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February 2009

A Reflection of the True Light

Dear Friends,

Winter is upon us. Most of us huddle deeper in our coats and hurry toward our well-lit, well-heated homes. We never get a glimpse of what it's like, living just a few steps beyond the doors of the Mission.

We don't know the hollowness and vulnerability that comes from seeing your life, and all you took for granted, crumbling around you. When you look up at night, and the lighted sign of "Cornerstone Rescue Mission" greets you at the back doors as your symbol of home. Of comfort. Of hope. All that stands between you and the empty darkness.

Except that, deep down, we are much the same. We may have the veneer of possessions to help dim the realization that life for us, too, lies just within reach of a lighted doorway. Every day, God reaches out a hand of blessing. His touch is felt in the clothes we wear, the homes that welcome us, and family and friends to care for us.

To those without these blessings, God is seen through us. The compassion and empathy that causes us to help those men, women, and children, whom we may never see, is an expression of His love for us and for them. We are light, a reflection of the true Light, shining with hope into the empty darkness.

Blessings,

Jim



Executive Director Jim Castleberry

Cornerstone's Guiding Principles

To *provide* shelter, food and work-incentive programs for the homeless.

To *promote* self-determination through self-sufficiency.

To *encourage* spiritual prosperity that will lead to greater dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ and independence in daily living.

To *inspire* greater participation from community members in the furtherance of Cornerstone Rescue Mission services to the homeless.

Get your
tickets now!

Bird & Bison Banquet

The Cornerstone Rescue Mission is holding its 7th annual fundraising dinner, the Bird & Bison Banquet, on Saturday, March 7 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center beginning at 6:30 pm. We can't believe how much this event has grown over the years.

The very first event was titled the "Wild Game & Dessert Banquet" and was held in 2001. All of the meat featured was donated from area sportsmen and women. We certainly had a variety from venison and buffalo to ostrich and rabbit! The Box Elder Job Corps prepared all the dishes, and we were surprised that we packed the Knights of Columbus Hall to capacity with over 250 people attending and raised \$15,000.

In 2002, the Canyon Lake Chophouse, under the catering wizardry of Carrie Cisle, took over the job of selecting, preparing and organizing our delicious meals. And, this year won't be any different. This year's menu consists of Bison Salisbury Steak, Pheasant Pot Pie, Buffalo Fajita Bake, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, desserts and more!

The evening always includes an inspirational program, music, a silent auction and raffle. Over the years, we have had a variety of speakers from a Native American comedian...to local celebrities... to those who work with missions nationwide... to Meadowlark Lemon. We even had one young man speak who voluntarily went homeless for a while to experience what being homeless means on a personal level.

This year we are planning for over 500 to attend and hope to double the amount of money given that

first year to support the Mission. We will focus on how the Cornerstone organization continues to impact the community and individual lives in a variety of ways.

Attendees will be challenged by the "Homeless to Home" video. Tom Hennies (a former police chief, legislator and one of the original founders of the Cornerstone Mission) will speak. Judge Janine Kern will also share her perspective on the hurting souls she sees come through the court system and how they need a place like the Cornerstone Mission. In addition, Mary Owais, Cornerstone staff member, will share her inspiring success story.

Tickets are \$40 for adults (\$20 for children 10 and under/no charge for children 2 and under). Table of 8 is \$300. Please fill out the enclosed registration form and mail back to the Mission by March 2nd. Tickets will be mailed to you.

Raffle tickets for a 42-inch HD Plasma LG TV donated by Sound Pro are presently being sold out of the Cornerstone Thrift Store for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The winner will be selected the night of the banquet. The winner does not have to be present to win--but you don't want to miss out on this wonderful evening, so please plan to join us!

We are still looking for silent auction items. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Debbie Ketel at 484-7851 or ketelhouse@rap.midco.net.



A Special Thanks to Our 2009 Bird and Bison Sponsors!

The event is made possible by the kind support and donations of many businesses and individuals, including major sponsors:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◇ Simpson's Printers | ◇ Canyon Lake Resort | ◇ The Rapid City Journal |
| ◇ Bangs McCullen Law Firm | ◇ Robert & Deborah Mudge | ◇ SquareOne Group |
| ◇ Geidel Construction | ◇ Ray & Mimi Hillenbrand. | ◇ BH Federal Credit Union |
| ◇ First Western Bank | ◇ First Western Insurance | |

Thanks for the Blessings

Bob Hope spent his life entertaining. He was famous for many reasons...one being the way he concluded his shows with his theme song, "Thanks for the Memories." In the same spirit, we would like to thank the many individuals, families, churches, businesses and organizations who share blessings with our organization throughout the year. The challenges of serving people in need are many, but we are truly blessed by a community that provides for our needs every day. We are indeed honored by the generous hearts who give so freely of themselves in very creative and inspiring ways. We are blessed by a community that reaches out to serve others. We would like to say "Thanks for the Blessings" by sharing a few examples of ways that people have given of themselves in very memorable ways.

- ♥ A gentle-spirited man and woman arrived at the Cornerstone Apartments one day. The woman explained that as her birthday drew near, she realized that there was not a thing that she needed. To celebrate her birthday, they decided to give the money that he would have spent for her birthday gift to the Cornerstone to use in a way that supported our ministry.
- ♥ A group of 6th graders at a local middle school gathered the supplies and made homemade hot chocolate mix for the guests who will spend cold winter days at the Women and Children's Home.
- ♥ Numerous men, women, children of all ages stopped by our facilities with bags filled with items listed on our Christmas wish lists. Thanks to these generous souls, we were able to give gifts to over 200 people on Christmas Eve. Your gifts added a very special warmth to the holidays.
- ♥ A child dropped off an envelope that contained \$14.76 and a short note that said "I want to help."
- ♥ A check for \$200 arrived a few days before Christmas with a note that said "For food... Merry Christmas!"
- ♥ As they planned their wedding, a man and woman agreed that they did not need more "stuff". So, they requested a list of needed items for the families living at the Cornerstone Apartments. Two days after their wedding, they brought the wrapped gifts to the Apartments to give as Christmas gifts.
- ♥ An elderly couple stopped by the Mission to donate a 10 pound turkey. They explained that they were experiencing some health problems and their medications were expensive. They apologized that they were not able to give a larger turkey, but hoped that their health would return so they could do more.

No matter the size of the gift, the blessings you share bring joy to our hearts, tears to our eyes, smiles to our faces and hope to our spirits. May God bless you richly!

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
Twin sheets and mattress covers
Toilet paper & cleaning products
Laundry soap and fabric softener

Men's Mission

XL coveralls (Carhartt Style)
Jeans size 36 waist plus
XL Boxers
Phone cards

Women & Children's Home

Laundry soap , bleach, fabric softener
Shower curtains and bath mats
Ladies underwear size 5 & 6
Dish soap and paper towels

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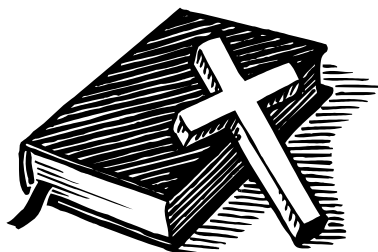
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Western Resources For The Dis-ABLED

Dr. Joseph Kieffer
Kieffer Family Dental P.C.

***Executive Board member**



*“Whatever you do,
whether in word or
deed, do it all in the
name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.*

- Colossians 3:17

Faith in Action

As believers, we are called to put our faith into action. We can do this in many ways: by reading the Word, by sharing fellowship with other believers, and by sharing our faith with those who do not yet know the new life that is possible through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus challenged his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). He was challenging them to move out of their comfort zones and to expose themselves to new relationships and experiences.

The Cornerstone organization provides the opportunity to put your faith into action in similar ways. We invite you to consider volunteering your time and sharing your gifts with our organization. We will explore ways for you to share your interests, knowledge, skills and hearts if you are willing to step out and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in your life.

You will have the opportunity to see the many ways that the Cornerstone ministry touches people lives and reaches out into the community. We will walk beside you and the Lord will go before us.

Come and explore the possible ways that you can put your faith into action during our Volunteer Informational Meeting:

Wednesday, February 11th

from 11:30M to 2:30 PM

in our training room located at 401 Eleventh 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!)