

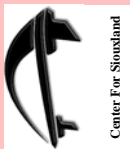
Winter 2005

January 15, 2006



THE LINK

Center for Siouxland (formerly known as the A.I.D Center)



Center For Siouxland's Elves

Center For Siouxland (CFS), under the direction of Kellie Aslani (Conservator for CFS and Santa's Head Elf), was a very busy place Christmas week. Besides the hustle and bustle of everyday business, CFS was working with other organizations and businesses to make this holiday season a bit nicer for others. The hallways were lined with wrapped and unwrapped gifts including a bike for one lucky child.

CFS Elves Bobbi, Susan, Rhonda, and Sandy



Yearly, Center For Siouxland has over 450 conservatorship, shelter, transitional housing, or La Casa Latina clients that need help during the holiday season. These people are often poor, elderly, physically and/or mentally handicapped.

CFS, partnering with the Elks, St. Michaels, Tyson, Sioux City Country Club, Toys for Tots and 1st Presbyterian Church helped provide joy for those who have so little. "Often, the donated gift is the only gift

under the tree," said Kellie. She went on to say, "One young woman, who came from an abusive relationship and has three small children, was adopted for holiday assistance. Shortly after, she was able to get a job with the company that adopted her family. It's these stories that warm your heart."

"When I (Angela Chacon, Director of Marketing) helped the Elks deliver some of the food baskets to the 290+ families (75 were CFS clients), I was deeply touched by their gratitude. One poor woman, her eyes filled with unshed tears and a small child on her hip, kept saying, 'I've never been given anything before. Now I understand the true meaning of Christmas.'"

Elves are not just little guys and gals with pointy ears, dressed in green and red working for Santa. You'll find Elves, of all sizes and shapes, helping out the less fortunate all over Siouxland.

Upcoming Events

February 2006
Lunch and Learn

March 7, 2006
Annual Meeting

May 2006
Lunch and Learn

June 2006 Emergency Services Fund-raiser

For more information call Angela at 712-252-1861 ext 41

A Hand-Up!

First Congregational United Church of Christ hosted "Soup for the Soul." It was a home-made soup and pie dinner to benefit Center For Siouxland's Emergency Family Shelter and CSADV's Crossroads Shelter. The cost was a free-will offering and a non-perishable food item.



Allaire Willits at First Congregational

First Congregational also prepared many baskets containing household items that will be needed by individuals leaving their sheltered environment and going out on their own. The baskets contained everything from

bedding and towels, to kitchen pots and pans.

Fran Rochester, Vice President of the Emergency Services, said "People come to us (Center For Siouxland) for shelter with everything they own in a plastic garbage bag. Once they are ready to leave, they can't possibly

afford all the items necessary to start a new life. These baskets are a wonderful way to give them a hand-up. We are very grateful of the commitment that First Congregational United Church of Christ has to the homeless. This dinner was a great success and the food was delicious."

Center For Siouxland Celebrates 30

The weather outside was blustery during Center For Siouxland's 30th Birthday Celebration but inside there were warm memories and plenty of cake, cookies, and punch as people looked through old photographs of Center For Siouxland's past.

Part of the program was spent discussing the logo. Why this logo? We, at Center For Siouxland, feel when Siouxlanders are in need that a bridge is a symbol of hope.

Bridges are a means of connection; a link, if you will. They provide a roadway over obstacles, give alternate routes, and lead toward a direction of certainty. This has been Center For Siouxland's labor of love for 30 years.



Please visit our new website that was unveiled at our 30th Birthday Celebration.

www.centerforsiouxland.org

A.S. Garretson Event, "The Art of Giving— The Framework of Siouxland"

The A.S. Garretson event is named after Arthur Samuelson Garretson a visionary leader during the late 1880's. In tribute to Mr. Garretson, United Way of Siouxland has named their most recognized leadership society in his honor. This event was a thank-you to those who have donated. During the event, art work was auctioned and half of the proceeds went to the agency that submitted the work and half to the United Way.

Coordinators for two of the programs at Center For Siouxland (CFS), Kari Hildring, Community Case Worker at Bridges West and Brenda Noll, Emergency Assistance /Family Shelter Coordinator, were asked to find someone to submit artwork for this event. They both immediately thought of one of CFS's clients- Casie. Casie is a mother of two small children, who is battling an illness and lives in a sheltered environment. The delighted Kari portraits. Most of her artwork revolves around

Casie has art training at WIT and Kansas City been drawing all her life. "I think peoples' faces eyes influence me the most and make me want Center For Siouxland) inspired me." Casie wants the faces of the homeless and people in need

Casie states, "I chose a black-and-white medium because need is color-blind. Homelessness affects people from all ethnic groups, age-groups and backgrounds." She also hopes that people become more aware of mental illness and how it affects life, families, and daily living. "One day, I hope to get to the point where I will be self-sufficient and do art and graphic design as a full-time job."



Art Institute; however, she states that she has and how they express themselves through their to draw. The other residents (housed through the people who view her canvas to understand that are faces of ordinary people.

The artwork was purchased and donated back to Center For Siouxland by Mark and Polly Petersen of South Dakota. It will be displayed in the office of Bridges West, Center For Siouxland's Transitional Housing. Center For Siouxland appreciates the Petersen's support of the United Way and Center For Siouxland.



Fran Rochester in the food pantry

Center For Siouxland's Holiday Food Drive

Fran Rochester Vice President of Emergency Services had the following to say, "Each food item donated is invaluable, not only because it's nourishing to the body, but because it represents the caring hearts of all the people, young and the young-at-heart, involved in giving. It is a concrete example of help. The individuals themselves may feel unloved or unloved, but when they receive the food assistance, they receive a reassuring message that you care. Some people are so alone and are lacking family support that any word, gesture or act of kindness makes the difference between going on and giving up. I want to thank everyone who participated in the food drive, the abundance of food items will allow us to serve more individuals for a greater length of time during the beginning of the year. The entire Emergency Services department is very grateful to all of you who donated time and food to this holiday food drive. Again, thank you so much for your participation and helping 'those' that are the reason we're here."

Special thanks goes to East Middle School who donated over 5,200 points worth of food and was by far the biggest donor. However, the overwhelming response from the community makes it impossible to print all the donors in this space. Please go to our website www.centerforsiouxland.org "News and Events" for a full list of donors.

Special thanks goes to East Middle School who donated over 5,200 points worth of food and was by far the biggest donor. However, the overwhelming response from the community makes it impossible to print all the donors in this space. Please go to our website www.centerforsiouxland.org "News and Events" for a full list of donors.

KSUX/Center For Siouxland Third Annual Diaper Drop

Diapers are not often viewed as a necessity. People, barely making ends meet and living on an minimum wage income, can't always afford them. In fact, Center For Siouxland (CFS) gets daily requests for diaper assistance. "It's wonderful that we have a local radio station that has a big heart, recognizes this need in our community and supports the CFS diaper drive with their time and talent. Along with the support of the Southern Hills Hy-Vee, we are able to help the majority of the people. Last year, the diapers lasted from January to October," said Fran Rochester Vice President of Emergency Services. "I just want to thank KSUX and especially Cowboy Bob, Tony Michaels, and Brian Ross."



Cowboy Bob, Brian Ross, Angela Chacon, Tony Michaels & his son Trey at the Southern Hills Hy-Vee

Last year, nearly 80 packages of diapers were collected during the diaper drop. This year we collected much more than diapers. Generous Siouxlander's brought, in addition to 64 diaper packets, wipes, formula, baby lotion, shampoo and stuffed animals. Once woman who dropped off three packages of diapers said, "I know what it is like not to have diapers." Brenda Noll, Emergency Assistance /Family Shelter Coordinator said, "We have Siouxlanders that have dropped off diapers every year and make it a part of their family holiday giving. The generosity of so many people is just overwhelming."

Those seeking assistance for diapers or food can come to Center For Siouxland, 715 Douglas St., during the pantry hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri 10-11:30 a.m. or Mon, Tues, and Thurs 1:00-3:30 p.m. Call ahead to confirm hours 712-252-1861 ext 10.

New Staff and Staff Changes

Rhonda Lacy (252-1861 ext 19) joins the Center For Siouxland staff replacing Suzanne Seiler as the new 2-1-1 Database Manager. As the 2-1-1 Database Manager, she will respond to phone calls from 10 counties helping people find assistance.



Rhonda received a Bachelor of Science degree from Mankato State University in Family Life/Child Development and Buena Vista University in the area of Psychology.

Prior to accepting a position at Center For Siouxland, Rhonda was employed at The Crittenton Center as a Caseworker. She performed therapy, skill development and supervising visits for parents and children.

Some of Rhonda's hobbies include shopping, walking and spending time with family and friends.

Victoria M. Lopez Barrios (252-4259)

Is the new Head teacher/Receptionist at La Casa Latina. She is responsible for the Madres y Niños program, assists clients and is involved in the daily operations.



Prior to working at La Casa Latina, she recently moved to S. Sioux City from California where she was a substitute teacher for K-12. Victoria's hobbies include long walks on the beach, reading, watching movies, dancing, cooking and spending time with her loved ones.

2-1-1 Expands Coverage

2-1-1 has increased its area of coverage! Now anyone in Dakota County dialing 2-1-1 will be connected with the Center For Siouxland's Information and Referral Specialist (I&R Specialist).

What is 2-1-1? It is Siouxland's help-by-phone service providing free information, referrals, and crisis intervention to anyone, anywhere in the Northwest Iowa and Dakota County, Nebraska service area, 24/7.

How does 2-1-1 work? Upon dialing the numbers **2-1-1**, the caller is connected with an I&R specialist trained to assess the callers' needs, determine the service providers best equipped to handle the request, and advocate if necessary. If dialing the number 2-1-1 doesn't connect you, call (Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 712-252-1861 ext. 19. I&R specialists are knowledgeable about the services and resources available in Northwest Iowa and Dakota County, Nebraska and use a comprehensive database to assist every caller's request.

Lots of Socks Update

Visit our website www.centerforsiouxland.org for more information under "News and Events."

Hispanic Horizons Update

See how our La Casa Latina fundraiser did! Visit "News and Events" at www.centerforsiouxland.org for more information.

Center For Siouxland Annual Meeting

Center For Siouxland is having their Annual Meeting **March 7, 2006**. This year's venue is the Sioux City Convention Center and the guest speaker is **Mr. Michael Stoops** the Acting Executive Director for the Washington, D.C.-based National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH).

Since 1972, Mr. Stoops has been working full-time (primarily as a volunteer) with homeless/formerly homeless people and homeless advocacy groups. He was a founding board member of NCH, and joined NCH's staff in 1988.

Since 1988, he has worked to establish and provide ongoing support to local/statewide homeless/housing coalitions and homeless self-help and social justice/action groups.

Mr. Stoops is the project director for NCH's National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project. He also serves as the project director of NCH's Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau.

He also coordinates NCH's national events: National Homeless Voter Registration Week (every election cycle), National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Tickets will be available in February. Individual tickets will be \$40 and table sponsorship (for 8) is \$350.

Emergency Assistance

Emergency Services Department has, from January 05 to December 05, helped numerous low income Siouxlanders that found themselves in a bind due to circumstances beyond their control and were in need of emergency assistance.

Food for 2,010 households representing 4,884 people
Clothing for 460 households representing 1,262 people
Prescription Assistance for 216 people (93 not assisted-lack of funding)
Utility Assistance for 172 homes representing 561 people (245 not assisted-lack of funding)

We rely greatly on your donations for emergency assistance. Please consider a donation to Center For Siouxland to help the needy.

For more information about the Emergency Services Department contact Fran Rochester at 712-252-1861 ext 20.

DONATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
\$20 () \$50 () \$100 () \$125 () \$150 () \$200 () Other _____

I wish my donation to be anonymous ()

Please make checks and money orders payable to:

Center For Siouxland
715 Douglas Street
Sioux City, IA 51101

Please include this form with your donation.



Center For Siouxland

Center For Siouxland
715 Douglas Street
Sioux City, IA 51101
phone: 712-252-1861 Fax: 712-255-1352
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.
E-mail: cfs@centerforsiouxland.org
24/7 Human Resources Help Line Dial 2-1-1

Check out our new website
www.centerforsiouxland.org

TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL SEND
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO
ANGELA.CHACON@CENTERFORSIOUXLAND.ORG



Board of Directors

Jackie Kaufman, Chair
Russ Wermers, Vice-Chair
Mary Koster, Secretary
John Wagner, Treasurer
Donna Beck-Willems
Rhonda Capron
Marilyn Charging
Caroline Donaway
Kent Furlong
Michelle Gaukel
Vickie Hirschert
Kevin McManamy
Marilyn Murphy
Terri Post
Jim Rouse
Sandy Wienhold
President
Janice Klimiades

