

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

May 2009

Helping Homeless Veterans

On any given night the Cornerstone Rescue Mission feeds roughly 50 veterans. We are honored to be a part in their recovery and re-entry into the community.

Many people don't realize that veterans of the United States Armed Forces comprise 23 percent of the homeless population. Conservative estimates by the Nation Coalition for Homeless Veterans count one out of every three homeless men who is sleeping in a park, alley or under an overpass as an individual who has served our country as a member of the armed forces.



Executive Director Jim Castleberry



Right now, the number of homeless male and female Vietnam era veterans is greater than the number of service persons who died during that war, and a small number of Desert Storm veterans are also appearing in the homeless population.

The Veterans Administration (VA) estimates that nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless on any given night and nearly 400,000 experience homelessness over the course of a year.

Your continuing support of our work at Cornerstone can help us bring hope and healing to these individuals who given so much to our country.

Blessings, and, as always, our thanks for your prayers and support,

Jim

Jobs at the Mission

We need responsible and compassionate people to join our team of dedicated professionals serving the needs of homeless children, women and men in Rapid City. Individuals who have a heart for ministry are invited to apply. Applications are available at the Cornerstone Administrative Office located at 401 11th Street and on our website: www.cornerstonemission.org.

Call Lisa at 718-8713 for more information on the following positions:

Children's Advocate: We have a special need for someone who enjoys loving and nurturing infants & toddlers. This is a full-time position working Monday through Friday in our new child care program.

Cook (Cornerstone Mission): If you love to cook for many people, you may be the person we are looking for to fill a full-time cook position at the Mission. Previous experience is a plus!

Growing and Learning Together

Every Thursday evening, a diverse group of people come together at the First Presbyterian Church downtown to share a meal and social support as they grow and learn together. Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) has graciously opened their arms to people and organizations from across this community to provide classes and individualized mentoring that support the development of new life skills by offering Life INC classes.

Cornerstone is extremely blessed to be a part of this weekly commitment to promoting new life habits. In order to broaden the learning opportunities offered, Love INC also partners with representatives from Catholic Social Services, Pennington County Drug & Alcohol and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. Participants have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of classes lead by volunteer trainers including: Job Skills 101, Money

101, Common Sense Parenting, Nutrition on a Budget, Financial Freedom and Successful Living. Individualized mentoring is also provided by volunteers to help students apply the information they learn in class to their unique circumstances.

Free child care is provided as well as “Youth Adventures” development activities for children between 8 and 15 years of age.

The classes are held in 10 week series. A local church provides a free meal each week. Classes begin at 6:00 and last from 1 to 1½ hours depending on the class. During this time instructors, mentors and students share a learning adventure that can be truly life changing for everyone

involved. This is truly the body of Christ in action!

If you would like to know more about the Life INC classes, or would like know how you can contribute your knowledge and gifts by getting involved, call Love INC at 718-5683 or send an email to mail@love-inc.us.



Needs Lists

We are grateful for the support of this community throughout the year! Our current needs include:

Cornerstone Apartments

Cleaning supplies
Laundry detergent and fabric softener
Small dressers and kitchen chairs
Picnic table
File organizers and calculators

Men's Mission

Sugar, salt, pancake mix
Nonfat dry milk
Deodorant, razors, shaving cream
Underwear (boxers)
Copy machine

Women & Children's Home

Shampoo and conditioner
Laundry detergent
Towels and bath rugs
Ink cartridges (HP 21)
Potatoes

Answered Prayers

I took my troubles to the Lord; I cried out to him, and he answered my prayer.
—Psalm 120:1

Praise God for his unending willingness to listen to our prayers! For several years, we've been asking our Heavenly Father for an answer to a need for child care for the little people we serve. The need at times seemed overwhelming. Child care was an ever present barrier to education and employment for the parents who come to Cornerstone longing for a brighter future for their families. And, in God's perfect timing, the prayers have been answered.

Cornerstone has been provided with the opportunity to lease an existing child care facility located in southeast Rapid City. The program, called Dear Ones, was previously operated by a Christian couple until health challenges prevented them from continuing. They prayed for a way for the facility to be used for its intended purpose of providing nurturing care and early education for young children. Cornerstone's need was also the answer to their prayers.

We will now be able to serve up to 20 children at any given time in a licensed child care facility. Our focus is to provide services that are not readily available in the community including care for infants and toddlers, care during evening and weekend hours. Parent education events will also help us support families in their effort to become self-sufficient. We will offer these services to Cornerstone families initially. On a space available basis, we will also open our enrollment to families referred by community partners such as WAVI and Ohitika (both domestic violence shelters), and other social service organizations.

Parents who have employment will pay a fee for these services. Some families will receive state funded child care assistance. We are very grateful for a grant received from the Vucurevich Foundation that will provide critical support for the first year of operation including funding for transportation of children to child care and school as well as for parents to work and educational institutions.

We will host a community open house on Wednesday, May 27 from 2 to 5 p.m.. Please call 718-8712 if you would like to attend or would like to know more about this wonderful new program!



*Child Care Supervisor Sarah Lewis
and Makoa (a future fireman).*



Jordan, enjoying water play at the new child care playground.

Board of Directors

Rodney Schlauger, Chairman*
Attorney, Bangs McCullen, et al.

Dick McConnell, Secretary*
Architect

Jim Castleberry, Ph.D.*
Executive Director, Cornerstone

Gregory J. Barnier*
Attorney at Law

Tom Garinger
Rapid City Police Department

Dr. Mark Harlow

June Highlan
Financial Advisor

Jeffrey G. Hurd
Attorney, Bangs McCullen, et al.

Dr. Joseph Kieffer
Kieffer Family Dental P.C.

Rick Livesey
S.D. Carpenters Local 587

Ron McLaughlin
Pastor, Hills View E-Free Church

Doug Thrash
Rapid City Police Department

Ann Van Loan
Western Resources For The Dis-ABLED

Dexter Wittman
State's Attorney's Office

*Executive Board member

A Servant's Heart

Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

—John 12:26

Throughout his time on earth, Jesus encouraged people to approach life experiences with a servant's heart. From a place of leadership, to the most humble position, he invites us to think of others more than ourselves. This was not a mere suggestion, it was a challenge!

Do you have a servant's heart? Are you longing for the opportunity to bless someone? Each day in the Cornerstone ministry, volunteers truly make a difference by performing simple tasks such as serving a meal, assisting with donations, answering the telephone or helping with special events.

We truly believe that each volunteer has special gifts, knowledge or skills that God has uniquely given to be shared with others. If you would like to explore the unique ways that you are called to serve, please join us at our next Volunteer Informational Meeting:

Friday, May 8

from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

in our training room located at 401 Eleventh Street

Please call Mary at 718-8712 for more information.

We have a special need for volunteers to help organize our benefit golf tournament. No experience required. All you need is a servant's heart!



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!)