



*The Heartbeat of The Mission*

30 Main St.  
PO Box 2188  
Rapid City, SD 57709  
605-341-2844  
Fax:605-718-2332  
csrcm@cornerstonemission.org

**November 2011**

## **A Time to be Thankful**



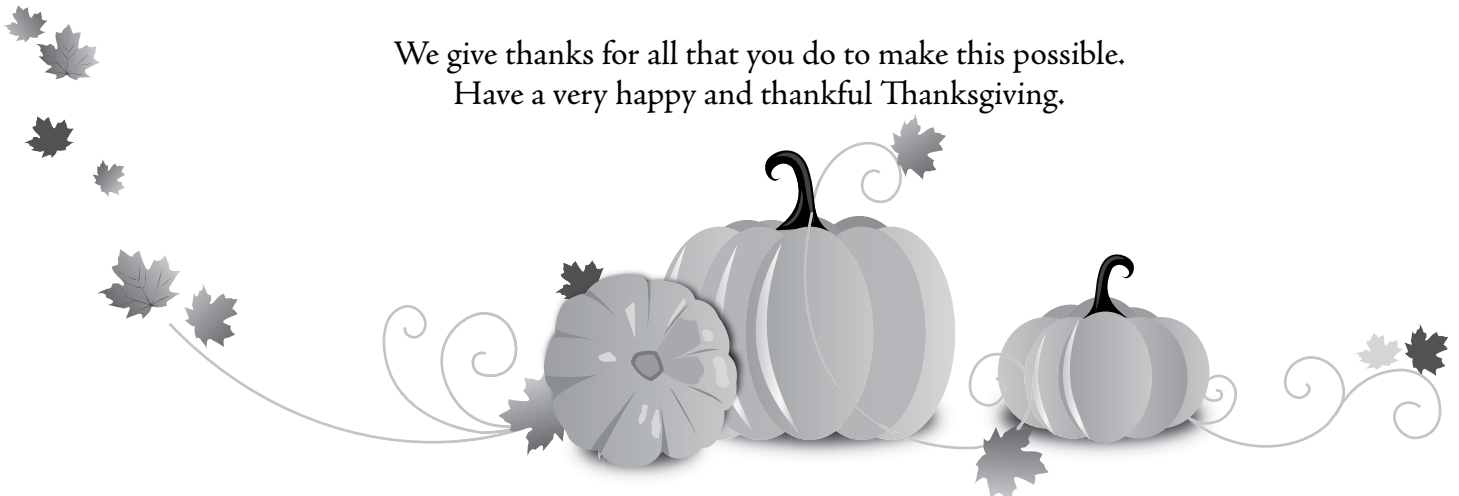
*Chef Jamie Hagan*

This Thanksgiving the guests at the mission will have the special treat of enjoying a delicious meal prepared by our new Chef Jamie Hagan. Jamie joined the Cornerstone staff in June and has been delighting guests with his culinary skills ever since. Jamie joined the Navy at the age of 17 and worked as a cook. He attended the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and is certified by the American Culinary Federation. He has worked as a food service director for the Adak Alaska School District, at a retirement community, and for the State of Iowa's prison system where they served 5,000 meals a day.

Jamie moved to the Black Hills area to be near family five years ago. So how does the Cornerstone Rescue Mission rate getting someone with his expertise? In Jamie's own words "I wanted to be able to make a contribution." He says as he gets older he realizes what is really important, and likes the freedom and ability to use what foods are donated to create some delicious, yet nutritious meals for those who really need it.

The Mission wants to thank Jamie and every one of you for your concern for those who are struggling most in the Rapid City area. We are sure to see even more people coming to us for help than we normally do during this holiday season. Every day of the year, the Cornerstone Rescue Mission provides food, shelter, clothing and a welcoming spirit to those who are hungry and homeless. Please help us in this continued effort to serve the hundreds who will come to our door this Thanksgiving. Please consider cooking a turkey and bringing it to the Mission. We will start receiving cooked turkeys on November 10.

We give thanks for all that you do to make this possible.  
Have a very happy and thankful Thanksgiving.



# A Simple Mission

*We have had the privilege of working with a wonderful volunteer named Jody Williams who wrote this article for our newsletter.*



*Friends enjoying a cup of coffee at the Women & Children's Home*

Mission statements are nothing new. Even huge corporations create them, although many of us have a problem reading, much less understanding them. The Cornerstone organization, on the other hand, keeps things simple in its new mission statement: People served by Cornerstone are able to live successfully on their own in balanced and interdependent lives with Christ.

One of Cornerstone's ministries is the Women and Children's Home, which opened in 2005 and houses between 30 and 40 women and children—guests—each day. The staff and volunteers emphasize that the program provides a chance for stability and healing while becoming self-sufficient. It is a home, not a free motel, guests learn.

The Home operates largely from the funds raised by the Cornerstone Thrift Store, and as grateful as Cornerstone is for donations people bring to the Thrift Store, the organization benefits even more by their sales because the revenue comes back to the Home. In fact the Home is the only place that receives Thrift Store revenues. In addition, guests are asked to either do mission service or if they can, pay \$7 per day, except on Sundays and holidays. This money goes into a fund for the guests to use when they leave on such items as rental deposits, first-month rent, or toward a household voucher.

I volunteered at the Home for a few months this year. In that time I saw a ministry that is true to its mission, whose staff and volunteers not only do an outstanding job but also uphold the underlying fact that this is a Christian mission. Guests are treated with respect and consideration and the staff and volunteers expect the same from those living at the Home. They take seriously Paul's words, "Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself (Ephesians 2:20, NLT).

The Home's program director and program manager told me that they are able to do what they do because of the great support of the community, whether it is individuals, churches, education, or government programs such as Social Services. There is no such thing, they say, as a "typical guest." A single woman with a college degree can lose her job, suffer serious health problems and end up homeless. Her needs differ from the teen mom who may have been abandoned by her family.

Women who seek help first go to the Cornerstone Men's Mission, where they are interviewed by the case manager and/or program director who assess the woman's needs for shelter. Sometimes substance abuse, physical abuse, or mental illness are factors. Do they have a job? Are there children? What level of education? Do they realize this is a Christian organization? The first few days are an adjustment for most guests, as group living is hard for some people. Each guest also has chores to complete each day and we strictly monitor who is allowed onto the property. Women with children must supervise them at all times and strictly limit the use of the phone for personal calls and television-watching time. Guests sometimes think there are too many rules but the rules are based on common sense and safety.

After a few days at the Home, guests without a job are expected to look for one. Many resources are available to them, including the government's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The emphasis is on "temporary," as the assistance ends when the guest obtains a job. The next step is to enroll in the Dear Ones Child Care, also a Cornerstone facility, followed by the application process to obtain low-income housing.

# Bird and Bison Banquet on the Way!

The Cornerstone Rescue Mission will be holding its annual **Bird & Bison Banquet Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center**, and we hope we can count on your support again this year!

Your donation will provide additional support for the Mission's Women and Children's Shelter in the form of food, housing and Christian counseling geared toward self-sufficiency.

We are asking for businesses and individuals to commit to either a \$500 or \$1,000 (or more) sponsorship for the March fund raiser. With your \$1,000 sponsorship, your name or business name will appear on all promotional pieces, including invitations, ads, chamber pak and programs at the event. You will also receive a complimentary table of eight.

If you have a retail business and would like to donate items for the silent auction, please send an email to [volunteer@cornerstonemission.org](mailto:volunteer@cornerstonemission.org) or complete this form and mail to the address listed. While any donation is appreciated, we hope you can participate as a sponsor.

Please make checks payable to **Cornerstone Rescue Mission** and return to  
**PO Box 2188 Rapid City, SD 57709**  
**Attention: Bird & Bison & add to memo of check.**

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **\$1000 Sponsor.** Name listed on all promotional materials including invitations, fliers, ads and programs. A table of 8.

\_\_\_\_ **\$500 Sponsor.** Name listed in the event program. 2 complimentary tickets to the event.

*Thanks so much for supporting the Cornerstone Rescue Mission!*



**Back again this year at the Bird & Bison Banquet - The Cornerstone Thrift Store Boutique!**

## A Simple Mission, *continued*

### 2011 Cornerstone Board of Directors

Sam Fischer, President  
Fischer Furniture

Dr. Chad Carpenter, Vice President  
Carpenter Dental

Dick McConnell, Secretary  
Architect

James Castleberry  
Executive Director,  
Cornerstone Rescue Mission

Greg Barnier  
Attorney at Law

Fred Erdman  
Doug's Sinclair

Dr. Mark Harlow

Cameron Humphres  
Director  
Rapid Clty Regional Airport

Dr. Joseph Kieffer  
Kieffer Family Dental

Emily Larimer  
Clinical Nurse Educator, VA

Ron McLaughlin  
Pastor, Hills View E-Free

Beverly Schoenstedt, RN  
RC Regional

Kevin Thom  
Pennington County Sheriff

Dexter Wittman

I was particularly struck by the staff's and volunteers' helpful yet matter-of-fact approach to helping guests solve individual problems and how they responded to some negative behavior. "Many of these women have seen their whole world, or even part of it, crumble around them," says Andrea Denke. "At Cornerstone our job is to help them build it up brick by brick: Where can I get some clothes? How much does it cost to stay here? Can I get some financial assistance while I look for a job? How do I enroll my child in school and arrange for transportation? How do I learn the bus schedule and get a bus pass? How can I get training for a job? Can I learn how to read? What is a resume? How do I put together a budget? Where can I get a GED (general equivalency diploma)? And then there are the physical needs such as glasses, dental care, and vaccinations. So much of it is knowing the right place to get the answers to the questions."

As long as the guest is making progress, no cap is put on her stay at the Home. Each guest is looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Helping people live successfully on their own. A simple mission, perhaps, but served so very well by the staff and resources at the Cornerstone Mission and the Women & Children's Home.

## Needs List

### MEN'S MISSION

Tomato sauce/tomato soup  
Spaghetti sauce  
Coffee, creamer, sugar  
Drink mixes, any kind  
Cheeses – any kind  
Lasagna noodles  
Canned fruit

### VETERANS

Phone cards, gas cards  
Shoes & boots, sizes 10-13  
Christmas tree &  
Christmas decorations  
Winter coats, gloves, & hats,  
all sizes

### APARTMENTS

Bulk laundry & dish soap  
Paper towels, napkins, tissue,  
toilet paper  
Shower curtains, rods, & rings  
Exterior bench  
Picnic table and umbrella  
Smokers outpost  
Kitty litter or auto oil remover  
Quart size Ziploc bags  
Gas cards, Bus passes

### CHAPEL

CD player, Microphone

### DEAR ONES CHILD CARE

Pots, pans, & muffin tins  
Dish soap (both kinds)  
Sippy cups, Paper plates

### WOMEN &

### CHILDREN'S HOME

Shampoo/conditioner  
-adult & baby  
Baby wash, wipes, diaper cream  
Lotion – adult & baby  
Coffee, creamer, sugar  
Meat, milk, eggs  
Postage Stamps  
Feminine products  
Alcohol-free cough syrup &  
cough drops  
Cleaning supplies (Comet,  
bleach, Windex, Odoban)

### THRIFT STORE

Hand sanitizers  
(waterless hand soap)  
Packing tape, Kleenex  
Rechargeable AA &  
AAA batteries

**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!)