



*The Heartbeat of The Mission*

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

March 2013

## Homeless Count - What's in the Numbers?

On January 29 the Rapid City Community did its annual "point-in-time" count. This is a coordinated function among a variety of law enforcement, health care and social services agencies, as well as volunteer groups and religious organizations. The goal is to gather enough data to offer suggestions on how best to target the various needs of people who struggle to make ends meet.

The survey uncovers information that shows how those specific needs vary from situation to situation. It also reveals that a large spectrum of personal circumstances may bring people to the point of homelessness.

In our facilities we have seen the greatest increase in the need for emergency shelter for women and children. This is an especially complex issue, as there is often great difficulty in obtaining gainful employment and stability for these young women with small children.

The good news is this issue is not going unnoticed and community partners are meeting to develop both short- and long-term strategies to better coordinate services. Cornerstone is a key player in this initiative but also in spreading the light and hope through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



Thanks for your continued support and prayer.

Blessings,  
Jim



### **URGENT NEED:** **Volunteers needed at Dear Ones Child Care**

**Monday thru Friday**  
**9:00 to 11:00 and 3:00 to 5:00**

Please consider giving some of your time to a child in need.  
Can you give an hour or two to the homeless & needy children of our community?

Please contact Camille in the Volunteer Department at 718-8712

# Great ImagiNation

Rapid City Christian School has two teams taking part in a great opportunity called Destination Imagination. It is a national program striving to be the global leader in teaching the creative process from imagination to innovation. According to the organization, the goal of the program is to develop opportunities that inspire the global community of learners to utilize diverse approaches in applying 21st-century skills and creativity.

The Destination Imagination program encourages teams of learners to have fun, take risks, focus, and frame challenges while incorporating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the arts, and service learning. Participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. Teams may showcase their solutions at a tournament.

The girls pictured here are on one of Rapid City Christian's two teams. They chose Cornerstone Rescue Mission as the focus of their Destination Imagination project. Their project focus was service learning; the girls sold raffle tickets and helped with the decorations for our annual fundraiser, spent a Saturday at the Thrift Store cleaning and sorting toys, served lunch at the mission, and made care packages for 100 Cornerstone guests. As the girls worked on every project they got a real sense of the needs of the homeless and needy in our community. They videotaped their projects and work done for Cornerstone, which will be presented at the Destination Imagination tournament in March. Let's cheer them on!



## Needs List

### **MEN'S MISSION**

Coffee, creamer, sugar  
Cream Soups –  
(cream of mushroom, celery, etc.)  
Mozzarella Cheese  
Milk  
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

### **DEAR ONES CHILD CARE**

Size 5 & 6 diapers & Baby wipes  
Milk and soy based formula  
& Baby food  
Rechargeable batteries, all sizes  
Hands free trash can with lid

### **THRIFT STORE**

Rubber Bands  
Rechargeable AA & AAA Batteries  
Gallon Ziploc Bags  
Space Bags

### **VETERANS**

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

### **WOMEN & CHILDREN'S HOME**

Kleenex, & tampons  
Disposable razors  
Household Cleaning Supplies &  
Disinfectant Spray  
Diapers size 5 & 6  
Vitamin C & Juices  
(apple, orange, etc.)  
Coffee, Creamer & Sugar  
Canned tomatoes/spaghetti sauce  
Canned vegetables  
Meats

## Veteran Finds a Purpose at Cornerstone

In 2011, Sean came to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission veterans' program feeling as if he had no real plan for where he wanted to be and nowhere to live.

Originally from the Wichita tribe of Native Americans in Oklahoma, Sean decided he wanted to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1974. He served as an operations specialist and a radar operator and was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Sean lived in Hawaii for 12 years, and after his second divorce decided to go back to Oklahoma. Sean worked at construction and odd jobs and then at the suggestion of his cousin moved to South Dakota and came to the veteran's wing at Cornerstone Rescue Mission.

During his stay at the veteran's wing, Sean has lived a positive lifestyle. He goes to the gym every day, walks, eats healthily, and is a good mentor for several of the other veterans living at the Mission. He worked part time at the veteran's outreach center and did such a good job that he was promoted to a supervisor in the veteran's wing in October 2012.



Sean is friendly and loves to help new veterans get oriented to the facility and to the programs available in the community. Sean is saving up his money to be able to reach his goal to find permanent housing.

Cornerstone Rescue Mission has approximately 50 veterans in our transitional housing program and can house up to 60. We are honored to share a part in the recovery and re-entry process for our veterans. Many people don't realize that veterans comprise 23 percent of the homeless population. The Department of Veterans Affairs is taking decisive action to end veteran homelessness. All veterans at risk for homelessness or attempting to exit homelessness must have easy access to programs and services. About one-third of the adult homeless population has served in the armed services. Many others are considered near homeless or at risk because of poverty, inadequate support from family and friends, and dismal living conditions.

Your continued support for our work at Cornerstone can bring hope and healing to Sean and other veterans who have given so much to our country.

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## Supportive Services for Veterans' Families

Cornerstone Rescue Mission has received a Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) grant for western South Dakota. The intent of this grant is to provide temporary assistance and services for qualified veterans and their families to help them avoid becoming homeless or to assist them in obtaining suitable housing.

Basic qualifications are:

- **Veterans:** May be single or part of a family in which the head of household, or spouse, is a veteran. Discharge status must be under conditions other than dishonorable.
- **Very Low Income:** Veterans and their household members must make less than 50% of the area mean income for the county they live in.
- Currently residing in permanent housing, at risk of losing housing and becoming literally homeless but for SSVF assistance **or**
- Currently homeless, scheduled to become a resident of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location of housing **or**
- Has exited permanent housing within the previous 90 days in order to seek housing that better fits their needs.

The SSVF grant can assist with rent, utilities, some deposits, some transportation, childcare and some emergency supplies. For further information, please contact Teena Conrad at Cornerstone Rescue Mission at 341-2844.



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## The Cornerstone Thrift Store Touching Many Lives

Many of you already know that the Cornerstone Thrift Store provides funding for the Women and Children's Home, but did you know that we also give away items to the needy of our community? During the Christmas Store our guests received more than \$1,200 worth of merchandise free through gift certificates as Christmas presents. The Thrift Store gave away more than \$53,300 in vouchers and merchandise to those in need in 2012. Some of the agencies we give to are:

- ♦ 211 Help Line School Clothes
- ♦ Access to Recovery
- ♦ Behavioral Management Services, TBI patients
- ♦ Black Hills Works
- ♦ HUD VASH program at Ft. Meade
- ♦ Humane Society
- ♦ Dept. of Labor – job interview clothing
- ♦ Habitat for Humanity – Restore
- ♦ White Clay and Pine Ridge

Donated items touch many lives and go to many good causes. We are always proud to hear customers say that our store has such high-quality jewelry, household items and decorations, clothing, furniture, and everyday needs.

**Stop in on St. Patrick's Day to donate your unwanted items and receive a coupon for 50% off your purchase. (St. Patrick's Day is Sunday; this offer is good on Monday, March 18th)**

Don't forget our Thrifters Happy Hour Monday through Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. when merchandise is 50% off. Our winter hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Cornerstone Thrift Store is located at 401 11th Street. Remember we are "The Thrift Store that doesn't feel like a Thrift Store!"



**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!)