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The Heartbeat of The Mission

May 2016

DANIEL'S STORY

I love a good story, especially when it involves a Veteran and a happy ending.

Daniel Black Lance visited my office today, eager to tell his story, and full of joy over where his journey has brought him.

Daniel was born on the Rosebud Reservation. He entered the Army National Guard at a young age and did his basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama; and later went to Fort Benning, Georgia where he was a Tactical Wiring Specialist. Unfortunately, Daniel's time in the service was cut short by grand mal seizures, which he still struggles with to this day.

After the service Daniel fell into the downhill slide of drugs and alcohol, eventually ending up in prison for three years. In 2013, at the end of his prison sentence, Daniel was ready to change his life and requested that he be paroled out directly to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. There he met Teena Conrad, Veteran Program Coordinator, and says **"Teena made me become a better person. She made me think of the consequences of what I was doing."** He said that Teena gave him hope and **"never gave up on him"**. He told me one of the things that she said that has really stuck with him is **"If what you are doing today isn't working, tomorrow is a new day to try something different. And to never give up because tomorrow is a chance to do better"**. Even though Daniel, his wife, and his 6-year-old daughter are now living in a rented trailer, he and Teena still check in with each other on a regular basis. I could tell he is comforted by their ongoing contact. He mentioned that he calls Teena at times to **"see if something is right"** before he does it.

The icing on the cake to this story is that Daniel and his family recently signed up for a Habitat For Humanity house and their chances look promising. We are all very proud of Daniel! -Deb

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We are privileged to work with homeless veterans and are able to help them with veteran specific programs operating through Cornerstone Rescue Mission. We have our veterans transitional housing program where veterans can live while they heal, get treatment, find work and prepare to move into their own apartments. We have similar services for homeless female veterans at our Women and Children's Home. We have a Veteran's Outreach Center where any veteran, homeless or not, can come in and do laundry for free, take a shower, work in the computer lab, get case management services, watch TV and have a cup of coffee with their friends. We also have a grant that helps low income veterans stay in their home so they are not evicted, or take them from a shelter or treatment situation and get them into their own housing. Last year we were able to house, or keep housed, 281 veterans across the state. We are proud to serve our veterans in several capacities and honor their commitment and service so we can continue to live freely.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Memorial Day!

Lysa

A CHILD'S VIEW OF HOMELESSNESS

Recently one of our board members brought me the story below. It has such an interesting twist because it was written as a school essay by a 9-year-old who has a grandfather who is homeless. We wanted to share it with you – in her own words.....

“Do you want to be thought of as a leader? Good! If you are interested in helping the homeless, read our story because you'll be thought of as a hero!

My grandpa James is homeless, but he is able to stay in the mission, which is a really good thing because the mission gives him a cot, food, blankets and most important a place to stay for a little while.

According to google some reasons people can be homeless is because of mental disabilities or someone lost their job but that doesn't explain the number of people who fall into homelessness. (61% of homeless people are men. 15% of homeless people are women and another 15% are entire families.)

A way to help these people is by giving them a home to stay in till they buy a house permanently. They need a job too if they don't have a job. But you might have to help them find a job if they do not have one.

Offer your hand in helping the homeless by giving old stuff you do not want might want it. Well that's all but help the homeless people when you come across them.”

We love this girl's heart and her simple message of “offering your hand to the homeless”. It is a good reminder to all of us.

TEENS FOR JEANS

I love it when I hear stories of young people getting involved, showing compassion to those less fortunate, and taking ACTION to make a difference in this world. Aspen Stover is one such young person. Aspen is a Sophomore at Hot Springs High School. She has been in 4-H for eight years and each year she does a community service project which she researches and organizes. This year she chose Teens For Jeans through the DoSomething organization. Through her research, she discovered that over a million young people experience homelessness in the United States every year and that one of the most requested items they ask for are jeans. With the help of her school and community, she collected 78 pairs of jeans and delivered them to the Women & Children's Home – where they are going to make many young people very happy. We thank Aspen and her supporters for thinking of the teens of Cornerstone and taking ACTION!



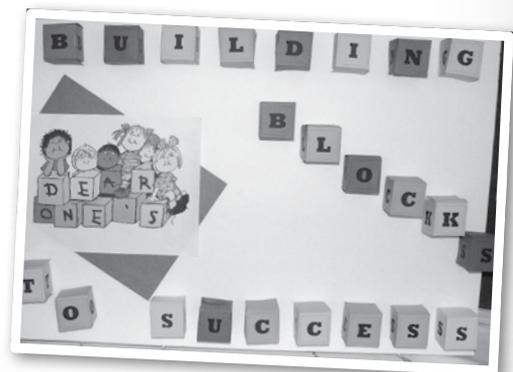
BUILDING BLOCKS TO SUCCESS

There's an old adage that says you can't buy time. However, today you have the opportunity to do exactly that – buy time. You can do this by sponsoring a child from the Dear Ones Child Care. We care for the youngest members of our society affected by homelessness – the children. Our daycare cares for up to 20 children from ages 4 to 12 years old so their parents can work or look for a job. Quite often our guests at the Women & Children's Home and Cornerstone Apartments find themselves stuck in a "Catch 22" situation: No job, no childcare. No childcare, no job.

The Building Blocks To Success sponsorship fund makes it possible for Dear Ones to provide childcare for those families who fall through the cracks and temporarily cannot afford to pay for childcare on their own.

The costs of sponsorship are as follows:

- One Hour\$3.15
- One Day\$25.20
- One Week\$126.00
- One Month\$504.00



Thank you for helping the families of Cornerstone achieve their employment goals!

**2016
Cornerstone
Board of
Directors**

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President**

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Vice President**

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**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
Laundry baskets
Dressers
Bookshelves
Twin-size rubber-backed mattress pads, Cleaning supplies
Coffee & creamer

APARTMENTS

1220 East Blvd.

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

**DEAR ONES
CHILD CARE**

2901 Wisconsin Avenue

Baby wipes & pull-ups
Food processor
Canned or fresh fruits & vegetables
Infant swing
Infant bouncer
Hand or electric air pump
Small microwave

**CORNERSTONE
THRIFT STORE**

401 - 11th Street

Beds, household furniture, household appliances, kitchen items, home décor

CRIME FREE HOUSING

Cornerstone strives to keep our guests safe. A perfect example of this is that the Cornerstone Apartments once again passed their yearly Crime Free Housing Recertification. Officers Black and Treviel from the City of Rapid City did the inspection. A celebration was held that evening with a pizza party for the guests, with pizza donated by Pizza Hut and Marcos. Thanks to everyone at the apartments for helping keep our residents safe!



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

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

For more information or to direct Choice Dollars, call 1-800-847-4836 and say Thrivent Choice® at the prompt or go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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!)