



April 2010

Happy Endings and New Beginnings

Last fall, a physically and emotionally exhausted single mother of two asked for help. She was slowly drowning in debt and very distraught about her situation. It was so bad she stopped opening her mail because she said the only mail she received were bills which she couldn't pay. She didn't have to worry about answering her phone to creditors because her phone had been shut off. Her financial problems began four years ago when her divorce became final. We offered personal budget counseling to her. She had had counseling before and said it didn't help. But she agreed to try again. The counselor, Marvin Penner, was challenged in every way. He was very patient and a great listener. It took several weeks to collect the information needed to assess her situation.

After a couple of months, Marvin discovered the client had not filed a tax return since her divorce. She had been employed the entire four years and it was clear she had a refund coming. It took quite some time to convince her it was in *her* best interest to file. After several weeks, the counselor found an accountant who agreed to file for only \$75 per year. The counselor's patience and hard work paid off for both of them! He took much pleasure in being able to tell her that after penalties, she would receive \$26,400.00! Her reaction was one of sheer joy. She told us this was the new beginning she had been looking for for some time. She will continue to meet with Marvin and work on becoming financially independent for the first time in 32 years.

—C. Clyde Jones, Development Officer



Marvin Penner is one of many Shepherd's Crossing Counselors who volunteers time to help those in need.



We often receive cards of thanks from our clients. I would like to share this one from a very special individual who received assistance four years ago with \$22.15 for medication.

"To some very very special people, I was in need and you helped me several years ago. I want to thank you. I pray that you stay and continue such a loving project. I desire to be an added giver—it is a small amount but from the heart. I do enjoy helping others. Each day I try to be a blessing to one or more in need: The need of a hug—the need of a smile—the need of a phone call—the need of a prayer. My motto is: Lord help me give from day to day in such a loving selfless way. That even when I kneel to pray my prayer shall be for others."

—Jan Connizzo, Executive Director

Sharing with the Shepherd

We, at Shepherd's Crossing, open our doors to meet the needs of many who are at critical junctures of their lives. Financial support comes from various sources including our area churches. Each of our sponsoring churches is asked to submit a name of a person who is willing to serve as a church representative to Shepherd's Crossing. These individuals act as a liaison between their church and the operations and services of Shepherd's Crossing. *Continued on back.*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Happy Endings & New Beginnings

Sharing with the Shepherd

Recognition

NOW AVAILABLE:

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



Workshop for Churches: *Servant or Sucker?*

To assist church office personnel and pastors in handling daily requests for financial assistance.

Friday, May 7, 2010

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church

Register By:

Email: shepherd@interkan.net

Phone: 785.776.1470

Mail: Shepherd's Crossing, P.O. Box 1919, Manhattan, KS 66505-1919



Shepherd's
Crossing
FAITH HOPE LOVE

Third Tuesday
EVERY MONTH

Sirloin Stockade will donate a generous portion of the cost of your meal to assist families needing help with rent, utilities or prescription medication.

Clip and present this coupon to cashier.

Valid only at the
Manhattan location.

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

Box 1919
621 Humboldt Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66505

785.776.1470 Phone
785.537.2311 Fax
www.shepherdcrossing.info
director@shepherdcrossing.info

OPEN: Tues. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
and Thurs. 2-5:30 p.m.

Continued from front. The church representatives and their pastors were invited to a recent Open House at Shepherd's Crossing. Jan Connizo, Executive Director of Shepherd's Crossing, staff, volunteers, and Board members were present to answer questions and share information. Current data were also available through a PowerPoint presentation and brochures.

A large part of our funding is made available through our churches and individuals within this community. Those of us on the Shepherd's Crossing Board wish to acknowledge and thank you for your generous contributions and support. The "heartbeat" of Manhattan is stronger because of people like you.

--Donna Erpelding, President



Donna Erpelding, President of Shepherd's Crossing.

Recognition



April marks the first anniversary of Sirloin Stockade's Third Tuesday program. That first month brought a donation of \$431 from the corporate office in Hutchinson. Through February, we have received \$3,900 from Third Tuesdays. This all started when Frank Connizzo called on the local manager to ask for a Sharing with the Shepherd contribution. The manager explained that he could not make a cash contribution, but he offered to let us have a special night on which the company would donate a percentage of the receipts to the Crossing. We expected it to be just for one month, but the manager invited us to be present one day each month. This March, a customer at the restaurant approached the Crossing's representative who was manning the receipts basket and said in an emotional voice, "My family and I really appreciate what you do. You helped us one time when we had an emergency need. We'll always be grateful." He put his receipt in the basket. Each Third Tuesday, we see many people from our member churches who have become regulars. We want to recognize all of them and say a huge THANK YOU! In recognizing Sirloin Stockade this month, we again say thanks! The local managers have repeatedly told us that this is a way for Sirloin Stockade to give back to the community.

We also want to recognize our member churches—33 of them contributed \$67,940 in 2009. Gifts ranged from \$100 to \$10,135.80! Seventeen churches made monthly contributions more than six times during the year. Those congregations deserve special recognition for their faithful support:

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian
College Avenue Methodist
College Heights Baptist
Crestview Christian
Faith Evangelical Free
First Assembly of God
First Baptist
First Christian
First Lutheran

First United Methodist
Living Word
St. Isidore's
St. Paul's Episcopal
St. Thomas More
Seven Dolors
Seventh-Day Adventist
Westview Community

NEWS

Shepherd's Crossing
P.O. Box 1919
Manhattan, KS 66505