



The Heartbeat of The Mission

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November 2009

A Feast for All

As a supporter of The Cornerstone Rescue Mission, you're familiar with our annual Thanksgiving meal, our traditional holiday feast prepared for needy neighbors and friends. Traditionally, we serve more people at Thanksgiving than at any other meal of the year. This year, we anticipate an even greater turnout than ever before. The needs in our area continue to grow, and the downturn in our economy is driving a significantly higher number of requests for assistance from people on the edge of financial failure or homelessness. Cold weather set in early this year, driving increased need for the basics of survival, keeping warm and staying fed. Many at-risk individuals and families are faced with the choice of one or the other, yet asking for help is difficult, if not impossible.



Jim Castleberry

Clearly, providing a Thanksgiving meal is important, but the importance goes beyond merely offering a good meal. Our goal is to feed the body and to also care for the minds and spirits of people in need. Homeless people are lonely people. Our aim is to always provide a supportive environment for them, but Thanksgiving gives us a unique opportunity to introduce some people, perhaps those who might normally avoid coming to us because they find it difficult to ask for help, to what we do and how we can help them

Thanks to a very caring community, people who spent the holidays at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission were able to experience the joy of the Christmas season. Individuals and groups of people from throughout the Black Hills kindly donated food, coats, hundreds of socks, haircut certificates, clothing, family portraits, toys and many other items.

For most people, Christmas is a time of joy and celebration with family and friends. For people who are homeless and in need, it is a time of discouragement and sadness. The Cornerstone Christmas Store is our way of showing them that the community cares and encourage them to hold onto hope.

On Sunday, December 20, the Cornerstone Thrift Store was transformed into the "Christmas Store". The men, women and children served by Cornerstone received a gift certificate that they were able to use to obtain items for themselves or as gifts for families members. Volunteer elves organized the gifts donated by caring community members. Wrapping paper and tape were ready for gift wrapping. Most of all...smiles and gratitude abounded.

We could not share the joy of holidays without support from this community. We have been *so blessed* by people who reach out to help us throughout the year. We are thankful to the people of all ages who gave to make the holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

Homelessness is an experience that Cornerstone battles 365 a year for increasing numbers of people. So, we especially appreciate monetary donations that help us cover less obvious needs such as heat, transportation and staffing. Please remember that your donations are tax deductible.

A Time to Grow

The Cornerstone Thrift Store has exciting news for 2010...we have the opportunity to grow! In January, the Cornerstone Thrift Store will expand into the area previously occupied by the Habitat Restore. For the past two years, Habitat for Humanity has leased a large portion of our facility, located at 401 11th Street, for the Habitat Restore. This was a wonderful opportunity for the two organizations to partner in their effort to provide economical re-sale goods to the community. In fact, the Restore was so successful, that they needed more space! Thankfully, they were able to purchase the former Sysco building located on Omaha Street. This creates wonderful opportunities for both Cornerstone and Habitat to expand their services to the community.

The Cornerstone Thrift Store serves the community in so many ways. First, the store provides a place for people to donate the items that they no longer need. "We are so blessed by the donations that people bring to our doors!" exclaims Program Director Vicki Linn. "Each day, people generously give furniture, clothes of all sizes, dishes, books, linens and more. As I walk through the Thrift Store each day, I am continually amazed that each and every item was donated. Not a thing was ordered!"

Cornerstone Thrift Store employees and volunteers also have the opportunity to see how God multiplies the blessings through our charitable giving program. We are able to freely give clothes, linens, dishes and furniture to previously homeless people who find a place to live, but do not have the resources to turn their apartment or trailer into a home. The Thrift Store also provides free clothing and other needed items to men, women and children served by the Cornerstone organization as well as those who are referred by local churches and community

organizations such as WAVI, the Rapid City Public Schools and Behavior Management Systems.

The most obvious benefit of our Thrift Store is the opportunity to provide quality re-sale items at very economical prices. In the current economy, people are looking for ways to save money. "Customers who come to our store for the first time are amazed at the quality they find. People are often in disbelief when they see the low prices. And, they appreciate the hard work our employees and volunteers put in to make the store clean, organized and inviting." adds Linn.

The least known benefit of our Thrift Store is that the proceeds from our sales help provide shelter, food and support services for homeless women and children. The Thrift Store is the primary way that we raise money to pay for the



expenses associated with the Cornerstone Women and Children's Home.

You can help! If you have not visited our Thrift Store, come to 401 11th Street and browse our racks and shelves. If you are one of our customers, help spread the news that we will have a celebration of our expansion in February. If you have things that you no longer need, we welcome donations!

Dig Out and Donate!

Are you tired of shoveling snow? Well then, we invite you to spend some time to dig through your garage, rooms, cupboards and closets to find “stuff” that you no longer need. Due to our expansion at the Cornerstone Thrift Store, we have more space and will gladly accept your donations! In fact, during the month of January and February, we will even come to you to pick up bags and boxes filled with the things that you are ready to get rid of. We will schedule certain days of the week that our Thrift Store van will travel through areas of our community to help make donating items as easy as possible.

We have special need for the following items:

- **Furniture:** couches, chairs, kitchen tables and chairs, beds, dressers and virtually any other furniture item.
- **Kitchen Items:** Dishes, pots, pans, silverware and kitchen appliances.
- **Electronics:** TVs, computers, printers, cameras, microwaves, alarm clocks, lamps, radios, DVD & CD players...anything that still works with a battery or plugged into the wall.
- **Clothing:** good condition clothing for children, women and men of all shapes and sizes. We will even take clothing that is stained or torn, which we bale for reprocessing. This prevents adding it to landfills, provides disaster relief clothing across the world, and helps provide more income to support the Cornerstone Women’s and Children’s Home.
- **Books** for readers of all ages.
- **Other** “stuff” that you no longer need or have space to store...including the treadmill that you sometimes use as a place to hang your clothes ☺

Call the Cornerstone Thrift Store at 716-2768 to schedule a day and time for us to come to your door to collect your stuff. All donations are tax deductible. We will gladly provide you with a receipt!

Remodeling, Moving Volunteers Needed

Due to the expansion of our Cornerstone Thrift Store in January, we will need several individuals to help with remodeling of the former Habitat ReStore area. We will need volunteers who are “handy” with tools, including painters, sheet rockers, and carpenters

If you are interested, able and available during the first three weeks of January, please call Evelyn in our Volunteer Program at 341-2741. We will hold a planning meeting on January 6 at 10 a.m. at the Cornerstone Thrift Store located at 401 11th Street.

After the remodeling is complete sometime in late January or early February, we will also need volunteers to help us re-set our sales floor areas. Individual and groups of volunteers will be needed to help us move shelves, display racks, merchandise, etc. If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting project, please send an e-mail to volunteer@cornerstonemission.org or call Evelyn at 341-2741.

*So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.
Nehemiah 4:6*

Needs Lists

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

Cornerstone Apartments

Laundry soap
Fabric softener
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Disinfectant cleaning products
Toilet cleaner and brushes
Thank-you cards

Men’s Mission

Men’s long underwear all sizes
Men’s winter gloves
Flour
Sugar
Coffee
Milk, powdered and liquid

Women & Children’s Home

Laundry soap and bleach
Household cleaning products
Diapers, size 4, 5 & 6
Foot powder
Children’s cold medicine
Baby formula

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Western Resources For The Dis-ABLED

Dexter Wittman
State's Attorney's Office

*Executive Board member

Cornerstone Volunteers

*We want to extend our
deepest gratitude for
all the work you do for
us and wish you
many blessings for a
Happy New Year!*

Volunteer Department

30 Main St

341-2741



Dear Ones Needs List

- Hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- Diapers of all sizes
- Diaper wipes
- Milk and juice
- Fresh fruit and vegetables

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!)