless to find a warm place to be during these cold winter months, to be protected from the struggles that surround them while being on the streets, and then allow the Street Team to tumble around in their lives with love, guidance, and the hope of Jesus Christ.

King's Harvest Ministries uses The Center as its service coordinators for the homeless. There are currently 70 men, women, and children staying with them right now.

If you can help with our Homeless Ministry, please send your check to The Center at 1411 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803. Thank you so much!!!