



*The Heartbeat of The Mission*

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## Employment Barriers

One of the core components of services we offer to the homeless and disenfranchised members of our community is assistance in obtaining work. Notably, about 70 percent of the residents at the men's mission work at jobs in the community. However, a closer look at our other facilities that house women and children, families, and veterans reveals a very different situation. These groups—women, Native American, Hispanic, disabled, and “special disabled” clients—present challenges that share common threads, such as lack of available specialized services, limited financial resources and societal prejudices. And since there is no “one size fits all” solution to the problems that result in homelessness, the diversity of our program participants presents its own unique obstacles to success.

It may seem like stating the obvious, but there is a tremendous difference between preparing someone for the workforce and actually ensuring that homeless clients secure gainful employment. Successfully navigating through the immediate barriers to employment—homelessness, poverty, vocational training needs, legal problems, transportation, daycare, and disabilities—is only the beginning. Approaching a potential employer with clients who have compromised work and personal histories is, at best, a herculean challenge.

At Cornerstone we work toward success by creating job opportunities. In some cases, it is through cooperative agreements with local businesses or through subsidized employment and training programs for special needs populations. In some cases, it is through job-specific training at facilities such as the Career Learning Center or Western Dakota Technical Institute. We also use our Work for Success program that employs homeless participants directly, offering them work experience and management training they would otherwise be denied. In all cases, a considerable investment is required to ensure there are jobs for homeless individuals who are working to re-enter the workforce at a time when unemployment is high.

With the continued downturn in the economy the demand on our ministry for services is high and the challenges we face as a community will only be solved through our continued willingness to help one another in a spirit of grace and dignity. I thank you for all that you have done and your commitment to walk alongside us in the journey before us.

Blessings,

*Jim*

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# New Outreach Case Manager for Veteran Program



Cornerstone's new Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) program has recently hired a case manager for the outreach portion of the program. James Swan is the staff member assigned to raise the awareness of services to homeless veterans in our area. Many of you may already know James from his work with the United Urban Warrior Society. James' work with them has earned him a Legislative Commemoration in 2012, commending and honoring James for fulfilling and addressing issues of concern to the Native American community, assisting with community safety, security and advocacy, creating the annual Lakota Kids Christmas and providing needs to the homeless. He said that the group builds new bridges and mends old bridges.

When asked how his experience working for Cornerstone has been he said, "I have been extremely impressed with the work done with the homeless people. Cornerstone utilizes everything they get to the maximum without anything going to waste." James also said, "The food is not your typical soup kitchen food, it is great." James has had good life experiences preparing him for what he is doing now, and says he has found his "niche." James is from the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, he is a Navy veteran, has been a neighborhood watch captain for his North Rapid neighborhood for nine years, and is good with people. He has positive community relationships with many organizations and enjoys helping people help themselves. He lives by the old proverb: If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish you feed him for a lifetime. It is better to teach someone how to do something than to do it for them.

James said, "I have spent time thinking about my strategies and going over the SSVF program guide. I put together contact information on all the Veteran Services Offices in Western South Dakota for each county and the heads of veterans programs on Pine Ridge, Standing Rock, and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes. After initial contacts are made I can start building relationships."

In summary, James is transparent, honest, and believes in an open door policy. He invites anyone with a question or concern to stop in for a visit or give him a call at 858-4755. We are pleased to add him to the Cornerstone staff.



## **KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Do you have a group that wants to help out at Cornerstone?  
Come cook and serve a meal in our newly remodeled kitchen!

### **OPEN DATES:**

4th Sunday Lunch at 1:30 every month for 2013

Call Camille at 718-8712 for more information! Thank You!

## Lisa's Story



Lisa and her son Adam came to Dear Ones Child Care Program in January of this year. She attended school at Western Dakota Tech, completed her counseling goals, was finishing up her program at Access to Recovery, and obtained a job in the local area. Lisa was doing well providing for herself and her son, but finding affordable housing was becoming a challenge. She didn't give up though and was bound and determined to continue her successes and not get discouraged. She knew she needed support and was not afraid to ask for help. Since she didn't have many options here she started researching different options based on her studies at Western Dakota Tech. Adam was thriving at Dear Ones and it was hard for her to think about a move, but she discovered an amazing opportunity for a job offer in another town.

After much thought and prayer, she made the decision to apply for the position. She couldn't have been happier when she got the job. Lisa and little Adam loaded what few items she had and with great expectation headed for a new home and a new life's journey. Without Dear Ones Child Care and the help she received through partner agencies Lisa would not have been able to accomplish any of this.

These are the success stories that continue to show what acceptance, hope and the love of Christ can do. God's word reminds of His plans in Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* (NIV)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE!



### Dear Ones Diaper Drive

Entire month of June Kick-off on Friday, May 31st at 9:00 am

Rummage Sale - Saturday, June 1st at 8:00 am - Noon

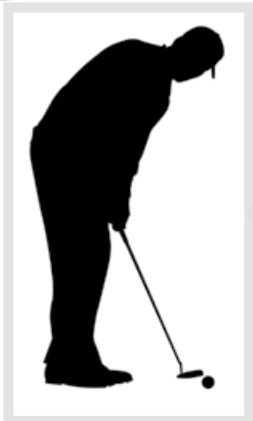
Fire truck rides, live radio remote with prizes,  
concessions for donations Friday, June 21 @ 11:00 a.m.

**at Black Hills Community Bank -840 Mt. Rushmore**

*(see [Cornerstonemission.org](http://Cornerstonemission.org) for more information)*

Diaper donation drop-off bins located at Don's Valley Mart (Haines)

Safeway (Mtn. View) and K-mart



### Homeless but not Hopeless Golf Tournament – Friday June 21st

11:00 am Red Rocks Golf Course – Sponsored by M.G. Oil Co.

## 2013 Cornerstone Board of Directors

**Sam Fischer, President**  
Fischer Furniture

**Dr. Chad Carpenter, Vice President**  
Carpenter Dental

**Dick McConnell, Secretary**  
Architect

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Cornerstone Rescue Mission  
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Clinical Nurse Educator, VA

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

**Beverly Schoenstedt, RN**  
RC Regional Wound Care

**Kevin Thom**  
Pennington County Sheriff

**Dexter Wittman**

## Needs List

### MEN'S MISSION

Coffee, creamer, sugar  
Lasagna noodles/rotini noodles  
Cream soups – (cream of mushroom, celery, etc.)  
Milk & mozzarella Cheese  
Chicken and beef base  
Canned fruit or fresh fruit  
Phone cards, gas cards, bus passes  
Flat sheets (any size), fitted twin sheets & pillows

### APARTMENTS

Large black trash bags  
Toilet paper  
Twin/Queen size mattress pads  
Odoban cleaner  
40 & 60 Watt light bulbs  
Kitchen Chairs

### THRIFT STORE

Rubber bands  
Rechargeable AA & AAA batteries  
Gallon ziploc bags  
Space bags  
Kleenex

### DEAR ONES CHILD CARE

All Free laundry detergent & bleach  
Soft soap & sunscreen  
Size 5 & 6 diapers & baby wipes  
Diaper rash cream  
Milk and soy based formula  
Infant and toddler bibs  
Rechargeable batteries, all sizes  
3 Hands free trash can with lid  
Gallon freezer bags

### WOMEN & CHILDREN'S HOME

Special Request-River Rock/Gravel  
Kleenex & tampons  
Disposable razors  
Household cleaning supplies & bleach  
Diaper cream/ointment, & baby wipes  
Vitamin C & juices (apple, orange, etc.)  
Coffee, creamer & sugar  
Canned vegetables, tomatoes/spaghetti sauce  
Dishwashing soap (not automatic)  
Trash Bags – all sizes

### VETERANS

Phone cards, gas cards, bus passes  
Shoes & boots, sizes 10-13  
Clothing sizes XXL and larger only



Volunteers from South Middle School  
Want to volunteer - call the Volunteer Dept. @ 718-8712

**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!)