

## The Heartbeat of The Mission

# The Lord Provides—A Lesson Learned

*(Editor's note: This month we've asked Bird & Bison Committee Chair Debbie Ketel to say a few words about her experiences with organizing our annual event.)*

Every year that I've been involved with the Cornerstone Rescue Mission's Bird & Bison Banquet, I've been challenged in some way. In the early years, it was a challenge to get all the meat donated and hope that everything was prepared correctly. It was a challenge to get the word out about a new event. A few years in, it was a challenge to make sure that all the details were in place. That there were enough volunteers to help set up tables. That there were enough people attending. Sometimes deciding on whether to bring in a "special" speaker was challenging, because we were concerned that people needed another reason to attend.

But, most of all, it's been challenging because of what God has been trying to teach me. That HE is the one that provides. That this event is not dependent on having matching centerpieces, or yummy food, or creatively designed invitations, or an enthralling speaker or even generous sponsors and donors. The success of this event has always been dependent on Him. And, He has blessed it tremendously, both spiritually and financially.

And this year was no different.

On March 3, around 350 attended the B&B at the Civic Center where they enjoyed a fabulous meal, witnessed first-hand the quality of items in the Thrift Store Boutique, bid on silent auction items and bought raffle tickets for a HDTV.

They also heard how the Mission has affected the lives of so many through a video presentation and the moving words of Mission volunteer and advocate Heather Hilgemeier. She said it best when she said that so many people contribute to the Mission (and this event) in a variety of ways. Some can give money, like sponsors. Some can give talents, such as arranging flowers and setting up tables. Some can give in-kind items, such as designing and printing invitations. Some can sing. Some can organize. Some can encourage others to come and give. Some can talk in front of a group of people. And some can love the homeless in our area by listening, encouraging and being there for them on a consistent basis.

All in all, close to \$30,000 was raised as a result of God working through so many volunteers and attendees. So, let my lesson be an encouragement to you, too. You can give in a variety of ways, whether it be for this event or helping in another way at the Mission. Some of your efforts may be recognized. Some not. Maybe you will never see the fruit of your labor. But all will be for the glory of God.



*Executive Director Jim Castleberry, B&B Committee Chair Debbie Ketel, and outgoing Board President (and B&B MC) Rod Schlauger.*

# Surprise Treasures

## Thrifting passion turns into successful fundraiser

They say one man's trash is another one's treasure. Abbie Thrash proved how true those words are at last month's Bird and Bison Banquet. Long fascinated with thrift stores and antique shops, Abbie used her passion to create a Cornerstone Thrift Store Boutique at the banquet. The idea for this new feature first came to Abbie last summer.

"My husband, Doug, is on the Board," she explains.



Household items on display.

"Wives of Board members are asked to help with preparations for the banquet."

While thinking about how she could help, she visited the store, and was instantly impressed. "There's so much stuff there, and it's all so nicely displayed," she said, smiling warmly. That's when the idea hit her. "They always have a silent auction at the banquet, but not everyone can afford to bid on those items. A boutique showcasing items found in



A grouping of accessories from the Thrift Store.

(Continued on page 4)

## Needs Lists

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

### Men's Mission

Salt  
Sugar  
Coffee  
Milk (fresh)  
Eggs  
Sugar  
Butter  
Men's medium-size underwear  
Creamer  
Toothpaste, toothbrushes  
Deodorant  
Razors, shaving cream

### Dear Ones Child Care

Diaper Genie inserts/refills  
Dishwasher soap, powder or liquid  
Gallon ziplock freezer bags  
Plastic wrap

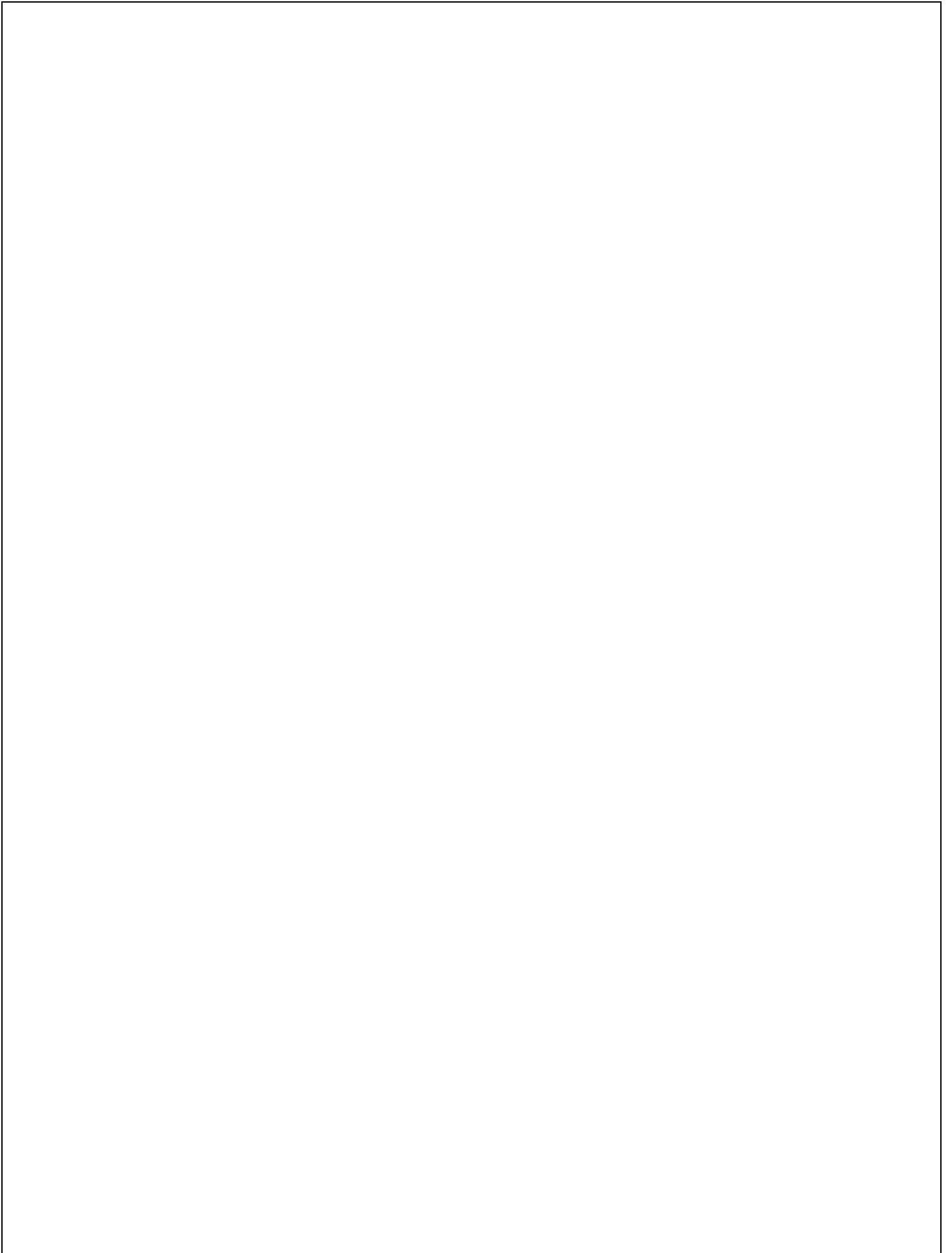
### Women's Home

Large trash bags  
Tall kitchen bags  
Bath tissue  
Sugar  
Flour  
Laundry detergent  
Fabric softener sheets

### Apartments

Diapers (all sizes)  
Shampoo & conditioner  
Non-perishable food  
Cleaning supplies  
Towels & curtains  
Pillows & sheets

Tin foil  
Double-sided tape  
Paper towels



## Board of Directors

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**\*Executive Board member**

## Surprise Treasures

*(Continued from page 2)*

the Thrift Store would allow more people to buy something to support the Cornerstone organization. It's a great way to get the word out about the Thrift Store."

Recently retired from her job as an executive assistant at Rapid City Regional Hospital, Abbie had plenty of time to develop her plan. For the next several months, she visited to store often, gathering various items to be used for the boutique. She planned how to group them into attractive displays of various types: kids' items; clothing for men, women, infants; household items; an assortment of leather coats; even a Harley Davidson table.



*Abbie Thrash*

When a friend donated an antique kerosene lamp to the project, Abbie put together a grouping of Western-themed items for the silent auction. She later learned that this special grouping brought an additional \$175. The day of the auction, workers



*The Western-themed table.*

from the Thrift Store put in hours of overtime helping Abbie with setup before the banquet, and with tear-down afterward. "I couldn't have done it without them," she says gratefully.

The Boutique was a major success, bringing in over \$600 for Cornerstone. Organizers were so pleased,

she's been asked to do the Boutique again at next year's banquet, and to help with displays at the store.

Thrilled with how things turned out, Abbie shared some final thoughts with us. "This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Thrift Store and to put emphasis on what's being done there to help women and children. It also helped us emphasize the quality of help they find there." Thanks to volunteers like Abbie, that quality shines through in everything we do.

**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!)