



# Shepherd's Crossing

AUGUST 2023—IN THIS ISSUE:

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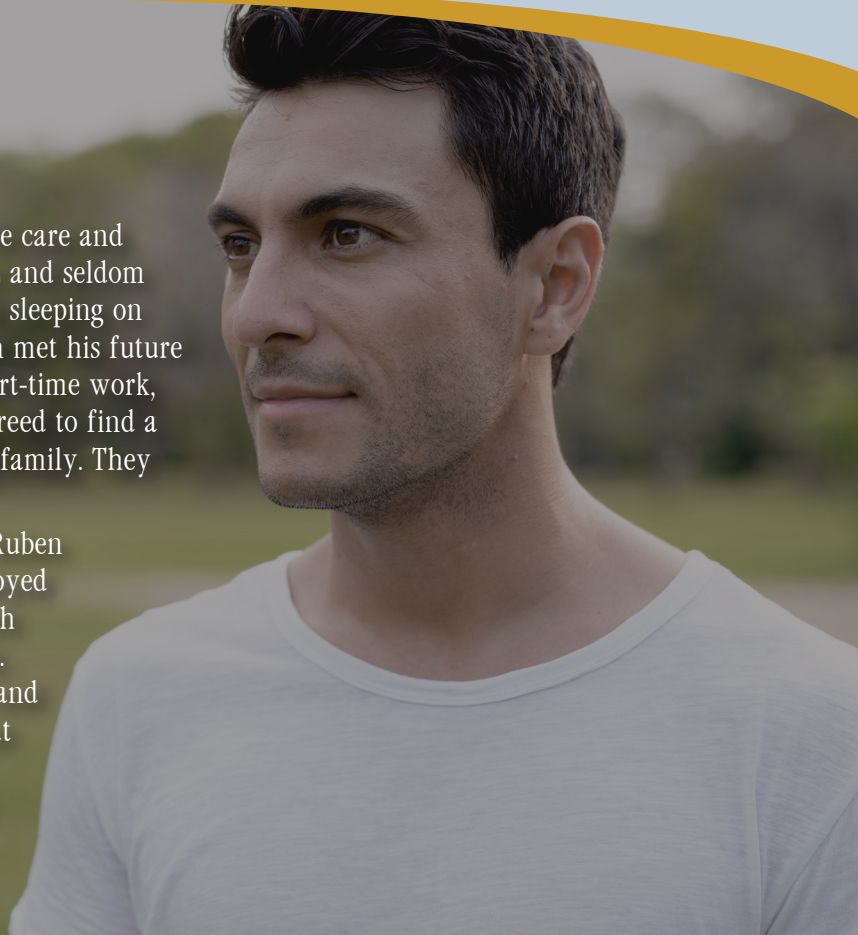
*Share your blessings—Make a difference*

## Meet Ruben: A New Life in a Generous Community

Ruben lived in big city in middle America with very little care and support. He lost contact with his parents when he was 12 and seldom attended school. His lifestyle was typified by hunger and sleeping on the street, despite his attempts to avoid the streets. Ruben met his future wife, who came from similar circumstances. He found part-time work, but as his six children were born, Ruben and his wife agreed to find a way out of their situation and a safe place to raise their family. They chose Kansas.

The family found a much better environment here, but Ruben struggled to find secure work. Recently, he became employed and reached out to Shepherd's Crossing for assistance with a utility bill that was only being partly paid each month. Shepherd's Crossing was able to provide some assistance and helped set up a plan for Ruben to get caught up with that utility. Ruben left Shepherd's Crossing with a big smile, saying "thank you, thank you," for the generous support of the Manhattan community.

*Warren Holmes, Director of Client Services*



## News and Updates from Shepherd's Crossing



### From the Executive Director

*"Listening without bias or distraction is the greatest value you can pay another person."* —Denis Waitley

Shepherd's Crossing continues to see record numbers of clients—many with heartbreaking needs. It is still surprising to hear from friends or acquaintances who do not know what we do. When asked, I generally give a laundry list of what we specifically assist with: rent, utilities,

*Beth Klug*

prescriptions, clothing vouchers, bus passes, etc. Generally, when folks hear the list they nod and give silent assent that these are good works.

More recently, I have been starting the response with: "We listen. We listen to individuals and families, we hear their stories of despair, sometimes pain or failure, we hear how they need financial assistance but also someone to offer compassion and understanding. We listen without judgment, or condemnation, and then we work together to find help and a path to greater success." This response creates more empathy and understanding of the real mission we collectively have at Shepherd's Crossing.

I am always thankful for our volunteers, staff, board members and a community rich with collaborating agencies who strive towards a common goal of listening and helping others.

*Beth Klug*

### From the President

For many of us, the hot days of summer are marked by traditional activities such as ballgames, lake visits, swimming and sitting on the porch or deck enjoying a cool drink. For many of our clients, these hot, humid times translate into crushing utility bills, sleepless nights and serious health hazards.

In just a few weeks, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, you can help provide relief to our growing list of clients by participating in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual C. Clyde Run and Midge's Mile 2023 Walk for Shepherd's Crossing. Details can be found in the article on the back of this newsletter. Walk, run, sponsor or just show up, all are welcome. And needed.

Another way to help is to thank and support our church partners who helped found and sustain Shepherd's Crossing over these many years. Without their support, we would struggle to exist and fulfill our mission. Faith plays a big part in our organization as we work to provide hope and a helping hand to those in need.

It takes an entire community to make a difference. Please join us.

—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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Shepherd's  
Crossing



Gretchen  
Fontanini

### Bringing an Attitude of Gratitude

Greetings! I have been working part-time at Shepherd's Crossing for over two years. I can honestly say every day here brings new challenges, new learning opportunities and many things for which to be thankful. Two groups continually rise to the top of the list when it comes to being thankful.

First, our church partners continue to be the foundation upon which Shepherd's

Crossing is built. We are currently working to express our thanks to the supporting churches and looking for ways to engage more churches. If you represent a church or know folks who do, please reach out to me at [mhkcrossing@gmail.com](mailto:mhkcrossing@gmail.com) so we can share the wonderful work being done every day at Shepherd's Crossing. The Manhattan community of faith has shared blessings with us for more than 20 years and we can't thank them enough.

Another group I am most thankful for is our amazing team of volunteers. In a typical week, we have anywhere from 15 to 20 people who donate their time to help Riley County and St. George residents that are in need. In 2022, our volunteers donated over 3,100 hours of their time. They are an integral part of making sure Shepherd's Crossing runs as smoothly and as cost effectively as possible. We are very fortunate to have this group on board with us. Please join me in offering thanks to this dedicated, wonderful team.

—Gretchen Fontanini, Director of Community Outreach



C. CLYDE RUN/  
FUN RUN/WALK

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual C. Clyde Run & Midge's Mile are on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Mark your calendars! The College of Business Administration will hold this year's run at Anneberg Park. The run will be timed again by the Manhattan Running Company. You can register online at the CBA Run website. Register on or before September 20th to be eligible for the grand prize random drawing. Someone will win \$100 worth of groceries each month for twelve months! For the third consecutive year, Hy-Vee Market has generously donated the prize. If you see Manager Kyle Odom in the store, give him a huge thank you! For the first eleven years, sponsors have donated over \$200,000, all of which has gone for client support. C. Clyde would love to see you there!

### A Personal Note from the Editor

We have more than 1,200 names on our mailing list. Many are faithful donors and others are church representatives and staff. We have several funding and governmental entities who receive our mailings. Yet, many people have never heard of Shepherd's Crossing. Please help our efforts to create more awareness and contact us at [shepherd@interkan.net](mailto:shepherd@interkan.net) and give us names to add to our mailing list. Share your knowledge with people. Thanks for your help!

—C. Clyde Jones

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



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NEWS

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Shepherd's  
Crossing

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