



Grace, Gratitude, Goodness & Waiting

Those concepts tie together the time span since our last newsletter, through Thanksgiving, and up to Christmas and as we welcome the New Year.

Gratitude:

We have been incredibly blessed this year:

- new office space with practical and beautiful interior furnishing
- the variety of folks who came to us—for information or support, those who helped through staff time, or through volunteering or donating—and those who supported our work through memberships or spreading the word
- a successful fundraiser event in September
- generous grants to keep us in motion.

Grace & Goodness:

We experience both on a daily basis and are always watchful for opportunity to help others realize the same in midst of the struggles they may share.

At Crossroads, we want to give as we have been blessed and given to. We can share time, resources and encouragement in addition to helping people recognize how God works. That oftentimes includes learning to wait well. We have to wait well for the growth in our outreach that we trust will happen. Many are waiting on the answers they are praying for, and we strive to encourage them to also wait well.

Waiting:

We are in a season that is all about waiting. Advent is about waiting—waiting for Christ's return. We are so fortunate to already be saved through grace, and while we wait, we know it is Jesus' instruction that we share the news of His birth, life, death, resurrection, and of his return. Waiting well is not passively hanging out until what we want happens. It is an active response to doing what we can WHILE we wait.

Waiting can be tough. Our reality today rarely promotes the peaceful, yet active waiting that the true meaning of Christmas implies. For the Christian hope, love, and joy of Christmastime to permeate your home and family there has to simply be time...waiting time...teaching time...together time. May your family know the expectant and energizing waiting time and true peace.



REPLAY OF OUR BUSY LATE SUMMER & FALL

Some replay of the fundraiser Event!

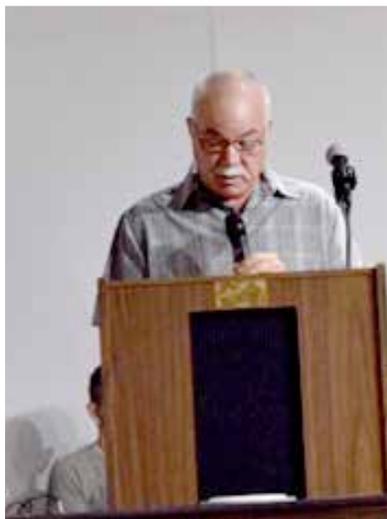
Amount raised: \$10,185 before expenses



Caleb Schroeder, Our current Board president shared what it means to be a nonprofit 501c3. While making a profit is not our purpose, we are ethically & legally mandated to assure that all proceeds are applied to our stated mission. Our members join us in that mission. We are member driven, while the Board of Directors is responsible to make decisions, especially financial, toward the growth of the mission.



Dave Friedrichsen, our current Board Treasurer, shared that a year ago, we were requesting adequate office space to grow. That blessing was made possible through the generosity of folks who understood our outreach. After moving to the new site was complete in March and more fully resettling by June, we



now are asking for help to fund staffing needs so we can more effectively meet the needs of those who come to us. We had served over 100 individuals or families both years in both long and short term service capacities, and it is imperative that we have multiple staff roles to improve our effectiveness in the outreach. True helping requires time and relationship.

Julie Brown shared a stirring personal story about her overwhelm with being a young divorced single parent years ago. She articulated how if Crossroads existed then, the support we offer may have enabled her to latch onto resources and be emotionally built up so she could have avoided obstacles. She encouraged the community to share in our work to strengthen families and meet them where they are at in their need.



Angie Rosener with her brother John Thies drove the message of how God loves us even in our brokenness and wants to use it toward lives that have been 'repurposed or upcycled' to shine for Him through four wonderful and inspiring songs. (Thank you, Angie and John!)



Message Recap

WE ARE ALL BROKEN • GOD LOVES US IN OUR BROKENNESS
WE ARE RECLAIMED & ENDLESSLY VALUABLE
GOD WORKS IN & THROUGH OUR BROKENNESS



Some of the donated auction items

The auction items reflected that same message. Most projects had the symbolic significance of beginning with something in pieces, useless, broken, or unvalued. With the crafter's skill and workmanship, the pieces were turned into beautiful and valuable items. This is how God works in our lives as well!



Mike & Becky Friedrichsen won the raffle for the beautiful

industrial style walnut entry table made by Devon Evers of Crossgrain Woodworking. The win was even more exciting since Mike and Becky sponsored Devon's project! Thank you Crossgrain Woodworking and Mike & Becky!



These two pieces involved incredible workmanship and wonderfully captured the theme of God's restoration in us. Larry Kepford cut the maple trees for the buffet in Missouri and then hand milled the lumber before using the spalted maple to create this piece. Before this building project, Larry had suffered a debilitating stroke. He was regaining strength and agility was unable

to do his woodworking at that point. So this project was coached by Larry while his brother-in-law, Kevin Namanny learned the skill and completed the maneuvers Larry was unable to do.

The roll top desk was also incredible workmanship, made by Larry of hand milled Walnut. Understanding the work we do at Crossroads, Larry wanted to make the furniture available for our auction. Crossroads purchased them far under value with sponsorship donation by Denny & Coleen Bruhn of Schleswig.

Dave & Jac Friedrichsen bought the buffet on the auction. They are especially pleased with the piece because not only is it beautiful, but they were first acquainted with Larry & Peg years ago when both families emotionally invested in foster care with their efforts focusing on restoration of children in placement who had come from broken homes, hurting families. The buffet symbolizes for them how the journey to healing can be a long and hard road and, in the end, beautiful and rewarding.

All of these pieces to the story add up to a true match to our theme of Beauty in Brokenness! Thank you for your time, workmanship, and donation, Larry! Thank you for making it available to us through sponsorship, Denny & Coleen Bruhn, and for your auction purchase, Dave & Jac!

They dodged the camera apparently, but thank you to auctioneers Curtis Korner and Bob Boettger for hanging in there with the terrific turnout of items and making it fun!

Sneak Peek

The 2019 annual fundraiser plans are underway! The date is not confirmed, but will likely be held on a Saturday later in the month of September, 2019. Our theme is Seasons Change and activities will involve all ages, families, and community members. Location to be announced! Please let us know if you are interested in helping in any way and at any point in the planning and preparations!

THANK YOU

We have been blessed with a bit of storage in our new location and we can keep a few backup items for those who need and are actively working with us.

*Thank You!
We can help because you helped!*

With a Special Thank You to:
*Jennifer, Kayla & Katie Hennings
for organizing the project,
purchasing & stocking the items
and coordinating donations!*

We are grateful to these Donors:
*Immanuel Lutheran Mission
Team of Schleswig, Thrivent
Financial, Hy-Vee, Walmart and
the Dollar General*



HIDDEN BLESSINGS

The names Marilyn Nemitz and Bobbi Garcia are very familiar at the Denison Senior Center because these two are the hub of the activities that occur there. They are incredibly dedicated to being there early every morning to cook an average of 70 meals per day for seniors in Crawford County while answering the phone constantly. Some meals are eaten on site, some or delivered by volunteer drivers to the seniors' doors. No matter what, the meals are fresh, hot and delicious! THANK YOU, Bobbi & Marilyn for your excellent work and for making such a difference for so many.



Crossroads coordinates the Meals on Wheels program for Schleswig seniors. Besides taking calls for those who do and do not want meals delivered to Schleswig on Tuesdays and Thursdays, they complete the intake paperwork, keep records on deliveries, schedule the volunteer drivers, and respond to individual things going on for the seniors who take the meals. We are grateful to offer this service to our seniors!

Did you know?

Meals on Wheels is NOT income based. It is a federal program available to any person over age 60 or who is home bound, and to the caregiver of that person. The ultimate goal of Meals on Wheels is to provide nutrition and accessibility of healthy meals to seniors.

Meals on Wheels are available each weekday in Denison, unless it is a holiday or weather is bad, and by delivery to Schleswig on Tuesday and Thursday and to other communities as well. Members who receive Meals on Wheels get to choose what days they do or do not accept a meal.

The prices for Meals on Wheels are SUGGESTED, rather than set and charged. Recipients can offer any amount. The average price per meal is about \$6. The monies collected from any recipients are directly turned into the Senior Center for new food expenses.

Some communities have closed their Meals on Wheels programs because they were not able to become self-sustaining. This is why the more that financially contribute to Meals on Wheels, the stronger the program and the more seniors can be served!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THANK YOU! United Church of Christ in Schleswig has been a huge help in boosting Crossroad's work for each of the three years we have been in operation. This past September a financial gift from an endowment has been especially helpful. We are incredibly blessed that the endowment funds are available for undertakings that revolve around being the hands and feet of Jesus in serving our neighbors.



challenged. The grant award allowed for Crossroads to hire Sandy Hummel as a Schleswig Service Coordinator (part time).

Sandy and her husband Jeff moved to Schleswig in 2012. They have two adult daughters in Minnesota and Omaha and a son in Japan. Sandy is a natural at befriending others in Christian love. Using the Meals on Wheels service as a springboard for engaging in more helping ways, she has recently begun her efforts to support the needs of the senior citizens in the Schleswig area, and she will also field other families to Janette's involvement as needed. We are so pleased she has joined our staff and we enjoy her gentle and fun-loving nature. Welcome, Sandy! And THANK YOU, UCC for enabling this!



The grant proposal was written for a Crossroads staff member to be a presence in Schleswig. When Crossroads started, the Schleswig community was quickly involved in donations, volunteering, and support for what we had set out to do. With quick growth in numbers of those we serve all over the county, the one-to-one time with those in Schleswig community soon became



We have several other new part time hires at Crossroads as well! In effort to keep to the limits of space, we look forward to sharing more in the next newsletter. But we would love to have you come in and meet them in person if you can't wait!

Rev. Duane Mullen of UCC Schleswig shared this about why they gave from the Jens A. Carstenson memorial endowment to Crossroads:

"... We chose to support the Crossroads of Crawford County as their faith-based mission is to help our neighbors in need for whatever reason in our community. Crossroads provides not only practical support but also connects families with counseling resources and supports people experiencing difficulties from all walks of life during all stages of life. Working with this organization allows more effectiveness as they can pool resources and more efficiently channel them than if the church alone were helping. Their help freed time for us to help through focusing on the spiritual matters at the core. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the blessings that we have received with an organization whose mission to serve others mirrors our own beliefs and ministry for the good of the church and our community."



We have a reserved area at our site for the resale of a variety of handcrafted items and gifts. All proceeds help us offset our monthly expenses so we can more generously serve families, children, caregivers and senior citizens in tough places.



Note: If you would like to consider donating or selling items to Crossroads for their resale at the Sparrow's Nest, please contact Rachel Greene at 712-269-6983

You can help us by shopping!

Did you know that amazon will help Crossroads through your purchases? Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Crossroads of Crawford County as your agency choice for their donations. Then be sure to shop through www.smile.amazon.com each time. It is the very same as amazon except they offer the charitable kickback to Crossroads!



The Family Den

**FOR USE
WHENEVER
IT HELPS!**

- FAMILY MEETINGS
- PARENT-CHILD VISITS
- STAFFED PARENT-CHILD VISITS
- INDIVIDUALIZED COACHING
- MEDIA TRAINING

Available by appointment. Fee may apply. Please contact us to reserve the area or inquire.

COAT DRIVE

“How did the coat drive go?” That is a popular question, particularly by those who brought in coats. Perfect count was nearly impossible but we took in over 130 coats the last week of October out at the Crossroads office. The following week, the coats were distributed from the H&R office site uptown Denison. They shared over 40 coats with those who came in. Those remaining were brought to West Central to be shared with more in need.



As the coats come in, volunteers helped to check zippers & pockets, and sort to piles by size and gender. This is Sherry Kohnkamp grabbing another tub to begin filling on another size.

The faces of the parents finding a coat for their son or daughter are priceless and the huge smiles and ‘thank yous’ completely make the business worthwhile. My favorite story was a mom of a teenager

called to check if we had anything possibly available. In a short phone visit, we learned that huge medical issues and expenses were causing hardship, and the teen was growing so fast they couldn’t keep up. Finding a couple sweatshirts with the heavier winter coat and handing them multiple items was tear jerking for the mom, and the teen was a happy camper with the style.

Another ‘God thing’ was a person who lost their spouse to a difficult death asking if we could use the larger sizes offered. I assured them that all sizes were needed, but the very next a person gratefully received two of them since one was lighter weight, and had commented how they were afraid larger sizes would not be available. I told them exactly the story of them coming in, and they were nearly in tears.

THANK YOU to helpers Jac Friedrichsen and Sherry Kohnkamp for keeping up with the incoming coats a day I could not be there, and to Nan Bornhoft and H&R Block for their office space and allowing the disruption of folks constantly stopping! We plan to do this again each year about the same time, so keep us in mind for then if you have a coat to spare!

**H&R
BLOCK**



Crossroads of Crawford County thanks each person and business that contributed to our successful event. Partnering in Community makes a difference!

Message Recap

**WE ARE ALL BROKEN • GOD LOVES US IN OUR BROKENNESS
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GOD WORKS IN & THROUGH OUR BROKENNESS**

Sponsored Projects - Crafter Match

Mike & Becky Friedrichsen
(Devon Evers - Walnut Industrial Coffee Bar/Entry table)
Denco-B Ltd.
(Larry Kepford - Walnut Roll Top Desk)
Bank Iowa
(Larry Kepford - Spalded Maple Hutch/Buffer)
UBI, Schleswig
(Jarod Petersen - Cooler Stand)
UBI, Denison
(Nelson Salazar - Wooden Crates)
Denison Livestock Auction, Inc.
(Angie Rosener - Entertainment)
Waldemar Farms
(Sandy Waldemar - Porcelain Painting & Cookbooks)
Sweet Custom Cakes
(Amy Meseck - Decorative Window)
Eagle Vision Creations
(Jeff & Susan Langholz - IU & ISU Birdhouses)
PPP Design
(Scott & Pam Jacobsen - Photo Prints and Wall Cling)
Austin Jacobsen, Cyclone Custom Prints
(Pam Jacobsen - Photo Prints)
Trendue Salon & Spa & Josh & Ashley Beeck
(Josh Beeck & Aveda Items and Wooden Tray)
Body By Pure
(Vickie Willson - Goatmilk & Lavender Bath and Beauty Basket)
The Junkery
(My Stitching Peace - Basket of Stitched Doll Items & Christmas Items)
The Junkery
(Ann Platt - Vintage Christmas Card Shadow Boxes)
Sister Sweets
(Amy Mendenhall - Cinnamon Sticky Rolls)
K & A Design
(Kevin & Annie Sturm - Sign)
1st Choice Commodities - Brian Sieren
(Ryan Nemitz - Rustic Wood Décor)
Loren & Marlene Lee
(The Splintered Spool, Corncob Pen)
Don & Sheila Lammers
(Gloria Roemeling - Handmade Greeting Cards)
(Christine Namanny - Wooden Crosses)
Immanuel Lutheran Quilters
(Quilt)
Walmart
(Rebecca Segebart - Neon Colors Rug)

Table Sponsorships
Hoffman Insurance
Dennis & Lorene Reimer
Farmers Mutual Insurance Association
Lutheran Services in Iowa
Mike & Becky Friedrichsen

General Event Donations

Johnson Propane, Inc.
Reynolds Clothing
Volkert Sales LC
Iconic Screen Printing
Kiron Auto
Subway
Staley's Catering
Rust Garden
KCK's Convenience Store
Schleswig Country Club
Shear Delight
United Church of Christ, Schleswig
Immanuel Lutheran, Schleswig
WinnaVegas Casino
Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium
Maple Creek Apparel

Sunshine Styles
Don's Inc.
BW Outfitters
Crossgrain Woodworking
Dennis Graham, Iowa Windmill Art
GFG Agriproducts/Charter Oak Ag
Broadway Dental
Several Anonymous
1st Choice Commodities-Brian Sieren
Grant & Janette Clausen
Larry Luvaas
Crawford County
Chamber & Development
Cody & Brittany Bremser

Crafters/Projects

Janice Jepsen
Candace Bral
Jan Schultz
Duane Mullen
Josh & Ashley Beeck
Sandra Waldemar
Amy Schroeder
Vickie Willson
Christine Namanny
Sue Kaihoi
Amy Meseck
Kim Larsen
Jack Johnson
Jeff Langholz
Dawn Luetje
Felipe Garcia
Taylor Borkowski
Connie Clinton, It's Personal
Pam Jacobsen, PPP Design

Orlando Zamago
Ann Platt, The Junkery
Karol Hast
Immanuel Lutheran Quilters
Brittany Bremser
Jared Petersen
Larry Kepford
Nelson Salazar, Salazar Construction
Devon Evers, Crossgrain Woodworking
Dennis Graham, Iowa Windmill Art
Rebecca Segebart
Donna Koch
Ryan Nemitz, Ryan's Barn Board Creations
Julie Brown
Jack Johnson
Gloria Roemeling
Jean Devereux, My Stitching Peace
John O'Brien, The Splintered Spool
Renae Hugen

Program Contributors: Rev. Duane Mullen and Rev. Merle Mahnken; Angie Rosener & John Thies; Staley's Catering; Curtis Korner & Bob Boettger.
Cupcakes: Christi Fredericks, Sister Sweets, Sweet Custom Cakes, Julie Wood, Megan Gotto, Nancy Ertz, Pam Steuk, Abby Eck, Heather Cary
Program Helpers: Website photo listing: Pam Jacobsen (PPP Design), Slide Show & Screen Display: Julie Brown, Josh Berns, Auctioneer: Curtis Korner, CR Board/Staff/
Help: Dave Friedrichsen, Caleb Schroeder, Larry Luvaas, Bev Peters, Gail Hatfield, Cheryl Kelly, Sandy Hummel, Brittany Bremser
Set up: Decorating—Janice Jepsen, Preparations & Clean Up—Jac Friedrichsen, Christine Namanny, Sandy Hummel, Tim & Lila Bubke, Larry Luvaas (board member), Grant Clausen, Brittany Bremser
Floor Service & Helping: Pedro Mena, Rosalyn Valesquez, Isabelle Westphalen, Noah Westphalen, Jac Friedrichsen, Christine Namanny, Schleswig 4H Sharks

Thank You!

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www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org • info@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org



Merry Christmas!

Giving is a way to come alongside of us in our outreach and become a part of change in the lives of those trying to make sense of their pain, trying to find their way through a difficult journey, or needing encouragement and hope through mentoring, creative problem solving, or befriending.

If you can consider us in your financial gifts, we know God will work through your support to draw others closer to Him.

The board & staff of Crossroads want to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas, as well as a New Year!

3707 Timberline Dr. Suite 3
Denison, Iowa 51442

