



Crossroads of Crawford County

Community Outreach for Life's Journey

**LOVE
IS NOT
WHAT
YOU SAY.
LOVE IS
WHAT
YOU DO.**



Heartfelt

As 2017 was coming to a close, I noticed that going through my daily emails led to a subtle anxiety for me. The subject lines were filled with year-end appeals for money: “Only Hours Left. Are You With Us?...Time is Running Out....Only 48 hours left!...Deadline: mid-night tomorrow...Only 1 more day... Tomorrow is the last day...”

Many of these were coming from reputable Christian resource entities who we’ve signed up with somewhere along the way when seeking resources for our families that we visit. They were making pleas to their constituents to donate before the year’s end. I suspect many were a worthy cause to give to.

Between the season’s busyness, family gatherings, and the close of the fiscal year for Crossroads, I found myself instantly deleting every email with a title indicating any urgency. Somehow it was satisfying just to reduce those emails, while in the back of my mind I also knew that every bit of fundraising information I have received included the significance of year end fundraising. Yet squeezing in a year-end request when I myself was overwhelmed with them felt counter intuitive.

FUNDRAISING—it’s essential to Crossroads of Crawford County thriving. As a nonprofit which provides a service at no fee for basic Christian resourcing, referral assistance, and mentoring or personal assisting, how we grow will depend on the communities’ investment into healthy families and their recognition of the power of encouragement and helping people find hope.

The emails that rolled out freely requesting year end giving reminded me to be clear with our donors: we know God does not hold anyone accountable for what they do not have. God asks us to give in return from what he has blessed us with. While we depend on a little from many like-minded donor friends, we believe that you first need to give to your home church, recognizing that in order for the church to be there for you and others, it needs healthy finances. If God has blessed you over and beyond what you’ve pledged to your church, we would be grateful for your financial partnering.

We would like for gifts to be out of heartfelt Christian sharing and want no one to feel they cannot approach us because they cannot afford to give. Whether families are rich, poor, or average income, we know that a basic service for a fee will easily prevent people from seeking what will help them: Christian encouragement, hope, purpose in their pain.

Please know your heartfelt donation will be used to expand this outreach to local families who very much want to find exactly that. It can be any time of year, any size gift, and according to your schedule and ability. While annual pledges are helpful in determining our direction the following year, when it is PRAYERFUL & HEARTFELT, it will be multiplied with God’s math. Thank you!

HIDDEN BLESSINGS

We recognize that often, the things that seem so little really have terrific power. Each newsletter, we want to recognize a person(s) whose efforts may easily go unnoticed. Of course, we won't be able to get them all, but we just want to share some light, some things that are going right in our increasingly angry and broken world.

I would like to start with introducing Bev Peters. Bev is the bookkeeper for Crossroads of Crawford County. When she retired in early 2017, she offered some of her newfound time to meet our urgent need for a bookkeeper. She has been a real blessing—not only does she do an excellent job with everything involved in payroll, bill paying, and record keeping, her infectious smile is always with her and she keeps our work fun! Thank you, Bev, for your excellent help!



BUSINESS CORNER

A lot has been happening since our last newsletter at Christmastime! In the midst of multiple new family situations that we are serving, we were thrilled to receive an offer to move to a new facility! Our board approved plans to move to 3707 Timberline Drive, which is the east end of the USDA Building. The plans are for the move to occur as the new month starts.

This is a game changer! We are excited to put to work some of the ideas we have been brewing to enable some financial growth and to develop concepts which further help families in our community. On the flip side of the coin, this will involve a significant rise in our monthly expenses. In order to accommodate the full operational/over-head costs, we are planning an annual spring drive for operational costs, as well as the annual fall fundraising which will directly fuel the one-to-one time we can spend in services.

If you know of some household or office items that could be donated to Crossroads, we are in need of multiple things. Give us a call, or better yet, send a picture by email, and we will be grateful to consider them toward our need. More in the next newsletter about development of new programming plans!



Mock up of the signage planned for the new building

DID YOU KNOW?

Science suggests that if the human eye could accommodate to the earth's curve on the horizon, he could see a lit candle in the dark from up to 30 miles away!

(<https://preparednessadvice.com/survival/far-away-can-see-candle-night/>)

At Crossroads, this fun fact takes on a deeper meaning as well. If a Christian is shining his light as Jesus commands, then there is no darkness that can hide that. As a matter of fact, the darker the world, the more that light would show! And even when we are 'broken' or hurting as Christians, our light will shine in the darkness.

SCHLESWIG BASIC FUND

The Schleswig Basic Fund is an endowment fund for civic projects which benefit the Schleswig community. In addition to contributions made to the fund by individuals and businesses, the BASIC Fund, Inc. sponsors an annual Memorial Tree of Lights during the Christmas season. Crossroads applied and received \$974 to utilize toward reimbursement of volunteer expenses, including Meals on Wheels expenses and mileage.



Pictured here at far left is Janette Clausen, Crossroads Director, with other Schleswig community recipients after distribution of the checks for 2018. We are grateful for the generosity of the community to enable the volunteers to continue to help.

WHO'S WHO

Without a camera pro easily accessible, our board has been complacent without having pictures taken. But we wanted to share one at the beginning of a recent meeting so you can see who they are! We will plan to get a new one taken with two more board members, Larry Luvaas and Janet Pedrosa, both of Denison. Anyone interested in 'following' us through a few events with a camera, let us know, please!



In this photo are (left to right): Janette Clausen (Director) Caleb Schroeder (Chairman), David Friedrichsen (Treasurer), Kathy Brownmiller (Secretary), and David Loeschen

CITIZENS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY

We were blessed with a \$1,000 donation from Citizens of Crawford County, a community endowment fund established in large part by the late Scott Ferguson. Scott and multiple other businessmen in Crawford County established the fund in connection with the Omaha Foundation to directly benefit Crawford County entities. We greatly appreciate their investment into our efforts to strengthen family & community.

Pictured here is Doug Soseman, a member and contributor of the Citizens for Crawford County fund, presenting the check to Crossroads' board members Larry Luvaas and Caleb Schroeder. Thank you!



FOR REAL

In effort to help you understand the situations Crossroads helps in, we would like to put into each newsletter a brief situation we have served. Many times, the family is not able to openly share their story, as it is healthier to keep it within the boundaries of their immediate or extended family or supportive friends.

I am a single parent of a teenager. Crossroads has been right beside us as we try to find the right mentor and professionals to help my child with some hurt from the past and hope for the next day of school and peers. Without your contributions I know they could not be there for us and that is scary. Thank you!



Q&A

Over the past year, we have been inviting people's questions about Crossroads and making a handout that list them with our reply. This will be on our website soon. We would also like to share one question/answer in each newsletter. We would like them to keep coming—feel free to email us or drop by anytime!

QUESTION: *We heard that Crossroads is a prolife organization. Is that correct?*

REPLY: At Crossroads we want to help people understand that God has blessed us with the ability to choose AND that our choices have consequences. We want to accurately help people sort through all of their choices; we try to offer encouragement as they make their way toward a choice. We do not make decisions for them; instead, we walk alongside of them through their process, and after their decisions.

We are certain God wants life to be our choice because he created life. While He set the choice of life and death before us, in Deuteronomy 30:19 He urges us to “choose life so that you and your children may live”. So we could not serve families and individuals without being FOR life. We are all about life—and the hardships along the way, and finding HOPE and PURPOSE in our whole life journey, from pregnancy to infancy to childhood to young adulthood to through middle age, senior years, and elderly years, and to the day God takes us home with Him.

We want to do what we can to make life better for anyone, any age, in need, through big and small ways. Each day we want to choose life by being intentional in what we read, listen to, watch, support, and participate in so that we support life. Crossroads is prolife about needs in all stages in life. We are here—for everyone, regardless of their position—because we want to help make life count for each person, AND for each person to do what they can to make their life count.



COLLECTION BIN

Back in 2011, Janette had no idea of how her son's Eagle Scout project would help Crossroads of Crawford County. This collection bin was first constructed by Denison Troop Scouts, through donations from Schleswig area donors, as an Eagle Scout Project. Part of the plan was to place it on the Schleswig K-8 property, with proceeds supplementing the costs of school activities. After some changes with the school and staff, it became difficult to efficiently manage, and it was agreed that Crossroads could assume the responsibility and benefits.

What interesting thoughts a person has as they sort smelly cans and bottles! Multiple pickup loads full have been brought to the Wesco Can Redemption Center. Since the sorting currently occurs on private property, Janette's family has been the only help with the work involved. They have contributed an excellent attitude and pitching in each time another pile quickly accumulates. One day, we hope to have the sorting and bagging/boxing occur in a place where others can pitch in. The proceeds will help us offset the increasing occupancy expenses following our move.

We are grateful to Dick Streck who has agreed to set the collection bin on his property at the corners of Cedar and Main in Schleswig. And Thank You to the Schleswig community for donating their recyclable cans and bottles!

While this project is helpful toward our new site expenses, some new expenses do add up. We would be happy to accept recycle bags, garbage bags for the trash, & heavy duty latex gloves from Medium to XL.



SUGGESTED DONATIONS LIST

Any provisions that Crossroads does not have to purchase frees up dollars for direct service with families, children, caregivers, and our senior citizens.

Here are some items that can really help us out!

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Hand soap
- Dish soap
- Bottled water
- Instant tea, hot chocolate, etc.
- Packaged snacks (peanuts, granola bars, nuts, dried fruit, etc)
- Coffee
- Coffee maker
- Microwave
- Dorm size refrigerator
- 30 gallon garbage bags
- 15 gallon garbage bags
- Heavy Duty Latex gloves (sizes from Medium to XL)
- Entryway mats
- Folding tables
- Folding chairs
- Vacuum
- Cleaning supplies

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God has blessed us in incredible ways in 2017 and already as we step into our third year of operation.

We will begin holding two fundraising campaigns each year, one for overhead and one for direct time. What we mean by direct time is one-to-one support to families who need help and encouragement --

perhaps through the tough decisions implied in an unplanned pregnancy, or the stirring emotions in a loss of pregnancy; tackling a family issue; understanding options for an aging parent or befriending a lonely senior; or offering a much needed break to a weary caregiver; or walking the deep & dark valleys of grief with a family.

We want to emphasize that no amount is too small, because with the right heart behind your giving, and prayerful planning, miracles grow. With all of our hearts and hands, we together can make the difference for FAMILY & COMMUNITY!

Crossroads is a 501c3 charitable organization. A tax receipt is provided for all gifts over \$25.

Join the Journey!

Your financial gift of any size will help:
Elderly • Families • Children • Caretakers

Everyone reaches hard times and we want to meet the need of any person regardless of their ability to pay. The only means Crossroads has of providing this community outreach is through partnerships with people who want to see more of this service and can financially contribute any amount.

God has placed us on a solid path through your financial gifts. We anticipate His blessings as we grow staff to help meet the need. Thank you for joining the journey.



Crossroads of Crawford County is a nonprofit charitable organization, your gift is tax deductible.



Crossroads
of **Crawford County**

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