



Shepherd's Crossing

MARCH, 2014—IN THIS ISSUE:

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Clients Helping Clients

Four years ago Mary and her two sons came to Shepherd's Crossing for assistance. Mary needed help because she was paying so much out of her earnings for childcare that she was falling behind financially each month. She worked evenings so she needed childcare from soon after school to midnight. At that same time, Jack, a former soldier whose wife had left the home, came to the Crossing for assistance. He was planning to attend K-State that fall, but was falling short of being able to handle bills and childcare for his three-year old daughter on his school military assistance. Mary's sons, ages nine and six were at the children's play area when Jack's daughter joined them. The older of the two boys was drawn to helping the little girl find toys for herself. She responded to him in a very positive way. They were soon playing together contentedly. A few days later Jack and his daughter were leaving their apartment building for a walk when Jack's daughter spotted Mary's boys playing in the yard of the second house down from her home. The older boy again engaged the little girl in play while the parents introduced themselves and watched their children playing. During that conversation Mary mentioned her problem with finding and paying for childcare. Very soon Jack and Mary realized that maybe they could help each other.

Sharing with the Shepherd

You gave us 187 gifts totaling \$24,981 in 2013 in response to our Sharing with the Shepherd appeals. The funds went into our general fund, enabling us to provide rent and utility assistance to approximately 180 more low-income families in Manhattan and Riley County because of your generosity. When you read this, the 2014 appeal will be moving along. If you have not had the opportunity to Share, please consider sending a donation of \$150 to pay a part of some deserving family's winter heating bill.

She needed childcare after school to midnight. Jack needed childcare for his daughter during the day, but was home in the evenings. Since that time Mary and Jack have continued to share responsibility for the other's children while the other attended classes or worked. Both have gotten assistance from Shepherd's Crossing three or four times since that August meeting, but caring for the other's children has greatly decreased the need for very expensive childcare. Jack will soon complete his degree. Mary has been able to have funds to take some online classes, which will enable her to secure a better paying job. What a joy to know that Shepherd's Crossing was the catalyst leading to this solution.

—Warren Holmes, Director of Client Services

From Outgoing President Diana

What a privilege and honor it has been serving as president of the Shepherd's Crossing board for the past two years. Shepherd's Crossing has been an important part of my life since its founding a dozen years ago. I can't help but think about all the folks that have come through the doors in that time...the stories and the heartache, the stress written on the faces of hundreds of men and women. They come searching for financial help, but more often than not, receive hope for a better future. They see faith in action. They feel the love from a community of neighbors. That's what this organization is all about. We welcome our new president, Terry Arthur, a respected community leader who will grow and nurture this organization to new heights.



Diana Chapel

Thank you to all our board members, volunteers and donors for your commitment and compassion. God Bless!

—Diana Chapel

Thanks to Rich Wartell and the Manhattan Broadcasting Company

For the third consecutive year, MBC donated air time on all four of its stations to encourage listeners to Share with the Shepherd during February. Retired pastor Jim Reed (one of the founders of Shepherd's Crossing), former Mayor Bruce Snead, County Commissioner Dave Lewis and C. Clyde Jones, Development Officer for Shepherd's Crossing recorded the promotional spots. The messages reached approximately 80,000 listeners!

Mark Your Calendar!



Grow Green Match Day is May 6, 2014. Donations will receive a match of \$.50 per dollar. Stay alert for later bulletins. Last year's event netted more than \$17,000 for

Shepherd's Crossing's funds in the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. This is a great opportunity for us to add substantially to our endowment.

From Incoming President Terry

As we begin a new year for Shepherd's Crossing, I want to thank Diana, Beverly, Clyde, our staff, volunteers and board for outstanding leadership this past year. We fulfilled our mission of providing caring and compassionate assistance to those in need in our community. 2014 promises to be another year in which we will continue this important work, but it will also bring with it new challenges, if we

are to continue to provide the assistance that is needed. We are hopeful that our support from grants from the City of Manhattan will be expanded with the City Commission approving our Community Development Block Grant in May, and that we will continue to receive funds from the United Way of Riley County and other foundations.

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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.

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

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From Incoming President Terry cont. >

Donations from our churches and individual members have stayed about the same for the last couple of years, and it is important that we try to increase those in 2014, so that we will be able to meet the anticipated needs in our community. Our bylaws were amended, to create a new class of members. Now individuals who donate are members in addition to churches. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to and supported Shepherd's Crossing in the past, and we look forward to working with everyone in this new year. —*Terry Arthur, President*

Meet Our New Directors

*Courtney Ellis, a member of St. Isidore's
Certified Public Accountant with Sink, Gordon & Associates.*

"I am so excited for the chance to work with an organization whose mission truly touches my heart. As a CPA, I am looking forward to using my accounting skills to serve others when they may need it most," said Courtney.

Helena Grinter, a member of St. Thomas More

Helena told the editor, "I am honored to be involved in an organization that helps those in our community needing financial assistance, as well as provide budgetary advice. I hope to learn more about Shepherd's Crossing and become a valued Board Member."

*Ron Tacha, a member of University Christian
a local businessman.*

Ron commented, "As Christians, it's our duty to help others. Shepherd's Crossing appealed to me because it helps people in time of need."

Carl Taylor, Executive Director of the Restoration Center, Inc.

Carl said "I am excited with the opportunity to serve at Shepherd's Crossing. I look forward to working with the board members and serving the Manhattan community. I am grateful to everyone that made it possible for me to serve in this capacity. This is an exciting time in our area and we have an opportunity to make a difference in our neighbors' lives."

*Don Wissman, a member of First Baptist
a retired business executive, former chair of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.*

He said, "I am pleased to be associated with such a highly recognized organization that brings area churches together to assist those in need. It is indeed a high calling. My wife, Jan and I have been very involved in university, community and First Baptist Church activities over the years and recognize that there are many that from time to time need a helping hand."



2014 Board of Directors

New Directors Elected at Annual Meeting


Thirty-two individuals attended our annual meeting on January 20 at the First United Methodist Church. We elected five new directors and reelected seven continuing directors. The Board convened after the closing of the annual meeting and elected officers for 2014:

*Terry Arthur, President
C. Clyde Jones, Vice President
Susan Keller, Secretary
Courtney Ellis, Treasurer*

Terry accepted the gavel and thanked **Diana and Butch Wichman**, outgoing Treasurer, for their past service. Diana has served for two years and Butch for five.



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Beverly Olson

Message from the Executive Director

February 6 was our day of LIEAP assistance. LIEAP means **L**ow **I**ncome **E**nergy **A**ssistance **P**rogram. LIEAP is a federally funded program to help low-income households pay a portion of their home energy costs. They must complete a multi-page application with many details, so Westar Energy sent over a representative from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to oversee their paperwork. She assisted 27 households and 10 others took the application home with them.

One older man was overwhelmed with the many details, so our staff person directed him to the table with the applications and told him to fill out the information that he knew. He kept asking if he was doing it correctly. When it was his turn to meet with the Westar representative, she looked over his application, asked him a few more questions and told him it was ready to be signed and mailed. He asked, "Is that all?" What a joy that we can be of assistance in other ways! —*Beverly Olson, Executive Director*

NEWS

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