Cornerstone Rescue Mission has always opened its doors to anyone in need, and we do so based on the Biblical principles we were founded on. One of the groups of folks we have always worked with are male parolees coming out of the South Dakota Department of Corrections prison system who are trying to rebuild their lives. We have worked with parolees for 37 years and last year designated a section of our mission for men specifically on parole. This is a group of folks dear to our hearts – just as they were and are to Jesus. Following is a story of one of our parolees:

On 10/07/2019 Mr. Ron Larson arrived at the Cornerstone Transitional Unit. The day that he arrived, he had a seriously bad attitude and wasn’t willing to work with anyone. His language was foul, and he was angry with not only the staff but also with the other clients. The staff continued to work with Mr. Larson, and he started to realize what Cornerstone was about. He began to realize that we were here to help him transition back into the community. He had several health issues and staff assisted him with getting doctor’s appointments set up as well transportation and his special diet. Ron started to work and help staff out when he could. Ron even credited the staff with helping him to find God in his life. He went from being angry to, you could see, a light in his eyes. Ron started to talk to some of the younger clients and was trying to get through to them about making positive changes in their lives. Ron Larson soon gained the respect from all the other clients and staff in the Unit. On 11/04/2019 his health failed for the last time and he passed away at the hospital. Ron Larson’s death affected both the clients and the staff deeply. The clients wouldn’t allow anyone to sit in the chair in the dayroom that Ron usually sat in. Even though gone, that was still Ron’s chair. On 12/10/2019 Mr. Derek Lone Hill arrived at the Cornerstone Transitional Unit. It was brought to the staff’s attention that he is an artist and they had an idea of asking if Mr. Lone Hill would be willing to do a mural in the dayroom of Ronald Larson. Mr. Lone Hill was glad for the opportunity; he even seemed honored. The mural was placed in the dayroom to remind those that knew Ron of what a good man he was, and what the goal is here at Cornerstone. We take everyone’s recovery and transition very seriously, and we show that we truly do care and we are here to walk with them even through the toughest of times. Hopefully, like Ron, during their transition they too will find God in their lives. Written by Justin Schofield, Mission Operations Manager.

Valentine’s Day is a great reminder that we are all here to love and to serve and to help those around us through the good and the bad—just like Jesus is here to help us.

Happy Valentine’s Day!!

Peace, Lysa
Our Hill City friends knocked it out of the park again! Every year the whole town rallies together to donate purses filled with such nice items to the ladies at the Women & Children’s Home. It is one of the holiday highlights for our ladies. They also donate a new pillow with an awesome handmade pillowcase to the children of the home. These are given out to all the children, with a new pair of pajamas and a book, on Christmas Eve. Our friends from Hill City always go the extra mile to show love to all our guests and staff at the Women & Children’s Home!

Huether Associates of Thrivent Financial did a household and personal hygiene drive for the Women & Children’s Home. Matt Huether also donated $250, with a matching donation of $250 from Thrivent. He is pictured above with his cute little helpers!

Each child of Cornerstone received a gift bag. 65+ bags were made up - all through the generosity of donations!
For their “Service Project For Duty To God Adventure” the Cub Scout Pack 17, which is comprised of boys and girls in grades kindergarten through 5th grade, used the money they raised from selling popcorn to purchase 10 backpacks for the Veterans who stay at Cornerstone. They filled the backpacks with personal products, slippers, socks, winter hats, gloves, and more. What a generous and thoughtful group of kids and we thank them!

Jay Salter and Jacki DeMarce from Edward Jones, along with their generous clients, came together again this year to donate many nice toys to the children of Cornerstone. This was an amazing gift and brought many smiles to the kids! Thanks to Jay, Jacki, and everyone who donated!

Lesley Wilkinson brought items to the Women & Children’s Home that were collected by our friends at Black Hills Surgery Hospital. Thanks so much!

Scheels gave Cornerstone $2,500 for Day Of Giving. They are such a good friend to Cornerstone!

Our friends from Zonta donated gifts to the ladies at the Women & Children’s Home. So generous!
CORNERSTONE RESCUE MISSION

Cornerstone Celebrates Banquet

A benefit to support the homeless population of the Black Hills area

Saturday, March 7th at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn

5:30 | Hospitality Hour
6:30 | Program featuring Sandy & Samantha Gryder

The Gryder Family's Journey Through Homelessness

Return form and check by February 19th
to Cornerstone Rescue Mission, PO Box 2188 Rapid City, SD 57709
Limited seating. Tickets will be mailed out - no tickets sold at the door.

Name: _____________________ Phone #: ____________
Address: _____________________

___ Adults • $45 each
___ Table of 8 • $320
___ Total amount enclosed

I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of $ _______

For questions call Deb at 718-8712

Freedom Church brought gifts for all the kids at the apartments. How fun!

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!)