

# THE CURRENT

A little good news from the Center..... Winter 2012



## ~YOU CARED ENOUGH TO HELP~

~Thank You~



"No one has listened to me in such a long time, please know how appreciative I am of what you do, and most importantly for listening to me". (54 year old client who received medical and food assistance from the Center).

"There would never be enough words to express my gratitude and appreciation for your help. Thank you for your kind and encouraging spirit, for never judging me and my situation. I pray that God will continue to give the Center the strength and resources to minister to others in their time of need". (Monica received help with utilities, shelter and budgeting).

"Thank you to everyone who helped give me teeth. It is a blessing and a pleasure to smile and enjoy food".  
Ralph



In 2011, the Center provided assistance to 5,485 individuals in need. Everything the Center accomplishes through our programs of assistance is made possible by the generous support we receive from individuals, businesses and foundations. We thank the following grantors for believing in and supporting our mission: McGee Foundation; Oppenstein Brothers Foundation; United Way; Elaine Feld Stern Foundation; DST Systems; Society of the Precious Blood; Mary Elizabeth Martin Trust; JB Reynolds Foundation; WT Kemper Foundation; Hartford Field Giving program; Hallmark Corporate Foundation; Jackson County; Cleveland Moulton Trust; H & R Block, Massman Foundation; Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City; MAZON: a Jewish Response to Hunger; KC Project Warmth; FEMA; Parish Based Ministries. You have made it possible for individuals and families in need remain in their homes with the utilities on and food on the table.

## Making a Difference

**Sock it To Poverty...** We thank the many schools, churches & businesses for making our collection of new socks & underwear such a success! This year's collection of over 11,000 items will benefit hundreds of poor, elderly and homeless individuals in our community. We also thank everyone who supported the SITP raffle, and congratulations to the winners: iPad2- Eddie Bailey; \$300-Doug Rundle; \$200-Patty Walsh; iPod Shuffle-Lorraine Medill; \$100 gas card-Paul Thompson. And a special thanks to Patty for "re-gifting" her \$200 cash prize to the Center! Proceeds from the raffle & donations totaled over \$8,350!

**CROP Walk for Hunger...** Center volunteers Shari & Rich Stephan, Ethel Rodriguez, Cindy McDaniels, William McDaniels and Dwayne Harris worked the event on behalf of the Center.

**St. John LaLande's annual Giving Tree** donation to the Center provided coats, towels and many more necessities to clients of the Center.

**Visitation Church Peace Tree** provided the homebound participants of the Center's Saturday Meal delivery program with gifts of body care products.

**Pamela Espana & the Girl Scout Troops** once again baked 450 delicious dinner rolls for holiday food basket distribution.

**Jessie Campbell and US Engineering** donated freshly prepared Thanksgiving meals to 18 families.

**Notre Dame de Sion High School...**their annual food drive for the Center of over 14 tons will stock our pantry shelves through August.

**Center volunteers...** who contribute hundreds of hours each month and make everything run smoothly!



## Center Factsoids

- 175 volunteers assist the Center on a regular monthly basis.
- Volunteer hours contributed in 2011: 6,526
- Volunteers assisting in 2011: 2,019

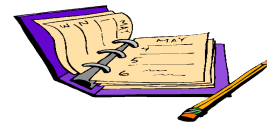
April marked my five year anniversary with the Center and our staff, volunteers and Board have achieved significant milestones that we are very proud of!



Diana Kennedy,  
Director

- Expanded our service area from 12 to 21 zip codes (315,584 individuals) in response to the overwhelming need. This area includes the top four zip codes having the most requests for assistance.
- One of the top three agencies providing multiple client services from a single site.
- We provide assistance for 8 of the top 10 most requested needs
- Medical Matters... benefits the medically fragile -the elderly, the underserved and the medically indigent- by assisting with prescription medication payments and durable medical goods.
- Saturday Meal Delivery To The Homebound... doubled in size & is staffed by volunteers.
- Transportation: only agency providing both reduced fare monthly bus passes and one-ride tokens.
- Elderly: only agency providing Saturday meal delivery, minor home repairs and emergency assistance to the elderly.
- Food: only agency providing food assistance twice a month.
- An exciting new Texas Hold'em poker tournament fundraiser this October!

We are grateful to the many foundations and donors who believe in and continue to support our mission during these challenging economic times.



## Mark Your Calendars

- **March & April...**Feinstein Challenge to Fight Hunger
- **September...***Sock It To Poverty* collection & raffle; free mammograms for low income women
- **October...**2<sup>nd</sup> annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament; CROP Walk for Hunger
- **Nov. & Dec...**holiday food basket distribution



**“All In” for poverty!**

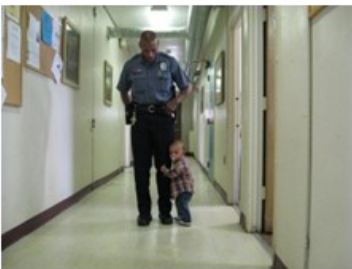
If you weren't at the Center's first annual "All In" for poverty Texas Hold'em poker tournament, you missed out on a terrific evening! The event was a huge success with 80 players vying for incredible prizes! Over \$7,000 was raised and will be used to fight poverty by assisting the poor and the elderly with shelter, utility & medical needs.

We thank our corporate sponsors for their support: Martin, Leigh, Laws & Fritzlen, MoKan Title and Country Club Bank. The delicious buffet was donated by Cosentino's Price Chopper, and the beer was a donation from Central States Beverage. Rich & Shari Stephan supplied all of the soft drinks and bottled water. 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Jim Flynn won \$500 cash (which he generously donated back to the Center) and two SouthWest Airlines tickets! Chris Connell took home \$300 cash & a week at Holiday Shores Resort, and Kimberly Wolfe won \$200 cash & a weekend at Southmoreland Inn on the Plaza. We are most grateful to everyone who supported the Center's mission and we hope to see you at next year's event!



**Ethel Rodriguez**, the Center's Food Pantry Coordinator, took quite a liking to a whole pig that was donated to the Center!

**Officer Mike Merino**, KCPD Metro Division, received a Meritorious Service Award for assisting with a plan to route hot and/or cool air directly into the prisoner compartments of patrol wagons, a need that is especially critical during periods of extreme temperatures.



**Officer Eric Hoskins**, KCPD Central Patrol Division and Junior Officer Gavin. We are very grateful to Officer Hoskins who is the head of police security for the Center. A police presence often

diffuses potential situations that can arise from the desperation and frustration of people in crisis.

## 2011 in Review

**2011... total number of individuals served: 15,163**

**Note:** This number reflects the Center's strength in our ability to provide critical *multiple assists* from a single site to individuals in need.

**5,485 low income/impooverished** individuals received assisted through Emergency Client Assistance with shelter, utility, medical and miscellaneous needs. This number reflects unduplicated assists.

Household members served last year in the following age ranges: 0-19: 1%; 20-29: 8%; 30-39: 18%; 40-49: 30%; 50-59: 29%; 60 +: 14%

**Program statistics**

**Emergency Client Assistance: individuals assisted**

	2011	2010
<u>Shelter</u>	280	296
<u>Utilities</u>	3,126	2,049
<u>Medical</u>	669	508
<u>Food</u>	6,625	6,130
<u>Transportation</u>	3,251	1,080

(one-ride bus tokens & monthly passes)

Miscellaneous 1,212

(education, work related, funeral/burial, holiday gifts, etc.)

**Health Maintenance:** over 346 individuals received free health assistance: 26 women received free mammograms; over 100 individuals received free health screenings; 220 individuals received flu shot vouchers.

**Legal Assistance:** 426 individuals received free legal assistance.

**Senior Services:** (individuals assisted):

	2011
<u>Utilities</u>	161
<u>Medical</u>	100
<u>Saturday Meals</u>	25

(received over 1,251 meals)

<u>Minor Home Repairs</u>	41
<u>Shelter</u>	9
<u>Food pantry</u>	602

**Sock It To Poverty...**

Visitation students sorted over 11,000 new socks & underwear!





Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO.  
PERMIT No. 2187

207 W. Linwood Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO. 64111

WWW.KCSOCIALSERVICES.ORG  
EMAIL: INFO@KCSOCIALSERVICES.ORG  
PHONE: 816-931-9942

*"HELPING PREVENT A TEMPORARY CRISIS  
FROM BECOMING A PERMANENT TRAGEDY"*



- The Center is thrilled to have three new volunteers! **Maggie Sapp** works with client files and was a huge hit at our Texas Hold'em poker tournament in her brightly colored suspenders printed with playing cards!
- **Don Winkle** does client interviewing and is still upset that February 6<sup>th</sup> ...Babe Ruth's birthday...hasn't been declared a national holiday!
- **Dan Shea** does double duty with interviewing clients and working in the Clothing Room.

## ~ ON THE HOMEFRONT ~



- Ricardo (Ricky) Alaniz is in his first year at Rockhurst University but comes to the Center during holiday breaks to help with client data input. Ricky graduated from Cristo Rey High School and quickly became a part of our team with his enthusiasm and knowledge. And-of course-he is an A student and having the time of his life!
- John Smith, Building Facilitator for the Center and volunteer Mel Metzinger, sorted and boxed in record time over 14 tons of food from the annual Notre Dame de Sion High School food drive benefitting the Center! This wonderful donation will stock our pantry shelves through August.

*Thought for the day... It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. Harry S. Truman*