



Shepherd's Crossing

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Share your blessings—Make a difference

Meet Raena: Looking for Help when Expenses Become Overwhelming

Raena is a 61 year old single woman who lives in subsidized housing and works full-time at \$10 an hour. Her troubles mounted when she became ill and missed seven days of work, resulting in reduced income.

As bills continued to add up, her physician ordered some tests and lab work. Three weeks later, Raena's car needed repair. She had to pay for the work before her car would be released to her. Stretched to the limit, she paid as much as she could on her car and other bills. Then Raena received notice that her pay was being garnished for the medical tests because she had not made any payments. The garnishment would take 43% of her take-home income.

Shepherd's Crossing assisted with a portion of her rent for two months and helped her apply for a grant through Project Deserve. Catholic Charities assisted with a portion of her electric bill. A volunteer was arranged to take her to the Flint Hills Breadbasket on Tuesday evenings to get food. Raena left Shepherd's Crossing praising God for the generosity of the people of Manhattan and Riley County.

Warren Holmes, Director of Client Services



News and Updates from Shepherd's Crossing



Doug Hofbauer

From the President

We're happy to welcome Jeff Morris as Shepherd's Crossing's new president! Jeff has been integral to our organization over the past two years. After our strategic visioning process, he coordinated with staff and board members to develop the committee structure that emphasizes continuous process improvement, outreach/fund development, and client and volunteer engagement. Jeff has also spent days at the Shepherd's Crossing office to develop a deeper understanding of how our staff and volunteers serve our clients.

As my term comes to a close, I can't be more pleased to see Jeff assume the role. This past year has been a busy one for our staff and volunteers. It has become more and more apparent that utility bills, rent, and prescription costs continue to increase and the federal and state dollars once provided are now running out. For some, it can feel hopeless and they don't know where to turn. It's in that moment that talking to one of our Shepherd's Crossing volunteers can bring a sense of relief. Someone who listens, cares and can offer temporary financial assistance and referrals to other agencies for additional assistance. That's when the generosity of Manhattan residents through their donations resonates and can make a difference!

As my term as Board President draws to a close, I want to personally thank C. Clyde Jones for asking me six years ago to consider serving on the Shepherd's Crossing board. Clyde has been such a mentor and, in my mind, sets the gold standard for what it means to have a servant's heart. Thanks to all of the many board members I've had a chance to serve with over the years. Wonderful people! The common refrain from former board members which I echo is that this was their favorite board to serve on.

A very special thanks to Beth, Warren and Gretchen for being such wonderful people, so devoted and passionate about serving others. I've really enjoyed working with you. You set the example for us all! God Bless!

—Doug Hofbauer



Jeff Morris

From the Incoming President

Shepherd's Crossing fulfills a vital role in our community. Long-time friends and supporters of Shepherd's Crossing are very familiar with how we provide a hand up to those in financial crisis. The amazing staff and volunteers perform a tremendous service for our community

and it is humbling to see them in action. Shepherd's Crossing offers hope and support on the front lines of efforts to improve the lives of citizens at their most vulnerable time.

The support we receive from the community is inspiring and essential to our ministry. Right now, we're seeing that inflation in energy and transportation costs has a disproportionate impact on our families. As we enter a post-Covid economy, there are significant changes going on in society's safety net. Our counselors are seeing more people with more needs than ever. Our goal is to help raise the profile of the need in our community and help prepare the organization for the future. As a volunteer-driven and donor-supported organization, we depend on continued support to meet increased demand. Please know how thankful Shepherd's Crossing is for the generosity in time, talent, and treasure that we have received. We are truly blessed as an organization. This year, we are sure to face new challenges, and with a clear focus on our mission, we'll continue to serve.

—Jeff Morris

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

WE ARE OPEN: By appointment only

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February 6th Annual Meeting

We held our 21st annual meeting at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. The Knights of Columbus prepared and served a delicious meal to those present. Chad Poppe brought the talented Manhattan High School Pops Choir to entertain us with an upbeat program. Incoming President Jeff Morris served as master of ceremonies for the program, which was beautifully organized by Ann Knackendoffel and her committee. The highlight of the evening was the recognition of our volunteers by our Executive Director, Beth Klug. Our volunteers are the heart of our organization. Your editor, C. Clyde Jones, received a lovely floral arrangement in recognition of his twenty-two years of service and his 100th birthday.



Recognition of Volunteers.



Shepherd's Crossing Staff: Financial Manager Amy Meng, Gretchen Fontanini, Director Beth Klug and Director of Client Services Warren Holmes.

From the Executive Director

"Serve one another in love."

-Galatians 5:13

Serving our clients with love and grace is our goal at Shepherd's Crossing.

We continue to see a record number of individuals and families who are facing financial crisis. Currently, over

Beth Klug

half of those we see are new to our ministry. Volunteers and staff strive to meet each person with compassion and understanding, while guiding them with suggestions and referrals. Our objective is always to provide not only immediate assistance, but to also change the trajectory of their situation, thus giving them a hand up rather than a handout. We are thankful for all in our community that support and encourage us on our mission to serve and assist those in need.

—Beth Klug

12th Annual C. Clyde Run and Midge's Mile

Mark your calendars for September 30th, 2023 and join C. Clyde and others from Shepherd's Crossing at Anneberg Park! We want to feature our churches and encourage our members to enroll at least ten participants. We will also notify all of Manhattan's PEO chapters, asking them to honor Midge's memory by sending representatives from each chapter. We expect to have a valuable prize presented through a random drawing of those registered.

Join many others as a recurring online donor. It's easy to set it up at:
www.shepherds Crossing.info then click the DONATE NOW link.



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