

news

Shepherd's Crossing



February 2009

Sharing With the Shepherd

Many readers of this newsletter received our fall fund-raising letter last December. And many of you responded! Thank you so very much. Your generosity was especially needed during these difficult times of job losses and financial stress. Because of you, Shepherd's Crossing has helped hundreds of families meet high heating costs and make overdue rent payments to avoid eviction. Even in this time of hope for the future, conditions are not likely to improve immediately. State budget cuts will negatively impact the ability of several of our local agencies to sustain their level of service. We are certain to see increased traffic at the Crossing!



If you were unable to donate in December, please consider a gift at this time. You may use the enclosed return envelope or, more conveniently, donate online at www.shepherdcrossing.info. The more than 2,500 households on our roster will continue to be grateful for your assistance. Also be alert for SHARING WITH THE SHEPHERD patron placards in restaurants, florists and jewelry stores as you dine out or shop for Valentine's Day.

Shepherd's Crossing has been blessed with a second capacity building grant from Compassion Kansas. These grants are managed by the Center for Community Support and Research at Wichita State University and have allowed us to purchase much needed equipment. CCSR has also assisted us with planning and board development. The more recent grant is focused on building our financial strength and improving our community outreach. We shall continue to seek outside grant support, such as the City rent and utility assistance grant for \$40,000 which has been renewed for 2009. At the same time, we recognize that the foundation of our ability to serve our clients is the generosity of our member churches and our loyal individuals, businesses and service clubs. On behalf of our clients, accept our heartfelt thanks!

—C. Clyde Jones, Development Committee Chair

Surviving Hard Times

The stories volunteers hear at Shepherd's Crossing often follow familiar themes. Occasionally a client shares a truly startling account. After I heard this young woman's story, I sat back, shook my head, and said, "Either you are an incredible fiction writer and actress, or you have had an amazing experience." Actually I had little doubt that what she had told me was true.

"Mandy" had earned an athletic scholarship to attend college in California. She was doing very well when she learned that her mother in Kansas was ill with cancer. Mandy went home to help with her two younger siblings, and sadly, her mother died. Mandy, just barely legally an adult, took custody of her siblings and transferred to a university close by. She was granted another athletic scholarship and also took a job as a server at a local restaurant.



Then Mandy learned that she too had cancer. When I met her, she had given up her scholarship and was receiving treatment. She hadn't been able to handle the behavior problems of her fourteen-year-old sibling and he had moved to live with relatives. Mandy was sharing an apartment with her little sister and another young woman and had come to Shepherd's Crossing for help with her rent.

I asked Mandy how she was able to continue waiting tables while undergoing treatment for cancer. She said that she had no choice, but she was proud that she could care for herself and her little sister by working hard, shopping with coupons, and cooking from scratch. She spoke glowingly about her coach and how supportive he continued to be. She said that her scholarship was waiting for her, and she was confident that she would recover. *(Continued)*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Sharing With the Shepherd

Surviving Hard Times

We Are All Blessed

Faith Hope Love

Matthew 25:31-46



NOW AVAILABLE:

Make Donations Online,
Directly From Our Website:
shepherdcrossing.info

“but store up for yourselves
treasures in heaven...for where
your treasure is, there your heart
will be also.”

—Matthew 6:20-21

We provided Mandy with the rent assistance she needed along with food coupons and clothing vouchers. She had come in just as we were closing, but Shirley and I had no problem staying later than usual to help her. On her way out, she briefly told us about her efforts to reunite with her biological father several states away. She had gone to visit him and had tried to build a relationship with her half-siblings. She hadn't had much success and after she returned to Kansas she heard that her father had taken his own life. She seemed to be resigned to this fact as just another one of life's obstacles that she had no choice but to surmount.

It was good to meet someone like Mandy. I worry about her still and hope that she will recover and lead a long and rewarding life. If a positive attitude can help cure serious illness, she has a good chance. I asked her to report back to us and I hope she will. I know one thing for sure. She will not ask anyone for help if she can help herself.

—Gayle Bennett, Volunteer Trainer

We Are All Blessed

On January 15, we all watched in amazement as a skilled pilot landed a jet plane on the Hudson River. Everyone on that plane had boarded with nothing more in mind than a quick flight to play golf, visit family, or conduct business. Everyone survived but not a one will ever forget just how close he came to death. No one knows when his or her life may end and how.

Recently I lost a very dear friend in a tragic accident. As I reflect on her life, I recall a conversation we had about giving back. We all have many blessings, and we should enjoy them. We are blessed at Shepherd's Crossing with our wonderful counselors who give many hours of their time to meet with clients and help them. We are also blessed with our many donors who support Shepherd's Crossing, helping us to meet the needs of our clients. I thank each and every one of you for your help and support.

You certainly personify the concept of giving back. Thank you, you are making a big difference in the lives of many.

—Joan McIlvaine, Board President

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Shepherd's Crossing's mission
is to provide compassionate
and caring assistance to
those in need of a listening
ear and financial support.

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OPEN: Tues. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
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