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The Heartbeat of The Mission

April 2011

March, the Beginning of Spring!

March was a busy month for the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. We started it off with our annual fundraiser, the Bird and Bison Banquet. on Saturday, March 5 at the Civic Center. We had just under 400 people in attendance, and we raised over \$40,000 after expenses. We are so blessed to have such support for this event, with the sponsors and retailers who donated almost everything, from the silent auction items, table decorations, and even coupons for free haircuts!

On March 17 we celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Dear Ones Child Care; the photo shows some of the children who enjoyed showing off their lucky four leaf clover glasses and wearing of the green.

Our new child care manager, Heather Hoeye, is asking for your help to make this summer even better for the children with the following request. "I would like to request Summer Event Sponsors for Dear Ones Child Care. If we have some generous sponsors, there are many activities we would love to have the children be able to experience this summer. Things they may not otherwise get to; such as Elks Theater passes, Reptile Gardens, Old McDonald's Farm, swimming

passes, etc. Any help would be so appreciated!! I want to make it a great summer for our little ones!"

Sunday, March 20 brought the first day of spring, and that always makes us think of all the projects we have waiting for us outdoors when the weather warms. So if you have some time on your hands and want to volunteer to help out, please be sure to give the Volunteer Department a call.

From the guests and staff at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission we want to thank everyone who helped make March such a great month for all of us!



NEEDS LIST:

MEN'S MISSION

- Ketchup
- Coffee
- Olive oil
- Sugar
- Juice/juice mixes
- Salad dressings
- Mac & cheese
- Canned fruit
- Corn starch
- Gravy mixes
- Biscuits

APARTMENTS

- Bulk laundry & dish Soap
- Quart size Ziploc bags
- Package juice boxes

- Individually wrapped crackers/ granola bars
- Pillows/twin/queen sheet sets/ mattress pads
- First-aid supplies
- Plastic storage binds
- Dining table & chairs
- Shower curtains, rods, & rings

DEAR ONES CHILD CARE

- High chair
- Paper towels
- Facial tissue
- Trash bags – 13 gal.
- Curtains
- Large throw pillows
- Wind chime

WOMEN & CHILDREN'S HOME

- Paper towels
- Large black & tall kitchen trash bags
- Deodorant
- Bath tissue
- Coffee, coffee creamer
- Butter
- Ground beef

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SOPHIA'S *Smile*



When they were discouraged, I smiled at them. My look of approval was precious to them. Like a chief, I told them what to do. I lived like a king among his troops and comforted those who mourned (Job 29:24-25).

Sophia came to stay at Cornerstone Rescue Mission in late September of last year. She stayed at the Women and Children's Home earlier in the year but had left to go back to the reservation after a short stay.

Sophia's life had been so similar to many of the women who come to stay at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. She had spent the past 11 years on the street, going in and out of detox and jail alternately for alcohol-related crimes. When she first came to stay at the Women and Children's Home, she was very guarded and always had a frown on her face. Sophia was used to looking out for herself on the streets and trusting no one. She was not quick to trust staff to help her. She was used to "friends" coming around once a month to help her drink away her disability check.

One day when talking to Sophia a staff member teased her and said, "If you keep frowning all of the time, I am going to have to start calling you Smiley." This made her smile, a big bright smile that warmed the room. Ever since then when we greet Sophia she puts on her gorgeous smile. She worked with Women and Children's Home staff to move past her fears. She now has an AA sponsor to help maintain her sobriety, and she attends meetings weekly. She is comfortable using the bus system to go to the bank without fear of her old friends approaching her. She especially enjoys attending the weekly bible study at the Home with her friends from First United Methodist Church. With the help of her case manager to make appeals on her behalf due to her criminal history, she is on several low income housing waiting lists and hopes to move into an apartment sometime in the next month or two.

When she leaves us we will miss Sophia's warm smile, but we know that she will continue to share her smile with others while living independently. We wish we could say that every woman who comes to the home has this kind of success, but what we can say is that God has a plan for each and every one, and with God's grace and love working thru the hearts of the women we hope to share many more stories like Sophia's. Remember how God allowed Job to go through so many trials and losses, and yet even Job remembered he could smile.

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!)