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April 2009

A Place of Respite for the Children

*And Jesus said, "Let the children come to me,
do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
- Mark 10:14*



Executive Director Jim Castleberry

In this passage from Mark, Jesus rebuked the disciples for turning away the children who were seeking the same thing the adults were seeking—to be seen and to receive acceptance. Homeless children across this country, and within this community, know the longing to be seen, to be accepted, to have someone reach out to them with open arms and a heart filled with tenderness and compassion as Jesus did.

Every day in the Cornerstone ministry, we are blessed by the presence of children. Our first encounter is often spying a little face with somber eyes peaking from behind the parent's legs. Some come to us with empty tummies. They stand in line at the Mission eager to eat whatever is put on their tray for the meal that day. They eat to be filled, not always sure where their next meal will come from if their families do not return to the Mission.

Our hearts are often touched to the depth, when a mother brings her children to one of our doors, asking only for warm coats and mittens for each of them. The color doesn't matter. The brand label is unimportant. Warmth is all they long for.

The community is generally aware of the plight of the homeless adults served by our ministry. It is true that we make every effort possible to help adults break the cycle of homelessness. We are also intimately aware, that behind many adults, children long for a safe, secure and stable place to call home.



At the Cornerstone Apartments transitional housing program, we adopted the following greeting, "How are the children?" Each day, our goal is to answer by saying, "The children are well!" For we know that if the children are well on any given day, that is an important step toward breaking the cycle of homelessness and to preventing the next generation of homeless adults.

Thank you for supporting our ministry. For each dollar that is given, each morsel of food that you share, you too become a partner in the effort to provide a temporary place of respite for the children, a place of acceptance and hope that just might transform the future for the next generation.

Blessings,

Jim

Caring for the Children

The Lord has interesting ways of teaching us through our daily life experiences. Some of these teachings are subtle, others cause a stirring within.

Three years ago, Vicki Linn was the Manager of the Women and Children's Home. She was mystified when she discovered that a woman who was staying at the Home was six months pregnant with her fifth child but she had not yet seen a doctor for her pregnancy. When asked why, the mother responded, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is to go to an OB appointment with four little boys with you?" Arrangements were quickly made to provide temporary child care so the mom could follow through with that appointment. The results were astounding! Upon the mom's return, the look on her face was one of appreciation and relief uniquely experienced by having two hours to herself. This was something that the 24/7 single mother of four had not experienced since her husband was killed in a car accident seven months before. During her absence, the boys enjoyed two hours of something they knew little of recently in their little lives, time to play and receive nurturing attention from someone besides their mom. The need for child care was evident!

We currently have more than 15 families who are not able to secure stable employment or obtain education due to child care barriers.

They are on waiting lists, but are often unable to use existing child care programs due to the young ages of their children, or the need for child care during evening and weekend hours. Few find the desired Monday through Friday 9 to 5 jobs when community child care programs are open.

We are working toward a goal to eliminate child care as a barrier. We ask for your prayers as we work to address this long-term challenge. If you would like to know more, please contact Vicki Linn by calling 718-8712 or send an email message to vlinn@cornerstonemission.org.



Cornerstone Employment Positions

The Cornerstone ministry is searching for responsible and compassionate people who are interested in joining our team of dedicated professionals who serve the needs of homeless children, women and men in Rapid City. Individuals who have a heart for ministry are invited to apply. Applications are available at the Cornerstone Administrative Office located at 401 11th Street. Applications are available on our website, www.cornerstonemission.org.

Child Care Program: The most valuable gift that anyone can give to a child is time. Do you have love to share, time to nurture babies, the desire to share the joy of learning with curious children or to cook nutritious meals and snacks? Yes! Then submit an application for one of our new child care positions.

Women & Children's Home: We currently have an opening for a part-time evening/weekend Advocate who supervises daily activities, lends a listening ear and encouraging words to the women and children served at the Home. Prior social service education or experience is desired, but training will also be provided.

Cornerstone Mission: If you love to cook for lots of people, you may be the person we are looking for to fill our Cook position at the Mission. Previous experience is a plus!

Clergy on the Catwalk Fashion Show

*Get your
tickets now!*



Have you ever thought of your pastor, priest or minister as a person of fashion? Who really knows what they are wearing under that robe???

Well, we invite you to seek the answer to this mystery by attending the first ever Clergy on the Catwalk Fashion Show:

Friday, May 1, 2009

7 p.m.

**At the First Assembly of God Church, 4905 S. Highway 16
in the gym at the Memorial Christian School**

Who says that your local pastor is not a slave to fashion? Come see for yourself just how much flair and fluff the first families from local churches add to our community. Watch your minister, his wife and children stroll gracefully down the runway as they model clothing and accessories provided by area retailers. Whistling and cheering will definitely be allowed during this event!

Tickets maybe be purchased for a mere \$5 at the following locations beginning April 1st:

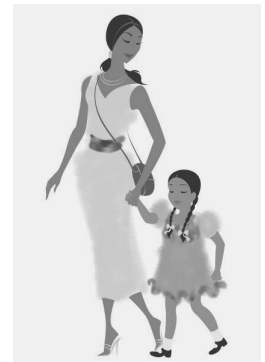
Cornerstone Thrift Store , Amazing Smiles and Take a Hike

We are grateful to the following local retailers who have donated the use of an array of clothing and accessories for this special fundraiser to benefit the Cornerstone Rescue Mission:

Audra's Bridal, The Gap, J.C. Penney's, Maurices, Old Navy, Michael's, Prairie Edge, Seeley's, Vanbach's, Scheels, Take-a-Hike, Affordable Elegance, Cornerstone Thrift Store and more to come.

Encourage other people to join in the fun at this unique event. Tickets can be provided to sell at your church. Contact Judy Cranford at 718-8713 for more information or 718-8712 to volunteer for this fun event!

Thanks again for helping the homeless of our community!



Needs Lists

Throughout the year, we are grateful for the support of this community! Our current needs include:

Cornerstone Apartments

Small dressers and kitchen chairs
Laundry soap and cleaning supplies
Document organizers & calculators
Grocery coupons

Men's Mission

XL coveralls (Carhartt Style)
Jeans size 36 waist plus
Deodorant, shampoo, conditioner
Coffee, sugar, flour, spices

Women & Children's Home

Milk, juice, fresh fruit, frozen meat
Coffee, sugar, flour, spices
Laundry soap, bleach, fabric softener
Dish soap and paper towels

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Attorney, Bangs McCullen, et al.

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Executive Director, Cornerstone

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Kieffer Family Dental P.C.

Rick Livesey
S.D. Carpenters Local 587

Ron McLaughlin
Pastor, Hills View E-Free Church

Doug Thrash
Rapid City Police Department

Ann Van Loan
Western Resources For The Dis-ABLED

Dexter Wittman
State's Attorney's Office

*Executive Board member



*"I always thank my God
as I remember you
in my prayers,
because I hear about
your faith in
the Lord Jesus
and your love
for all the saints."*

- Matthew 10:42

Prayer of Appreciation

Our precious volunteers, it's our pleasure to send out to you a joyful greeting today, full of appreciation and thanksgiving! We embrace your love and sacrifices that you've given of your talent, time and passion to serve all of the people you touch at Cornerstone as well as the Rapid City community!

We celebrate the wonderful hearts that God created in our volunteers! You are each—individually and collectively—precious to our ministry! We shout thanksgiving for every single one of you, our committed volunteers, who prove their genuine love and uniqueness by serving in many capacities throughout this past year!

Always remember that you are so much appreciated by our staff and the people we serve! We are not able to make it without you! Thank you!

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities within the Cornerstone organization, come and explore the possible ways that you can put your faith into action during our Volunteer Informational Meeting:

Friday, April 10

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

in our training room located at 401 11th Street

Please call Mary at 718-8712 for more information.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CORNERSTONE RESCUE MISSION

(The enclosed envelope is for your convenience. We are serving more people every day. Your help is appreciated!)