



Shepherd's Crossing

FEBRUARY 2017—IN THIS ISSUE:

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Meet Maria—

A very distinctive client—story by Warren Holmes, Client Services Director.

Maria's husband was killed in an industrial accident in 2013. They have five children. Because she had not completed high school when she married, her employment outlook was bleak. Early in 2014, she came to Shepherd's Crossing to seek assistance. While here, the counselor and staff offered much more than finances. We helped her enroll to finish her GED, which she did in less than 10 weeks. In the summer of 2014, she received a grant from Fairy Godmothers to begin enrollment at Manhattan Area Technical College in the nursing program, which she completed in 2016. Her plan is to complete a Registered Nursing program in 2018. While succeeding as a student, she has worked a fast food job and cleaned 4 homes each week.

All her accomplishments have been supported and echoed by her children. Both teen-age daughters also clean 2 homes apiece each week and do some after school child care. In 2015, a neighbor helped her 12-year-old son repair an old lawn mower. He and his younger brother have been mowing 21 lawns each week while participating in sports activities. Shepherd's Crossing offered initial assistance and this family is maximizing the benefits. It is stories like this that warm our hearts and give us incentive to continue our work.

February is Sharing with the Shepherd Month

In 2003, we created Sharing with the Shepherd (SWS), asking restaurants, florists and jewelers to donate a percentage of their profits from Valentine's Day sales. That soon changed to sales for the entire month of February, and later we extended it to all businesses. In 2016, we received \$53,000 for the 2015 and 2016 campaigns. Individuals may also donate to SWS throughout the year by visiting our website, www.shepherdscrossing.info and click the donate now button. You may also mail your check to Shepherd's Crossing, P.O. Box 1919, Manhattan, KS 66505-1919.



Save the Date - October 28

The 6th Annual C. Clyde Run and Midge's Mile will take place on October 28, 2017, at the Bosco Student Plaza on the K-State campus. Last fall's event attracted 301 registered participants with several walk-ins on October 29. Perfect weather and an ideal venue led to a highly successful event.

Sponsors donated more than \$25,000. Laura Galvan, native of Mexico, ran the 5k in 18:18 to outdistance all other runners. We hope to make this year's run the best to date. Be sure to mark your calendars and start putting together your teams.

From the President

Shepherd's Crossing had an outstanding year in 2016, both in service to those we helped and in fundraising to support those services. We provided financial support in the amount of \$286,800 to 1,460 families, and our volunteers worked over 2,000 hours in support of our mission. Financial counseling and referrals to other agencies are important parts of our service, which we continued to provide throughout the year. On January 30 we held our annual meeting and honored our volunteers for their service this past year. A very special award was given to C. Clyde Jones for his 16 years of outstanding service to Shepherd's Crossing. Clyde helped in several capacities, most importantly as Development Director. He has been primarily responsible for raising the funds we need to support our mission, and without his dedicated service, we would not have been able to provide the help needed to those we serve. We anticipate another great year in 2017. We plan to hold a meeting of our member churches on March 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at the First United Methodist Church to review our guidelines and discuss better ways for helping those we serve in the community. A formal notice will be sent to the churches in February. Thanks to all our board members, staff, volunteers and donors for helping Shepherd's Crossing fulfill its mission in 2016. - Terry Arthur

Why Donate?

Stephen Heimsoth, who became a regular donor in 2012, was eager to tell us why he became a donor. He and his wife, Jessica, attended our annual meeting this year.

"We want to help those in need and feel that Shepherd's Crossing utilizes our contributions in a way that goes beyond surface-level assistance in a way that might ACTUALLY create changes in people's lives, in particular offering the service of budget counseling. We are grateful for their existence and hope to continue helping in the future."

Thank you, Stephen and Jessica, for caring and for translating that caring into helping.

Please consider joining Stephen as a recurring online donor. It's easy to set it up at: 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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Annual Meeting Highlights

St. Thomas More Catholic Church hosted the January 30 annual meeting. Approximately 160 attended and enjoyed a delicious meal prepared and served by the Knights of Columbus, assisted by a number of the church’s youth. Kelly Smith provided inspiring music prior to the business meeting. Beverly Olson recognized 31 volunteers and presented them with a gift of Little Apple Dollars in appreciation for their services. In addition to the election of two new directors (see below for introductions), we reelected 4 directors to second terms. They were Darrell Brensing, FUMC (At large), Ingrid Logan, First Lutheran (Representative), Gary Schwandt, University Christian (At large) and Jana Schwandt, University Christian (Alternate). President Terry Arthur recognized the valuable services of two directors who resigned during the year: Rita Keating and Dave Lewis. The new board will elect officers for 2017 at its February meeting.

The board recognized C. Clyde Jones for his 16 years of service. Clyde started as a counselor in 2001 and became the grant writer and fundraiser in 2005. He announced his retirement as Development Officer, to be effective during 2017. The Board surprised him with a salute from the K-State Marching Band and a group of Classy Cats. Videos made it onto Facebook and attracted large followings.



From the Executive Director

Most of our clients are not comfortable coming into Shepherd’s Crossing to ask for help. Although many of them can do little to change their financial status, one client, whom I will call Sarah, recently came into the office to share her story.

Sarah said that she was encouraged by our volunteer counselors to reduce the expenses of her cable, internet, and cell phone bills, and pay more than the minimum amount on her credit cards. She wanted to thank us and tell us that she was proud that she had lowered her monthly expenses by \$230 by taking the advice she received from her counselor. Sarah said, “Now I am putting money into a savings account, which I never-ever dreamed of!”

John C. Maxwell wrote in his book, *Becoming a Person of Influence*, “When you empower people, you’re not influencing just them, you’re influencing all of the people they influence.” Empowering others to make wise choices gives them authority and confidence to succeed. Who are you influencing this year?

- Beverly Olson

New Directors Elected at Annual Meeting on January 30

Doug Hofbauer is a representative of Westview Community Church and brings a wealth of business experience as former head of the Farm Credit Bank. We look forward to his sharing that experience at future board meetings.

Emily Katzenmeier is a student at Highland Community College and has become our youngest board member. Emily is preparing for a career in social work and brings a true passion for helping the underprivileged. She has been on several mission trips to Guatemala.

Grow Green Match Day - April 21

Please mark your calendars for this special annual event, sponsored by The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. For each donation made on this day to community agencies’ endowed funds, the Foundation contributes matching funds. Shepherd’s Crossing has received the most donations of any agency in each of the previous years and in 2016 led in number of donors as well as dollars. We have received \$78,000 in endowment funds and \$37,600 in matching funds in the four years of the program. What a blessing to our clients! Watch for future announcements about how to join this exciting event.



NEWS

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Shepherd's Crossing
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