

THE CURRENT

A little good news from the Center..... January 2008



~YOU CARED ENOUGH TO HELP~



Brenda lives by herself on Social Security disability and tries very hard to manage her living expenses on her meager income. But as we all know, "life happens", and Brenda found herself with three Payday loans. She was referred to the Center for assistance with a utility bill, and it was during the interview process that the Payday loans were disclosed, and also the fact that she had fallen behind in other bills in an effort to pay down the loans. Brenda was caught in an endless cycle and her increasing stress resulted in depression, hair loss and other health issues. She told the Center's Case Manager that she "just wanted to get out from under and regain her life". We developed a budget with

Brenda that was reviewed every two weeks, and she signed an agreement that she would not incur any additional Payday loans. Brenda came in for food every week, and the Center referred her to Reverend Ladell Flowers (a wonderful friend of the Center) for counseling for her depression. Brenda's spending was stripped down to bare bones. She chose to take the city bus or walk in order to save on gas money. Five months after the initial interview, Brenda came to the Center with the biggest smile you have ever seen! She had paid off *all three loans* and all other outstanding bills, and she said she had never felt better in her life! Brenda told us that when she made her last Payday loan payment they told her to keep her card to which she replied "No, you keep it, I'll never be back". Brenda said she is so grateful for the help and encouragement she received from the Center because she couldn't have done it without us. The Center is proud of Brenda and how she overcame tremendous odds to regain stability in her life. And we are very proud to have been a part of the process.



Everything the Center does is made possible by the generosity and support we receive from donations, businesses and foundations. This thoughtfulness is vital to our ability to serve the poor, the aging and the homeless in our community. We thank the following grantors for believing in and supporting the mission of Redemptorist Center:

McGee Foundation; Massman Foundation; Jackson County; HealthCare Foundation of Greater Kansas City; BEAF (Bishops Emergency Relief Fund); Oppenstein Brothers Foundation; MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger; J.B. Reynolds Foundation; M.A.M. Foundation; Claretians.



Wish Upon a Star

Star light, star bright, I wish I may, I wish I might have these items because the Center really needs them!

- Upright freezers for food pantry
- Refrigerator for food pantry
- Heavy duty crisscross shredder
- Table top printer
- Lateral file cabinets

Holiday Food Baskets

Over 250 families received delicious food for Thanksgiving and Christmas including turkeys, hams and homemade pies. We thank all of the generous people who donated either food or money for us to buy what was needed. A very special thanks goes to a long time friend and supporter of the Center who has helped us with our food needs for many years.



Record Breaking!!

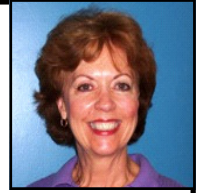


The students of Notre Dame de Sion are awesome! Their annual food drive for the Center was amazing *last* year with a collection of

14,000 cans. Their goal this year was to beat that record, and with some intense competition between the grade levels they collected 48,000 cans of food! There was plenty of food for the Center and enough to share with several other agencies. We thank all of the students for working so hard to make this their most outstanding food drive ever, and Sion teacher Kris Barikmo for coordinating all of the details!

♥ Volunteers are the Heart of the Center ♥

The continuing success of the Center depends on the impressive and dedicated efforts of scores of volunteers who generously give their time, support and enthusiasm. They drive our vans to pick-up, store and distribute food; interview clients and maintain records; prepare and deliver food for our Saturday Meal Delivery program to the homebound; assist with fundraisers; work in our pantry and clothing rooms; and help keep our organization running smoothly so we can continue serving the needs of the poor, the homeless and the elderly. The staff, board and clients of the Center greatly appreciate all you do.



Diana Kennedy,
Director

The Center's mission, preventing a temporary crisis from becoming a permanent tragedy, is accomplished by responding to the continually changing needs of our community. Keeping people in their homes with the utilities on and food on the table best defines our mission, and we asked for your support. This holiday season the focus of our Adopt-a-Family program changed from giving presents to adopting the *ongoing needs* of people in crisis. We shared with you client stories telling how financial donations provide critical assistance and help stabilize individuals and families not only during the holidays, but throughout the year. Your response and support were overwhelming. Everyone here at the Center is grateful to the businesses, organizations and individuals who made room in their hearts *and* in their billfolds for people in our community who are less fortunate.



A ✓ Above The Rest!



The Center is excited to have received a DonorEdge Check Mark-Reviewed profile, a community leadership process developed by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. The rigorous review process resulted in an online posting of the Center's in-depth profile that was reviewed and verified by nonprofit specialists. The information in this report helps potential donors and grantors decide where to allocate their money. DonorEdge agencies also have the opportunity to apply for grants administered through GKCCF.



Reaching Out



The Center is partnering with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office of Jackson County and the Director of Victim Services. This collaboration will extend our services to victims of crimes who are in need of emergency assistance.

Senior “Happenings”

May 12th & 13th... AARP will provide useful tips on becoming a safer driver. This might even get you a reduction on your car insurance.

Monday & Tuesday afternoons... Do you want to plan a trip, email family or friends, shop online or just learn your way around computers? Computer guru Jane Orth is available in our computer room to help! She's knowledgeable, friendly, and free!

May Days... An exciting three day trip to Omaha will offer a tour of Boys & Girls Town, the Lauritzen Botanical Gardens and the Shrine of the Holy Family. Fabulous cuisine will be enjoyed at the Greek Orthodox Church, the Cuban Café and a Swedish smorgasbord! This trip will fill up fast so call to reserve your spot!



We thank volunteers from the IRS who donated Christmas gifts to the participants in our Saturday Meal Delivery program to the homebound. Your generosity was greatly appreciated!



Mark Your Calendars

- 3/13...**St. Pat's Ball**
- 3/19...**St. Joseph Table**
- 3/1~4/30...**Feinstein Challenge** to fight hunger (watch for your *Seeds of Hope!*)
- 9/8...**Sock It To Poverty annual golf tournament** at Lakewood Oaks

For Your Health



Medical Matters... a new outreach of our Emergency Client Assistance program that benefits the elderly, the underserved and the medically indigent. It will work to resolve client health issues by providing durable medical goods (hearing aids, dentures, etc.); prescription medication payments; free legal assistance with Medicare and Medicaid applications, medical filings and Advanced Directives; and client assistance in locating resources to support ongoing medical needs. This program was made possible in part by a generous grant from the HealthCare Foundation of Kansas City.

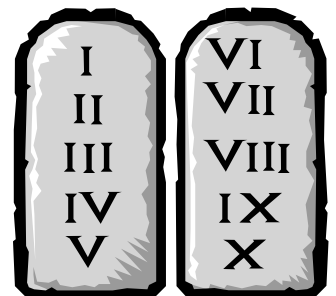
Healthy Choices, Healthy You... our food pantry program that provides fresh produce year round. Funding received from MAZON: a Jewish Response to Hunger was instrumental in starting this program and expanding it to include meat, poultry and chicken.

Sept. 28th... the Center partnered with the St. Luke's Breast Center and the Black Health Care Coalition to provide free mammograms. We are excited to be a part of such a vital service in the fight against breast cancer.

Nov. 20th... we thank KU Med Center for providing the flu vaccine and the KU School of Nursing for administering the injections here at the Center. Many people took advantage of this free service along with glucose readings; vision screenings; height, weight and blood pressure measurements; and instructions for self-breast exams.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Health Maintenance events!

The world's greatest GPS system...the Ten Commandments



United Way agency number...674.



CFC -NEW agency number... 95716.



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*"HELPING PREVENT A TEMPORARY CRISIS
FROM BECOMING A PERMANENT TRAGEDY"*

~ ON THE HOMEFRONT ~



- We welcome volunteer Dorothy Shomin who will be working in the Clothing Room. She is also an accomplished magician who performs at all types of events!
- Brother John Matthys is new to the Center and has already helped sort and box thousands of cans of food, and haul bags of clothing to be sorted in the clothing room. Brother said he now understands why Father Shea said working at the Center would be unlike any of his other ministries...he is feeling aches & pains in muscles he didn't even know he had!
- Center volunteer Jim Orth recently returned from California where he was working with FEMA after the devastating wildfires. Jim said he was impressed with the generosity of the volunteer crews who removed debris from home sites, and sifted through the ashes searching for family mementos.

*Thought for the day... The eternal optimist's secret to having a sunny outlook:
Everyday, I choose to be happy simply because I hate to be miserable.*