On May 18th, we held our 4th annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at the beautiful Terra Sancta. “Helping Hands” was our theme this year, and literally, Cornerstone Rescue Mission and all of its entities really depend on helping hands to be able to run our ministry. Approximately 800 people volunteer at Cornerstone – some are continuous volunteers, some only come once and serve a meal. It all counts as service to God, and service to our ministry and the homeless in our community. Without dedicated helpers, we could not do what we do. A special thank you to Doug Thrash, a long-time volunteer as a board member and in our Thrift Store. Doug and his wife, Abbie Thrash, are so devoted to our Thrift Store and run the boutique portion. They are constantly putting out our best Thrift Store donations in beautiful displays and are so uplifting and encouraging to our staff. They are so special we named our annual volunteer award after them. Doug has a wonderful gift of speaking as well and he served as our guest speaker at our breakfast.

Last year volunteers contributed 20,621 hours – that is almost ten full time staff! No wonder we can’t do it without you! We have volunteer opportunities at the Mission, Women & Children’s Home, Thrift Store, Cornerstone Apartments and at our community events. If you would like to serve, call Deb Berg, our Volunteer Coordinator at 718-8712 – we are also open to new ideas.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Christine Siim who volunteered as an art teacher at our men’s mission. Christine loved art and understood it’s healing properties. She loved our guests and made them feel special and encouraged their innate creativity. Christine was the recipient of our 2018 Doug & Abbie Thrash Volunteer of the Year Award. Unfortunately, Christine passed away in May, 2019. We will miss her but know she is looking down on us with happiness and enjoying being in the presence of God – the greatest artist of all!

Peace,
Lysa
A note from a previous guest...

With the help of the staff at the Women & Children’s Home, Wilberta was able to break free from her cycle of domestic abuse, move into housing, and obtain a job where she has moved up to the position of supervising others. We are so proud of Wilberta!

“I am writing this letter to say Thank You to the Cornerstone Women and Children’s shelter for all the help and support that I received. I do not know where I would have been today if I didn’t hear about this place. Most likely I probably would have no choice but to go back to my abusive partner if I didn’t know about this place.

Thank you for being so patient with me through my transition in life of getting me and my son on our own two feet. Thank you for providing me with a safe and warm place to stay and for helping me with all my necessities in life such as food, clothing, laundry, bed and necessities to stay clean such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. Thank you to your staff for being so kind, patient and understanding and encouragement to help me to get on my own like getting a job and making sure that I have the means of providing for myself before I was able to leave. And especially thank you for the grant that you have here that helps pay for deposit and rent. More women need to know that there is actually a place that cares about your well being.

Again, thank you to the Cornerstone Women and Children’s shelter staff and program for helping me.

Sincerely, Wilberta Buckman”
A LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

A good lunch with good friends – it doesn’t get much better than that! On May 21st we gathered with our friends from MG Oil/Cornet Pantry (Todd Moe, Tammy Young-Johnson, Erika Labor & Tanner Pruess) and Brett Hilgemann, one of our friends from Freedom Church, to take part in the 2019 Spirit of Volunteerism Award luncheon hosted by the Helpline Center. This was a great chance to acknowledge MG Oil/ Corner Pantry for the annual Homeless But Not Hopeless charity golf tournament they host every year. Over the last 9 years they have raised $148,000+ for Cornerstone!

We also were able to acknowledge Freedom Church for everything they do for the Cornerstone Apartments such as Christmas gifts and Easter baskets for the kids. Freedom Church is always willing to jump in and help when there is a need at the apartments.

We want to send a big Thank-You to everyone in both of these organizations for being such good friends to Cornerstone! We are thankful for the generosity and love you share with our guests!

Enterprise Holdings awarded two Foundation Grants to Cornerstone, totaling $3,000, for homeless veterans, women and children. How awesome is that! Zoey Osmotherly, Jordan Cobb (Area Manager), and Daniel Beeney brought the check to Lysa and Mona Bettelyoun (Cornerstone intern). What a generous gift from Enterprise!
Caden Lefler, Joseph Robles, Leah Anderson & Izabelle Quilt from the Central High School Players Drama Club brought over many bags of clothes that they gathered from their 2nd annual clothes drive. Thanks to everyone that donated!

Officer Robin Black from the Rapid City Police Department awarded a Crime Free Housing Certification to the Cornerstone Apartments. The tenants enjoyed a “safety social” pizza party generously donated by Marco’s Pizza. Thanks to everyone for making the Cornerstone Apartments a safe place to live!

Did you know that if you are a member of Thrivent Financial you may be able to direct Choice Dollars® and Action Teams to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission?

For more information or to direct Choice Dollars, call 1-800-847-4836 and say Thrivent Choice.®