



Center of Hope
PARKER COUNTY

www.centerofhopetx.com



Hope Connection...
Our Hearts to His

JUNE
2010

A Newsletter from Parker County Center of Hope

Thank You Businesses

- All State Insurance-Doyle Moss
- Alpha Omega Hospice
- American State Bank
- Apex Homes Inc.
- Balentine's Bakery
- The Bank of Weatherford
- Big Pantry Food & Travel Stores
- Brett Taylor Royalty Trust
- Brookshire's
- Carolyn White Designs
- Campco Copies & Fax
- Community News, Aledo
- Dunkin's Custom Cabinets
- First National Bank,
- Ft. Worth Tree & Pest Control
- Frost National Bank
- G & D Pool & Spa
- Hoy Properties
- Hutch's Pie Shop
- Imperial Construction
- International Teaching Ministry
- James Bogdanoff, Mortgage Lender
- Janet Foster, Realtor
- Jetta Operating Co.
- Joe Rider Butane
- Kent Sunday Insurance
- Earl King, Attorney
- Mader-Bagley State Farm
- Memory Gardens
- Meridian Association
- Nortex
- Nusrat Khan, MD
- Olive Garden
- Parker County Plaza
- Phoenix Transmission
- Plains Capital Bank
- Singletary Furniture
- Snow Garret & Co.
- Texas Gas
- Craig Townsons, P.C. Atty
- XTO Energy



Center of Hope begins a new vision of breaking the cycle of poverty in Parker County as it works with children this summer.

In our third year of Camp Hope, we move out in the community to partner with local churches, mentor children, and bring life education to children in our neighborhoods.

"Last year we wanted to feed hungry children," says Camp Hope Leader, Michelle Buchanan. "This year we want to move beyond feeding them to giving them HOPE and to break the poverty cycle before it is well established."

Volunteers are needed daily who are willing to work with a small group for 1 1/2 hours one day a week for 3 to 8 weeks. Camp Hope will be held at 4 different locations on Monday–Thursday.

Several churches are partnering with us to serve a location with the goal of building a relationship with

the kids and bringing them to church. Center of Hope cannot do the ministry that our local churches do; church partnerships are vital to the success of Camp Hope.

Also, many individuals and families have already committed to volunteer and share their talents and interests in the life of a child. More volunteers are needed.

Call or email us to join the Camp Hope team and teach a child about God. In our own backyard, there are children who have never heard the Gospel.

Items needed:

- Canopy
- Microwave
- Toaster Oven
- Water jug
- Weekly food items for cooking
- Classes

Check the website for a complete list of items to donate for Camp Hope.



The answer to poverty is meeting:
Physical needs
Emotional needs
Spiritual needs

Camp Hope is more than feeding kids...
⇨ **It's about building relationships,**
⇨ **investing in the life of a child,**
⇨ **and pointing a child to God.**



Becoming the Person God Created Me to Be...

She came to the Jobs for Life class and began to share her story to the current students. Within a few sentences, the tears began to fall down her face.

Here are her words:

"When I came to J4L, they asked me where I wanted to be in my life. We talked about it and then they helped me figure out how to get there.

I got a new part-time job because of the encouragement I got from the class. Within a few weeks, I was promoted to the Night Shift

Manager position. I came in today to tell you that they have now offered me the Assistant Store Manager position and I start training this afternoon. Its all due to Jobs For Life and the people here."

Rhonda had come to the class for quite a while. She wasn't regular in her attendance and the J4L Team talked to her about the importance of dependability. Between the lessons and the love, she "got it" and began to thrive in the nurturing environment of the class and applied for this job.

Today, *Rhonda* is not only employed, but blossoming into the person God created her to be—confident, caring, and wanting to help others experience the changes she has undergone.

When you give to
Center of Hope,
you change a life...

**Donate
Volunteer
Partner
with us today!**

Poverty Simulation Gives Big Impact

Center of Hope took nine people to a Poverty Simulation held in Ft. Worth.

Participants "felt" the impact of poverty through role playing experiences. Even though the staff and volunteers in attendance from Center of Hope thought they "knew" how to get resources and problem solve difficult situations, it was very different to feel the hopelessness and frustration that the poverty simulation created.

It is a powerful opportunity we hope to bring to Parker County to bring awareness of the plight of families who live in poverty.

The cost of this simulation kit starts at \$1,500, but the impact on our community is priceless. Your donation towards this opportunity will help all of us gain understanding to break the cycle of poverty in Parker County.



Alicia Pittman portrays an 8 year old child who goes hungry much of the time and depicts the struggle of families with children.



Karen Foster visits a place like Center of Hope to get assistance to pay her bill and keep the electricity on for her simulation family.



George Pittman role plays a mother with 2 children struggling to provide for the family and the relative who lives with them.

George's most compelling moment is when his paycheck was stolen by an actor in the simulation.



Laura Noll represents a disabled grandparent trying to care for her 2 grandchildren without sufficient resources.

She learned new information how to help grandparents who are caring for family members.



Jim Morrow plays the part of a grocery store cashier where participants buy food, medicine, etc. with cash and food stamps.



Jerry Buchanan is a 85 year old widower on a fixed income who is at the bank trying to work with the banker to keep his home.

This was a temporary circumstance for the Poverty Simulation participants.

However, poverty is not a "game" to hundreds of families in Parker County.

Will you help your neighbor today? Donate, Volunteer, Partner with Center of Hope.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Summer vacations cause us to really need YOU!

You will have a great time volunteering at Center of Hope this summer! We have many opportunities for you to choose from:



- **Data Entry**
One day a week, welcome clients and input information into the computer.
- **Client Advisor**
One day a week, interview clients for services and offer resources. Must be willing to share Jesus.
- **Jobs for Life Team**
 - ⇒ Help with Job Searches
 - ⇒ Follow up with graduates and students who have left the program
 - ⇒ Teach a class
 - ⇒ Be a Prayer Partner
- **Research Resources**
Make phone calls, using a form to local resources.
- **Camp Hope**
Camps are held once a week for 1 1/2 hours where volunteers provide lunch, mentor a child and teach life skills.



Come be a part of the 83.9 million adults Who volunteer for a charitable organization. It's a proven fact - Volunteers are healthier, happier people than those who do not help others.

Be involved with a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in Parker County.



**Check out our website - www.centerofhopetx.com
Donate online - secure... fast... easy!**

A Change in Thinking

"I'm too old to get a job," stated a Jobs for Life student. She needed to be employed, but even though she was educated, articulate, and skilled, she had been unsuccessful at job interviews in securing employment.

The Jobs for Life team counseled her to change her thinking. "If you think it, you're telling it," teaches Instructor Tom Dean. "Even if you don't say it in words, you are telling your story to others."

Janice began turning her story around and thinking of herself as experienced, mature, and

employable instead of thinking of herself in a negative context.

Within weeks, she re-interviewed with an employer that had previously turned her down. She had a great interview and got the job.

Every student has different road blocks to overcome. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to share their life experiences to help someone else change their life story from defeat to success.

*Proverbs 10:21
The lips of the righteous nourish many...*



**Center of Hope
Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Peaster, TX
Permit No. 101**

www.centerofhopetx.com

Paula Robinson, Exec. Director

Weatherford Location:

Jim Morrow, Director

626 Palo Pinto

Weatherford, TX 76088

817.564.0266 (main)

Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm

East Parker County Location:

Laura Noll, Director

9901 E. Benkhead Hwy

Aledo, TX 76008

817.441.2442 (main)

Tuesday & Thurs., 10 am - 2 pm

Wed. 10am-2pm & 5-8 pm



*Center of Hope
Board of Directors*

Janet Foster

Tom Dean

Patti Young

T.C. "Buddy" Moore

Corey Tucker

Wade Julian

Blayne Schorr

A Fresh Start

A mother had left an abusive relationship and moved here with her three children to get a fresh start.

It was tough, but they were making it each month until she needed emergency surgery. Because she was out of work until she was released by the doctor, she came to Center of Hope to seek short-term help until she could go back to work.

We helped her with groceries and other financial assistance. As soon as she was released, she went back to work and is once again supporting her family.

Center of Hope is here when families experience an unexpected situation and need help to get 'back on their feet'.

**When you give,
you give HOPE
to a family in crisis.**

**Your group or family can help
Fill our shelves this summer by
hosting a food drive in your
neighborhood.**

Contact us:

817-594-0266 / 817-441-2442

Email: info@centerofhopetx.com

Items donated by Keller Williams
R.E.D. Day community food drive



In the Kitchen in May:



Weatherford:

Lakeshore Drive Baptist
Christ the King Covenant
North Main Church of God
First Baptist, Brock
First Baptist, Willow Park
Trinity Bible
New River Fellowship

East Parker County:

Aledo Church of Christ
Oakridge Church of Christ
Trinity Bible
New River Fellowship