



Shepherd's Crossing

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Meet Emma's Mom— One of the Deserving Clients You Helped Recently

Jennifer is a single mom with a three year old named Emma. Before connecting with Shepherd's Crossing, she worked full-time while a neighbor girl took care of Emma. Then, suddenly things changed. The neighbor moved away and Jennifer couldn't find affordable day care. So, she quit her job and stayed home with Emma. She soon fell behind on her rent and utilities and in desperation turned to Shepherd's Crossing for help. The Crossing helped with her rent and utilities, providing only a short-term solution. Later, Jennifer said that she benefited by the counseling she received. The counselor went over her monthly budget and found places to make savings. The Crossing provided clothing vouchers from the Encore and Budget Shops for both Jennifer and Emma and shared information on other resources in the community. More importantly, the counselor helped Jennifer find a new job and located affordable day care for Emma. Jennifer credits Shepherd's Crossing with putting her life back to normal. You can enjoy this story in video on our Facebook page.



Mark Your Calendars: 5th Annual C. Clyde Run and Midge's Mile!

Be sure to mark your calendar and start getting in shape to run or walk for a great cause.

K-State has approved starting the run at Bosco Plaza on the north side of the Student Union. This is a great gathering place and will allow us to have some special features for the event. That is Halloween weekend, leading us to plan for a costume contest for children. Rumors have it that many of the adults will dress up for the occasion. We want to attract many of our church families and their children for

a fun time. The date is also close to Midge's November 2 birthdate. We celebrated her 90th on October 29 last year. We know she'll be smiling down on the event from her new place in Heaven. Last year we had 66 sponsors who made gifts to Shepherd's Crossing exceeding \$20,000. Gifts ranged from \$50 to \$2,000. We had 190 runners registered prior to the October 3rd start.

From the President—400 Families Assisted

Since you received our last newsletter, we have assisted 400 families with \$90,000 for rent, utilities and prescriptions. Our counselors also advise our clients on how to better manage their finances and to continue their lives without assistance, except in unforeseen emergencies.

Fundraising is a major part of what we must do on a monthly basis, to be sure we have sufficient funds to provide for the needs of our clients. In addition to what you have already seen in this newsletter, we were very successful in donations at the Grow Green Day in April. Shepherd's Crossing received the highest number of donations (138) as well as the highest amount of dollars (\$27,238) of all 46 charities participating in Grow Green Day. We also received a matching donation of \$10,500. Thanks to all who participated and made donations to Shepherd's Crossing. We also very much appreciate all of our donors who help us throughout the year.

Terry Arthur

Look What You've Helped Accomplish

During the first five months of 2016, there were 517 families who were assisted with \$122,850 of funds. These families included 440 children and 703 adults. Half of the dollars came from our general fund, which holds your gifts, as well as donations from churches, businesses and other organizations. The other half came from grants—16.3 percent from the City, 28.3 percent from the Memorial Hospital Association Foundation and 4.9 percent from the Konza United Way. In comparison, ten years ago our total assistance for 12 months was \$77,997.



Lucas Shivers, Alice Wagner, Nicole Springer, Mark Claussen, Beverly Olson, C. Clyde Jones and Donna Erpelding

Grants

Konza United Way Executive Director Mark Claussen delivered the good news on June 8 that we will receive a grant of \$16,000 in 2017 to support rent and utilities assistance. This will allow us to help clients from outside the City of Manhattan. Our 2016 United Way grant is for \$11,000. We are most grateful for this anticipated increase.

Grant Applications

We applied for a \$46,000 grant to the Social Services Advisory Board of the City of Manhattan in May and will submit another application to the Memorial Hospital Association Foundation in July.

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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Bernie Haney, Leah Braet, Coach Snyder, Beverly Olson, Trey Vernon and Ben Sigle

Donations from Bill Snyder Highway Half & 5K

Good news often comes in bundles! Recently Coach Bill Snyder presented a check for \$7,000 to Beverly Olson from the 2nd Annual Bill Snyder Highway Half and 5k held on May 21. Proceeds from this year's event also benefitted The First Tee of Manhattan and Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan. This grant will allow us to assist as many as 40 families with rent or utilities. "Coach, your good deed will keep many deserving children from being cold or homeless next winter," said Beverly Olson.

Trying to Make it on His Own

Gordon is a retired farm laborer who lost his wife and child during childbirth. He has remained single. With only a grade school education, he felt limited to working on farms. When he retired at age 73, he had worked for as many as five farms and at the same farm for 28 years. He carefully planned his retirement in Manhattan and selected Manhattan Housing Authority housing with subsidized rent.

Gordon prides himself on always taking care of himself and wants to continue to do so. With Social Security and some savings, he had a tight budget. He came to Shepherd's Crossing because he had some expenses he had not budgeted. His Westar bill was higher than planned and he needed some tires for his vehicle. Shepherd's Crossing paid \$77.00 of his \$127.00 electric bill. The counselor offered to pay the total bill, but Gordon wanted to pay as much as he could himself. The counselor also suggested a Guardian Angels grant to secure new tires, but Gordon refused, saying, "I will just have to figure that out myself." He also stated he did not want to be dependent on food stamps, so would not apply for them. He did agree to go to meals provided by churches, recognizing that he would get to meet new people.

Gordon came to Shepherd's Crossing because he felt he had a short term need. He did not want to become dependent on "charity" so he paid what he could and thanked Shepherd's Crossing for its assistance. Working with our volunteer counselors gives our clients budget guidance and helps them find ways to ease challenging situations.

Warren Holmes, Director of Client Services

From the Executive Director



Mary buried her teenaged son ten months ago and was deeply depressed and hardly able to function at her job. She said, "The pain of losing a child is crushing and it grows more suffocating with each passing day." Then, she met a couple who'd lost their only son a few years earlier. They built a friendship that allowed them to share their grief. The couple offered Mary a bit of light for the dark, difficult path she was walking. They encouraged Mary to visit Shepherd's Crossing for guidance on her finances.

Mary came to us willing to talk about her loss and open to having someone else help her. We were pleased that she accepted our help in paying her current utility bills and counseled her on the importance of her life to those around her. The path of pain is stony and rough. We want to know that our journey is worth something and that we will find light ahead. Sometimes it takes others who have walked the path to show us the way. Sometimes we will be the ones walking with others in the pain.

Beverly Olson



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