



The Heartbeat of The Mission

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

February 2016

THANK YOU

We hope you all had a blessed holiday season and you made some wonderful memories with your family and friends. So many people, civic groups, Veteran's groups and business groups ensured our guests were well taken care of during the holiday season. We received so many gifts and donations that each one of our guests was able to receive a Christmas gift – something we have never been able to accomplish before – and all because of you. Our guests and staff thank you for your caring generosity. We have been incredibly busy with more guests than normal and have endured a snow storm and frigid temperatures. While not everyone got a bed and some had to sleep on the floor, the atmosphere was positive and filled with God's grace and love. We want to thank all of you who heard our public appeal for bedding, food and monetary donations. The need is great, and continues to be so, yet the outpouring of support from the community has been overwhelming and we are very grateful for your generosity.

The Women and Children's Home is full to capacity as well. Our guests are enjoying the extra space, along with the closer proximity to health care, shopping and employment opportunities. We hosted an Open House in December and heard many positive comments about how nice, warm and "homey" the facility was, and the guests had the opportunity to partake in the festivities and express their gratitude. We really want to thank Jim Castleberry for spearheading this project. Our former Women and Children's facility was an older home that was not conducive to a shelter, but we made it work. Jim's dream was to find a more suitable space for ministry, housing and healing, and he worked tirelessly to make it happen. Additionally, we express our appreciation to those who helped us fund and renovate our dream Women and Children's Home.

We live in a wonderful community filled with big hearts and Christ's love! We are continuing to add new programming for our guests and friends in the community and we look forward to sharing those updates with you. In the meantime, Cornerstone staff and guests wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!



*Josh, Lysa, & Jim at the
Women & Children's Home Open House*

MISSION VOICES

For our Mission Voices segment this month I am including a touching e-mail received from one of our previous guests at the Women & Children's Home. Powerful stories like this rejuvenate and refresh the staff of Cornerstone.....

"In an instant our lives were changed, one second we were living life the next second we were homeless just like that. I have children. I didn't know what to do or where we could stay, I was upset and hurt. I tried other places even my church but no one could or would help. I called Anita with the McKinney Vento Program, she was able to get ahold of the Women's and Children's Cornerstone Mission Shelter, and together they were able to help my children and I. I don't remember all the names but want to say a special thanks to Sheela, Anita, Bev, and the house ladies, who helped us. I am so thankful beyond words to you all, your kindness meant so much in our time of struggle. Having food, showers, and a warm place at night are just some of the things some people don't realize can mean so much to those who need them so badly. I told God I wouldn't complain anymore and I am going to try my best at that, knowing there are people out there who care in an instant and help just like that makes you know in spite of it all life can go on. Sheela I just want you to know our talks, your upbeat soul, kind smile and words are what kept me from breaking. Thank you so much for what you do and for what you did for us."

EXTREME QUILTS

Every once in a while we get a donation in that takes my breath away. The quilting ladies of Bethlehem Lutheran Church rolled in with such a donation for the Women & Children's Home. They dropped off several handmade quilts with little fuss or fanfare. After I started to unfold these quilts, they practically took my breath away! These quilts are intricate works of art! I can't even imagine how many hours of work went into them.

We want to send a loud shout out to the Quilters of Bethlehem Lutheran Church for their generosity and the many, many hours they spent on these quilts. They included a tag with them that said:

"Quilts are like hugs in the chaos of life." And with a bible verse from Isaiah which reads "For this is what the Lord says....as a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you".

The quilts these ladies dropped off are truly COMFORT and LOVE.



ELEPHANTS ON PARADE

Thanks to Fay Swenson and her friend, Gayle Fairey, we had approximately 75 elephants hanging out in our conference room for a few weeks before Christmas. Fay is an Avon sales representative and for the last 15 years – yes I said 15 YEARS – she has been buying the Avon stuffed animal of the year and donating them to the children of Cornerstone at Christmas. Gayle has recently joined forces with her and SEWS a pillowcase for each child – another amazing fact! This year they stuffed the elephants inside the pillow cases – making them look like circus elephants. The “cute factor” was off the charts!



Fay with her elephant friends.

ALL of the children of Cornerstone got one for Christmas and I can only imagine what a comfort it was for them to sleep on a new pillowcase, that belonged just to them, and to snuggle a soft stuffed animal.

We thank Fay and Gayle for their generosity, hard work, and dedication to the children of Cornerstone!

TROT FOR TOTS

Some people run – some people watch. I’m a watcher but I sure do admire the runners – especially the runners who run in the cold and run to support a cause. December 12th was such the case when the Black Hills Surgical Hospital held its second annual Trot For Tots. They had about 200 participants who brought a lot of toys and other donations for the children of Cornerstone. These donations helped to provide each child at Cornerstone with at least two gifts this holiday season. We want to thank the Black Hills Surgical Hospital for putting on this event and the participants for their generosity. Happy trails to all of you!



**2016
Cornerstone
Board of
Directors**

**Dr. Chad Carpenter,
President**

**Sam Fischer,
Vice President**

**Dick McConnell,
Secretary**

**Lysa Allison,
Executive Director**

**Greg Barnier,
Attorney at Law**

**Dr. Jim Castleberry,
Cornerstone Foundation**

**Fred Erdman,
Doug's Sinclair**

Dr. Mark Harlow

Emily Larimer

**Ron McLaughlin,
Pastor, Hills View E-Free**

**Judy Schlauger,
CASA, H. T. Task Force**

**Kevin Thom,
Pennington County
Sheriff**

Needs List

MEN'S MISSION

**30 Main St.
KITCHEN:**

Cereal, canned fruit, coffee, sugar, creamer, oatmeal, milk, eggs, meat, food of any kind

MISSION:

Toothbrushes & toothpaste, deodorant, razors, travel-size shampoo, backpacks

VETERANS

30 Main St.

Shaving cream & razors, shoes & boots, backpacks, underwear & T-shirts, coffee

WOMEN & CHILDREN'S HOME

301 Fox Run Drive
Laundry & dishwasher soap pods, twin size fitted sheets, dressers, fans, bus passes, towels & washcloths green in color, deodorant, alarm clocks, all foods, coffee

APARTMENTS

1220 East Blvd.

Dish soap, window cleaner

ADOPT A FAMILY: Gas cards, oil changes, laundry & dish soap, toilet paper, household things

DEAR ONES CHILD CARE

2901 Wisconsin Avenue
Puzzles, board games, toddler toys, baby wipes & pull-ups, Zip-lock bags all sizes, under-bed storage containers, over-door shoe pouch, food processor, canned or fresh fruits & vegetables

CORNERSTONE THRIFT STORE

401 - 11th Street
Beds, household furniture, household appliances, kitchen items, home décor

GIFT BASKETS NEEDED for the BIRD & BISON BANQUET

In preparation for the Cornerstone Rescue Mission's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Bird & Bison Banquet, we are asking churches, businesses, or any interested parties, to put together a gift basket to be sold at our silent auction that evening, March 12, 2016.

I have been amazed in the past by the generosity of the people who put such great items in these baskets and by the creative people who decorate them. We hope that your group will come together and take on this fun project.

To show our appreciation, gift basket donors will be listed in our program that evening, along with signage on the basket table.

Please let Deb know your commitment at dberg@cornerstonemission.org or 718-8712. Baskets should be delivered to Deb at the Cornerstone Thrift Store, 401 11th Street, by March 2nd.

Thank you so much for supporting Cornerstone!

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!)