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## Experiencing God's Love

Are you experiencing the love of God in your life? Valentine's Day causes me to reflect on the fact that without Jesus Christ, we would not know the true meaning of love. I John 4:19 says, "We love Him because He first loved us." His love is evident to us every day and His mercies are new every morning. We have so much to be grateful for, and are drawn to praise His name together.

I have seen much evidence of His love here at the Mission over my years of service, and hope that your hearts may be encouraged as well.

You, our generous donors—individuals, churches, corporations, businesses and other organizations—have all been very generous in your support. You have been very generous in providing turkeys, canned goods, Christmas gifts, food, clothing, equipment and so much more. Every time the Mission has shared a need, you have responded overwhelmingly to meet that need. We are also grateful for the corporate and private grants, equipment and supplies that have been donated. Another evidence of God's supply.

We have certainly experienced the love of our Lord and Savior these past months, and we are very grateful and love Him in return. May you be encouraged to recount the ways God has shown His love to you as well, as you see His many generous blessings.



*Jim Castleberry*

### **Ready to see the world on a big, big screen? Here's your chance! Enter the Bird and Bison Raffle to win a 42" Flatscreen HDTV**



A 42" flatscreen HDTV could be yours if you're the lucky ticket holder in this year's Bird and Bison raffle!

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and are available at the Cornerstone Thrift Store through March 12. Tickets will also be sold during the Bird and Bison Banquet on March 13 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

Be sure to completely fill out the back of tickets purchased, including name, address, and phone number.

The winner will be announced at the Bird & Bison Banquet and you need not be present to win. If you aren't there, we'll call you on March 15 to let you know that you've won.

Proceeds of the raffle support Mission programs. We thank you for your support!

Mission staff, relatives of staff, Mission clients and Mission board members are not eligible to participate in the raffle.

# Making a Difference

A sign by the front door of the Mission says, “Giving a hand up, not a handout.” In our work, there is no greater joy than witnessing someone who receives the hand up and personally strives to make the most of the opportunity. We are inspired by stories like the following.

Nina was seven months pregnant when she moved into the Cornerstone Women and Children’s Home. As an unwed mother to be, she was scared, alone and afraid to dream. With staff encouragement, she applied for the Cornerstone transitional housing program. Her baby boy, Jonathon, was born in June and had to stay in the hospital for over a week due to complications. Nina moved into the apartments and was joined by little Jonathon three days later.

When Jonathon was six weeks old, he was enrolled at Dear Ones. Nina returned to her part-time job. One month later she began school at Oglala Lakota College and is currently pursuing a degree in nursing. She proudly informs the Cornerstone staff of the good grades she receives on her assignments and tests.

As a single mom, her time is well occupied by caring for her young son, going to school full-time and working part-time. The care Jonathon receives at Dear Ones gives her comfort knowing that he is well cared for in her absence. The transportation that Cornerstone provides for both of them to child care, work, school and home again is crucial to her ability to pursue her dreams of an education and career that will support both of them with time.

Angie was relieved when the Cornerstone Women and Children’s Home told her they had a place for her to stay. She was seven months pregnant and had four children less than five years of age who also needed a safe place to stay.

Shortly after moving into the Home, Angie applied for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program at the local Department of Labor office. In order to complete the

requirements of the TANF program, which is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency, she needed child care for all four of her children.

The challenge of finding care in one location for four children under the age of five years, especially on a part-time basis, is daunting. Having reliable transportation is an equally difficult barrier for a single mom who does not have the financial means to own a vehicle.



Thanks to the funding provided by the Vucurevich Foundation, Cornerstone was able to provide for both of these needs. All four children attended our Dear Ones child care program part-time, six hours per day, while Angie participated in the TANF program. The children enjoyed the daily activities. The two older preschool age children especially enjoyed the opportunities to play and learn with other children their own age, without their two younger siblings in tow.

# God Only Knows

**W**hen the wind turns cold and temperatures drop, people in need flow through our doors. In the past few weeks, over 120 men have appreciated having a warm place to sleep each night and over 400 people have received hot food provided daily at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. Thirty women and children have been thankful for the comfort and shelter provided at the Women and Children's Home.

As the degrees on the thermometer fall, the needs of the people we serve rise. The question that we hear most frequently from concerned people in the community is, "How in the world do you ever provide help for so many people?" We reply with a simple, yet amazing answer, "God only knows!"

A few days ago, the cook at the Mission told a co-worker that he was totally out of eggs. In only a few hours, an unexpected donation of several dozen eggs arrived. No one made a phone call or a trip to the store. They prayed. Yes, they prayed for a basic thing like eggs.

On other occasions, when the coffee supply has dwindled, kind hearted people stop by with a can of coffee in their hands. Each day, local restaurants and grocery stores donate bread and other food items that help us feed hungry people of all ages. Hunters donate meat. Church members give of their time to cook and serve a meal. Occasionally, we receive a check in the mail with a handwritten note ... "For food."

In a time when so many people across the world are suffering, we are thankful for the wonderful ways that God provides. Every day, we know that we could not do it without Him and the people in the community who heed His call to reach out to someone less fortunate than themselves. Thank you!

## Needs Lists

We are grateful for the support of this community throughout the year! Our current needs include:

### Cornerstone Apartments

Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Household cleaning products  
Toilet plungers  
Vacuum cleaners  
Carpet cleaner

### Dear Ones

Baby wipes  
Diapers (all sizes)  
Vacuum  
Sand for 10-gallon table  
Dry-erase markers  
Commercial baby stroller

### Men's Mission

Eggs  
Milk (liquid and powdered)  
Hot sauce  
Fresh vegetables  
Jelly and jam  
Salad dressing  
Rice  
Cheese  
Sugar  
Eggs  
Onions  
Razors  
Shaving cream  
Silverware

### Women & Children's Home

Laundry soap and bleach  
Dish soap  
All-purpose cleaner  
Feminine hygiene products  
Hair conditioner  
Kleenex  
60-watt bulbs  
Band-aids  
Diapers (sizes 3, 4 & 5)  
Baby wipes  
Milk  
Sugar  
Coffee  
Coffee creamer

## Board of Directors

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# Calling All Volunteers!

The New Year is upon us, and it brings many opportunities for those who have a heart to volunteer here at Cornerstone. We have need for many volunteers over the next few months.

Please search your hearts and your calendars to see if you can give a little of yourself and your time to join us in this vital part of our ministry at Cornerstone. When you give yourself to those in need; you will be surprised at how the blessings come back around.

Here is a list of our current needs:

## Cornerstone Women & Children's Home

Volunteers to help several hours daily, answer phone and take messages, help cook a meal, general help, etc. – Apply for one day, weekly, monthly or as often as you can.

## Dear Ones Child Care

Volunteer needed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4 to 7 pm, helping with children. Apply for one day weekly or every Monday, or Tuesday or Wednesday, as often as you can, consistency is important with these children.

## Bird & Bison Banquet

Volunteers to help with planning the event; volunteers on the day of the event (March 13) to help with decorations & set-up, later that evening to help guests find their table/seats, coat check, etc.

## Cornerstone Thrift Store

Our expansion project is in process and volunteers are needed to help with that. We can always use more people to work in the store, weekdays & weekend.

**Please call our Volunteer Department at 341-2741, ext. 119, if you can help us in any of these areas. Or email [volunteer@cornerstonemission.org](mailto:volunteer@cornerstonemission.org).**

***John 15: 16,17 (NIV) You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.***

**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!)