



Crossroads of Crawford County

Community Outreach for Life's Journey



Blessed to be a Blessing!

Throughout 2017, the number of families and situations we have served has increased from the previous year. The variety of reasons people come to us has ranged throughout each of the defined service areas. As busy as we are with inadequate staffing, the JOY of helping families to find healing or hope is incredibly rewarding!

While offering referral assistance and individualized resources is an everyday piece of what we do, the deeper work that follows with many folks requires time and focus beyond the initial challenge. It is an incredible honor to become a part of the lives of families who are struggling through a specific issue, or perhaps are stuck in difficult emotions, or need a hand to pull them out of a dangerous funk.

The Christian objective for Crossroads is to walk alongside families or individuals, helping them find HOPE and PURPOSE in their journey, Being a LIGHT for them in a dark place in their lives.

Please check out our website to see more detail about how we have served in the past year.

www.CrossroadsofCrawfordCounty.org

MEALS ON WHEELS

In July we initiated our first Meals on Wheels Run for participating Schleswig Seniors. We are so happy to be able to offer this service to the Schleswig community! Currently, we have 25 signed up, of which 9 'regulars' use the meals nearly every time. The most we delivered in one day was 13. As winter months keep some home more often, we anticipate some new applicants from Schleswig, which we welcome any time, just give us a call!



POCKET CHANGE CAN MAKE CHANGE

You may see these cans with a slit on top setting around the county for a couple of months. We wanted to do a simple fundraising effort to encourage people to give in ways that do not have to 'hurt' financially. We know fundraising needs to be part of our ongoing thriving as a Christian outreach in our community so we pay staff to help with the families that come to us.

For a simple idea, it still takes some good help. If you could check with an appropriate business about hosting a can for Crossroads, it would be so appreciated! THANK YOU to Larry Luvaas, a new board member and terrific volunteer for his help in engineering the idea and placing those he can follow up on.



Thank you if you can spare some change to enable some time to help hurting people and families! And for those who even contributed checks and larger bills, THANK YOU!



WARMING CRAWFORD COUNTY, ONE COAT AT A TIME!

Last month we hosted a coat drive with the help of H&R Block in Denison. We wanted to have a site where people could both drop off and pick up a coat if needed. While the coming and going made it hard to keep accurate count, we collected about 53 coats, and about 15 were gratefully taken for use. After the four days of collecting, the remaining coats were brought to West Central Development so that families in need can easily access them.

THANK YOU to H&R Block for their generous offering of space for this event before they get busy with tax season!

If you would like to help with hosting a coat drive another time, in Denison again or in a different community, please contact us at Crossroads, we have some ideas to make it a meaningful ongoing event, but as always, adequate help is necessary.

PLEASE LET US KNOW

As we are nearing have a workable database to more easily keep you informed, we are planning for about quarterly, or every other month newsletters. We are willing to send those in email or regular mail, and will be looking for ways to easily distribute to those who are not on our list, including adding them to our website. If you prefer one method or another, or not to receive mail from us at all, please take a minute to let us know. We want to be intentional about not overwhelming you with more paper or email to sort.

You can reach us by phone: 712-393-4673 (please leave a message, we do not have clerical help to manage all calls) Email: info@CrossroadsofCrawfordCounty.org, or dropping by our office currently located at Our Savior Lutheran (can use south entrance to come straight to our office in basement level)

FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER WAS A SUCCESS

The 'Right Under Your Feet' fundraiser was a wonderful success! Crossroads took in right at \$8,000 from the donations, tickets, drawing, and sponsorships. THANK YOU to each of you who helped in big and small ways, they all mix together to result in an event that helped get the word out to many and financially enabled Crossroads to help more families in their unique situations!



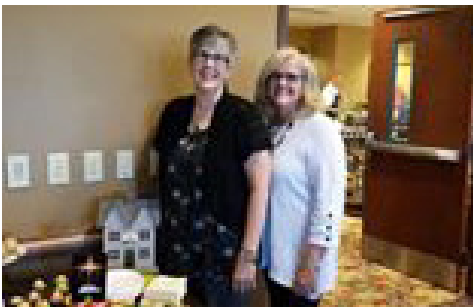
Amy Meseck of Sweet Custom Cakes in Charter Oak standing at her terrific cupcake display with sponsor Kathy Brownmiller, Crossroads' Board member



Coleen & Denny Bruhn sponsored Wesco in the cupcake display competition. Coleen is here with Tonya Vetter and Curtis Belden, who masterminded the terrific idea for the Wesco entry



Nancy Ertz of Westside at her yummy display with her sponsors from UBI, Schleswig, Caleb Schroeder and Al Weiss. Caleb is also a board member of Crossroads



Sharon Claypool, of Denison, at her creative cupcake display with sponsor Rebecca Friedrichsen of rural Denison



Board member Dave Friedrichsen, Emcee Troy Gehlsen, Director Janette Clausen, Board member Caleb Schroeder, and volunteer and new board member Larry Luvaas reading the winners of the silent auction of donated items



Some good friends and supporters to Crossroads: Catherine Schroeder of Gabriel's Corner in Council Bluffs and Noel & Sandy Johnson of Denison

JOY

Lately it has struck me how varying the situations are at any one time for people. While one family is trying to just get through one day at a time in grief, another is celebrating a huge accomplishment, or perhaps getting away for a vacation. While one person is trying to find purposeful work to make ends meet, another is throwing money at changeable, worldly things, or even destructive habits with seemingly no end to their money. One family is eagerly anticipating Christmas gatherings, while another may struggle with anxiety that the season's busyness can create. Many families are recovering from fires, hurricane damage, earthquakes, and terrorism. How do we celebrate Christmas with so much brokenness around us?

Whether it is Christmas—or any season; whether you are sad or happy, whether life is difficult or exciting; you can feel **JOY**—the peace-filled, grace-based trust that God has each of us in his hands, and when you put **Jesus Over Yourself**, the rest is a season that will pass. Yet, the deep expectancy that is produced because we know WHO God is and that He is in control and that he loves us will remain no matter what our circumstances. The Board and Staff at Crossroads wishes you and your family a BLESSED and JOYFUL Christmas!

500 North 24th Street, Denison, Iowa 51442 • 712.393.4673(HOPE)
www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org • info@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

•Pregnancy Resource Center •Single Parent Support •Family & Personal Empowerment •Adoption Consultation •Caregiver Support •Senior Support •

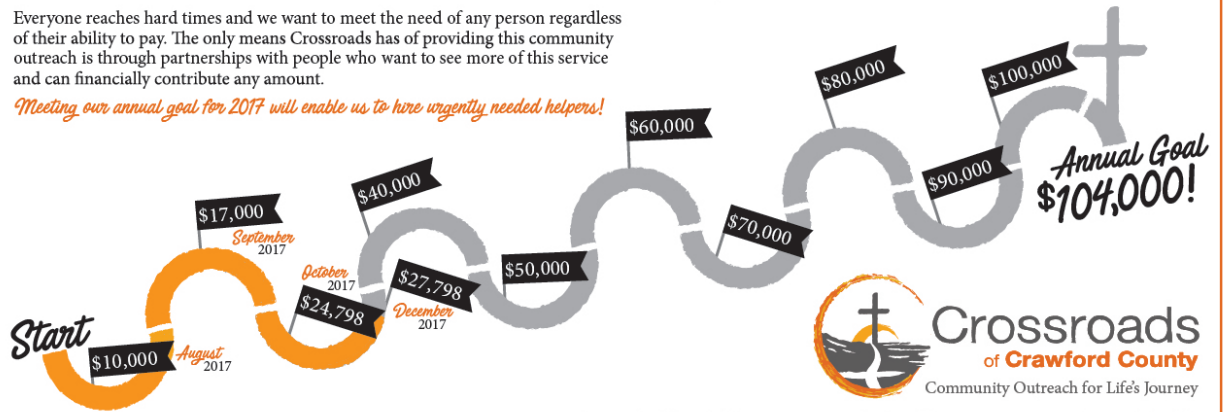
As you can see, we are falling short of our 2017 goal, which included paying greatly needed staff. *If you can prayerfully consider helping toward the Crossroads' community outreach before our fiscal year end of December 31st, it would be gratefully received and carefully utilized toward*

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.

Meeting our annual goal for 2017 will enable us to hire urgently needed helpers!



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

direct time with 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 can only thrive with generous donations and energy investment from the very community we are here to strengthen and empower: Crawford County!



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of **Crawford County**

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