



February 2024

Dear RCA Global Mission and all supporting churches,

Greetings from the Center of Hope! This letter is the Center of Hope quarterly update of what God has been doing through the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, since our last update.

God has been moving at the Center of Hope! Praise him for HIS faithfulness. Since November of 2023, we have completed 738 total services as we cared for the homeless and working-poor in our community.

The services included:

- 287 pastoral counseling interactions in our Care Center
- 79 patients with health insurance were cared for at the Center of Hope Evening Clinic
- 172 Bike Ministry services
- 67 bicycles leaving our Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry that provided transportation for our guests to get to and from work, even though the winter months have been cold here in South Dakota.
- 105 bicycle repairs
- 90 guests participating in our Earn-Your-Way program
- Providing 44 IDs, 19 Birth Certificates, 4 Steel-Toed Boots, and 23 bicycles
- 71 clothing provisions for free clothing for people in crisis in our Care Center
- 22 backpacks containing felony-friendly landlord lists, employment options, Bibles, and more left with people recently released from prison
- 15 hygiene kits distributed

Starting April 1 of 2024, there will be changes at the Center of Hope:

- Brett Rockvam, our current Executive Director, will start the slow process into retirement and will end his last three to four years at the Center of Hope as a Nonprofit Pastor in our Care Center. I (Adam Hofer) will be the acting Executive Director of the Center of Hope.
- The Center of Hope Open Hours will be expanded. We will be open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.
- An Outreach Pastor will be added to the Center of Hope staff. They will spend 50 percent of their time each week at the Center of Hope providing pastoral counseling in our Care Center and 50 percent on the streets doing street outreach to better care for the homeless in Sioux Falls.

Thank you for your faithful financial support each year. As the expenses of ministry continue to increase, we rely on God's providing power and your support to sustain our ministry efforts in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

With that being said, we will continue to be faithful to our mission of walking alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health.

Sincerely,
Adam Hofer
Director of Programs

A Message from Brett - Brett Rockvam

Hello friends of the Center of Hope. I wanted to let you know about some staff changes happening April 1, 2024. I will start the slow process of moving toward retirement. The hope is I will be at the Center of Hope for a couple more years, but Adam Hofer will be taking the leadership role of Executive Director on April 1 of this year. I want to thank everyone for supporting and walking alongside me during the last 18 years. I grew in leadership and loved the opportunity to be a part of the Center of Hope. I hope to see all of you around the Center of Hope for a couple more years. I support Adam in this role, and I will always have the Center of Hope close to my heart no matter what. Thank you and I hope you have a blessed 2024.

New Chapter - Adam Hofer

The Center of Hope is a place where many go for healing, encouragement, and spiritual guidance. Our mission is to walk alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health, and ultimately to change our community one life at a time. We did this faithfully when Fred Wilgenberg was our Executive Director and faithfully under the leadership of Brett Rockvam, as well. As I shift into the Executive Director role in the months to come, I, too, will be faithful to our mission to walk alongside people to promote physical and spiritual health. We exist to share the message of hope we find only in Christ with the hopeless in Sioux Falls and beyond. This will not change. In fact, we will explore new, radical ways of living into our mission in the days to come. As the world around us changes, we at the Center of Hope will unapologetically proclaim, "The center of Hope is JESUS!"

As I look back at the journey that led me to this position, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I am thankful for the professors at Dordt University and Sioux Falls Seminary who taught me effective ways to communicate the gospel message and the best ways to care for people that dignify and empower them. I am thankful for the volunteers who have served alongside me for the last seven years in the Bike Ministry, Care Center, Clothing Ministry, Sharing Christmas, and now at the Center of Hope Free Evening Clinic. I am thankful for my fellow staff members. Each member of our staff has been a blessing to me in their own way and are truly gifts from God to our community. We are all gifted in different ways. Yet, together, we make a good team.

Lastly, I am thankful for Brett Rockvam's mentorship. He has been helping me develop as a leader for years now. Under his leadership, I had the freedom to expand programs—such as the Bike Ministry, create programs—such as the Earn-Your-Way program, engage in pastoral counseling in our Care Center, become a leader of the Sharing Christmas program, coordinate volunteer endeavors in our various ministries, lead Center of Hope fundraising and marketing efforts (e.g. fundraising events, newsletters, social media), and so much more. My experience in all the areas of the ministry at the Center of Hope has equipped me for my new role. I can move forward in confidence because of his mentorship and of all the people who have taught me life lessons along the way. I am excited to move the Center of Hope into a new chapter.

Sharing Christmas UPDATE

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.



The Sharing Christmas program was a success this year thanks to the generosity of our gift donors and volunteers. Because of you, 1,837 children received gifts for Christmas (640 families). A special thank you goes to Nate Ryke from The Community Outreach for all the work he did this year! We appreciated his leadership and enjoyed partnering with him this year to ensure children in struggling families received gifts for Christmas.

Let's Connect—Mission Moments, Pulpit Supplies, and MORE!

Out of our gratitude, we want you to know that we value our partnership in ministry. If you are a pastor, elder, or deacon of a church in the Sioux Falls area, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need pulpit supply help or if you want us to update your congregation on what God has been doing at the Center of Hope. We would love to join you for worship! All for HIS glory and honor.

Join our Volunteer Family

We are in need of volunteer help! We specifically have needs for...

- Registered Nurse Volunteers at our free clinic for the un-insured on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 8:30pm (DESPERATE NEED!).
- Prayer Team volunteers to offer prayer and encouragement during clinic hours.
- Bike Ministry volunteers to repair bicycles (training included) on a weekly basis (Tuesday-Friday).
- Encouragement Card volunteers to make encouragement cards for our guests (this can be done at your church or business).
- Care Center volunteers to help guests at the Front Desk and sort clothing items for the Care Center.