

Meet Jane

Clients With Disabilities

Marital Status of Household 2015

Featured Donor

And a Good Time Was Had By All

Meet Our New Directors

*Share your blessings—Make a difference*



# Shepherd's Crossing

## Meet Jane— One of the Deserving Clients You Helped Recently

Jane is a 72-year old widow, living alone in a small apartment. Most of her neighbors in this public housing project are living on what most of us would describe as poverty level income. Now, put yourself in Jane's shoes for a moment. You receive disability income of \$850 per month. The State provides you with \$150 worth of food stamps each month. Your subsidized monthly rent including utilities is \$450. Please imagine what you would be able to do with the remaining \$400 cash income. A telephone, ATA transportation to a doctor's appointment, cable television, an occasional grocery treat beyond what your food stamps pay for—these are but a few of your discretionary monthly expenses.

Unexpectedly, you break a tooth and have to pay the dentist \$180 for immediate repairs. What can you do? You have no extra money and the dentist will not wait for the payment. A friend in the housing project recommends that you ask Shepherd's Crossing for help. You call a cab to take you there on a Thursday afternoon, where a compassionate counselor takes care of your rent for the next month, freeing up funds to pay for the tooth repair.

## Clients With Disabilities

Approximately 23 percent of our clients are disabled. What does this mean? If they are registered with the Department of Families and Children with a physical or mental handicap that prevents the individual from working either at all or full time, they receive monthly support from the state—usually less than \$1,000 per month. These folks are especially vulnerable to unexpected expenses.

## Marital Status of 1,627 Households Served in 2015

|                 |     |                       |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| Married.....    | 279 | Single.....           | 821 |
| Divorced .....  | 349 | Widowed .....         | 34  |
| Separated ..... | 91  | No Status reported... | 53  |

Our data reveals that in addition to the 821 households listed as single, most of the divorced, separated and widowed are also single-parent households. All households reported 1,624 children served, with all but 402 of them in broken family homes. While these numbers cannot be verified scientifically because of errors in reporting and recording in our database, the trend of children in single-parent homes is alarming.

## From the President

Shepherd's Crossing has just completed an outstanding year of service in the Manhattan area. Our total receipts for the year, to include donations and grants, was the most in the history of our organization. Likewise, we were able to provide more in the way of financial aid to those in need of help for utilities, rent and prescriptions. We also provided financial counseling to many of our clients, which included referring them to agencies that could assist when we could not. I want to thank our board of directors, officers, staff and counselors for their outstanding leadership this past year to enhance our service to the community. Also, a big thank you goes to those who made financial contributions. Without those donations, our ability to help our clients would be greatly limited. We look forward to another year of service to those in need in the Manhattan area.

*Terry Arthur*

## Featured Donor

Recently, Jeff Schober became a monthly donor on our Network for Good online giving site. Jeff had given before but now has committed to a substantial monthly gift. He offered this explanation:

*"I am honored to join Shepherd's Crossing in providing assistance to those who need it most in our community. I know many people are facing tough situations and I want them to know that regardless of difficulty of the situation they are in, there is hope and there is love that can be found in Jesus Christ. I hope that people experience Jesus' love and His desire to meet both their physical needs and their spiritual needs through the ministry of Shepherd's Crossing."*

Please consider joining Jeff as a recurring online donor. It's easy to set it up at:

[www.shepherdscrossing.info](http://www.shepherdscrossing.info)  
then click the DONATE NOW link.

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

OPEN: Tuesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. & Thursday 2-5:30 p.m.

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Shepherd's Crossing Board of Directors at the annual meeting

## And a Good Time Was Had By All

That describes our annual meeting on January 26 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. We celebrated 15 years of service to the community and recognized 25 dedicated volunteers. Most of our 40 member churches sent representatives and a number of our donors were present. Some 150 enjoyed a dinner prepared by the Knights of Columbus and served by some of the Knights and the Youth of St. Thomas More. Frank Schmeidler and Ralph Diaz entertained the gathering with several songs after which Master of Ceremonies, Dave Lewis, kept things moving toward the end purpose of the annual meeting—the election of directors. President Terry Arthur introduced returning directors Darrell Brensing, Dave Lewis, Jana Schwandt and Gary Schwandt. Present directors nominated for a second two-year term were Terry Arthur, Courtney Ellis, Helena Grinter, C. Clyde Jones, Rita Keating, Suzanne Otto, Ron Tacha and Don Wissman. New directors nominated were Andy Fund, Bob Matthews, Dave Rogers and Martin Seay.

## From the Executive Director

Sarah, a recent client, told this story about her adopted son, Trent, who was in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction—a terrible and often fatal disease. Sarah and her husband (now deceased) decided to distance themselves from Trent as an addict because there was nothing they could do to help. He became poor, hungry and finally homeless. Thankfully, Trent decided to go back to a halfway house. Through Alcoholics Anonymous, he is now making his own way and earning money. Meanwhile, Sarah has developed disabilities that prevent her from working. She expressed how grateful she was that local folks support Shepherd's Crossing. We helped her pay her rent last month so she could pay for much-needed car repairs. Stories like Sarah's make me more aware of how mental and physical disabilities often lead to loss of jobs and family problems—and even worse, homelessness and prison. In 2016, I look forward to continuing to help our community residents with financial difficulties and disabilities by working with our volunteer counselors to give our clients guidance on their budget and find ways to ease their challenging situations.



## Meet our new directors

**Andy Fund** is an Academic Adviser in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at K-State and a member of St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center. Andy wrote, "I joined the board because Sheperd's Crossing is more than a 'give-away' type of organization. Not only does it financially support its clients, it also seeks to educate those same clients to hopefully help them in becoming self-sustaining in the future. This education piece is incredibly valuable and unique among traditional charitable organizations."

**Robert Matthews** is a retiree and represents Seven Dolors. Bob's comment about joining the Board: "Usually it is good when we are allowed to be part of something larger than ourselves. The work of Shepherd's Crossing certainly fits that description. I am both humbled and challenged by this opportunity."

**Dave Rogers** owns and manages Burnett Automotive. He is a member of First Christian Church. When asked about serving on our board, he said, "I'm happy to serve and be associated with this board simply because of the good done by all the volunteers that give their time and expertise. Shepherd's Crossing isn't just a "hand out" but also (and hopefully more) a "hand up". Also, when C. Clyde Jones calls, just say "yes"."

**Martin Seay** is an Assistant Professor of Personal Financial Planning at K-State. He wrote, "For me, working with Shepherd's Crossing is invaluable for two reasons. First, Shepherd's Crossing provides the opportunity to have a significant impact in the community, with a structural design that targets helping those that need it most. Second, partnering with Shepherd's Crossing provides an invaluable service-learning opportunity to my students."

NEWS

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