



Crossroads of Crawford County

Community Outreach for Life's Journey



Did you know

Practicing gratitude changes your brain!

The fact that consistent and intentional effort to find reason to be grateful improves how we feel is logical, but there is scientific research that grateful hearts actually changes our brain chemistry! And the fact of writing down at least five things that you are thankful for daily will solidify them in your brain.

<http://danielplan.com/blogs/dp/using-gratitude-to-change-your-brain-2/>

Dr. Daniel Amen, co-founder of the Daniel Plan and co-founder of the Amen Clinics in various regions of our country, has used this research to shape the programs which help people worldwide. He teaches that understanding why you care about anything is the most important thing you should know about yourself, as it is key to undoing the constant unhealthy effects around you.

We put this information to test the past few months which have moved incredibly fast. We want to be share some things for which we are GRATEFUL as we update you.

MOVE TO 3707 TIMBERLINE DRIVE

Brief Version: Packed. Moved. Resettled.
(well mostly).



A last look at our space at Our Savior Lutheran before packing

Bluespace Creative installed a huge sign visible from the highway in April. Another is planned for the east side when finances allow.



At the end of February our packing began, with intentions to move smaller items the 1st of March and the furniture the Friday or Saturday after. A schedule was made to help volunteers know what we were doing and when so they could best help with multiple revisions.

Flexibility and patience (and Gratitude) were prerequisites to the survival, as it was the same week or two or three that Mother Nature had regular temper flares. When the first switch up occurred, we quickly assumed the, 'no hurry, no worry' attitude; the first trips over by personal vehicles ensued. After several trips and the preliminary packing each trip, we seemed to have, for the most part, kept track of what was where, with only the non-basic having been moved.

Then, phone lines were installed. Internet installed. Of course, phone & internet tend to dictate where a person works, so computers and the printer were next and were set up on folding tables. A return trip for a

MOVE TO 3707 TIMBERLINE DRIVE (CONT.)

couple folding chairs and we're in business. (Now where to find a pen...ahhh, right in the box with the other main supplies from my desk...except the note paper...) It's interesting that we only realize how much we rely on technology when it isn't working properly. Thanks to **Monarc Technology** and Jason of **Computer MD**, the installation issues were resolved.

After an entire week of slick roads in the late afternoon when we would have started the furniture moving, a 'reschedule of the rescheduled reschedule' resulted in: 'We're moved!' And even with the original moving volunteers, minus one, plus two, including an extra set of muscles, and a whole ton of pizza, thank you to **Pizza Ranch** for the discount and delivery.

With a heap of 'stuff' in the middle of the space since painting was in process, (thank you, **Powers Painting**) I was deliriously happy to just have it all in one place!



Making due at our new space with basics that were in one place--or the other

Room by room, box by box, we made our new day 'home' great space for our work. Volunteers, totally confused on the schedule by this point, popped in to help when they could, as it had been laughable. I was **GRATEFUL** for their dropping by to be a friendly face, an opinion or two on setting up, and spirit of helping.

The next phase was acquiring furniture and items now that we had gone from 400 square feet to 1600. 'Something old, something new, something donated, and swap sites too!' And we are so **Grateful to all who helped and contributed!**

Thank you to **GRG, LLC** for thinking of Crossroads as this space opened up and for enabling it to be utilized for our mission!

THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

April happened to be National Volunteer month, and we have been **GRATEFUL** for the muscle and energy of many volunteer helpers these past few months. ***Volunteers who give their personal time in order to help toward our mission are a precious resource to Crossroads of Crawford County.*** Without a budget to pay helpers, it is humbling to have a group rally to 'get 'er done' with such enthusiasm and persistence. Apologies in advance if I am missing helpers, it was quite a fast-moving crazy time. Additionally, so many were helpful in sharing extras to help us equip the new space. It was exciting to see how God would bring the essentials plus much more, and humbling to know so many have hearts for this outreach. **THANK YOU** to the following for their excellent help at different points of the move and setting up.

Larry Luvaas
Austin Koerner
Colton Johannsen
Jakob Wigg
Colton Clausen
Cody Clausen
Grant Clausen
Dave Friedrichsen
Jac Friedrichsen
Sherry Kohnekamp
Karen Claussen
Wesco Industries Day hab
Connie Clinton
Brian & Barb Kessel
Andy & Kelsey Hipnar
Kayla Hennings
Dave & Melanie Homolka
Taylor Borkowski
Pam Eddins

Note: It would be of little surprise to learn a person who helped was omitted from this list. Our deep apologies if that is the case, **PLEASE** let us know so we can add you. The busyness between moving and seeing families meant that a few times it was days before names were written down.

We had hopes of celebrating the Crossroads' volunteer power as a group for the first time at our new site in April or May. While that was not possible due to the demands of moving and reorganization, along with serving the families who came to us, we have a new strategy for meeting the needs of volunteers on a regular basis. The 20th of each month is designated as **VOLUNTEER'S DAY** the whole workday. We want to strategize how to best offer support & supervision, and to give them the time they deserve to socialize, share concerns, and see new helping opportunities.

“THE HEART OF A
VOLUNTEER
IS NOT MEASURED IN SIZE,
BUT BY DEPTH OF THE
COMMITMENT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.”

-DEANN HOLLIS

THANK YOU

In excellent timing, we learned that we had received \$2,500 from the **Omaha Foundation/Crawford County** for an area we named 'The Family Den'. We had prepared the request with expenses to construct a family-friendly area that is comfortable and safe for families when visiting their children. For example, when an out of town non-custodial parent has visit time, or foster parents see a birth family, or parent-child interaction needs coaching and support.

The grant monies enabled us to purchase a loveseat size couch, entertainment center, two visiting chairs and a small conference table. Thrifty planning and a bit of 'God-thing' path led us to be able to have portable walls constructed of lumber and stained for about the same price as the privacy panels used in many office settings, which we had not been able to find in good used condition. The result was a much homier look, with the practical advantage of versatility. Thank you, Brian Kessel of **Kessel Construction** for your excellent workmanship and help!



Photo: Receiving of check from Omaha Foundation/Crawford County
Courtesy of Todd Danner, Denison Bulletin and Review

A huge *Thank You* to the following who enabled this terrific semi-private area which is ready for use:

- Omaha Foundation/Crawford County
- Feller Furniture
- Kessel Construction
- Kiron Lumber
- Thrivent Financial
- Walmart Foundation
- Connie Clinton

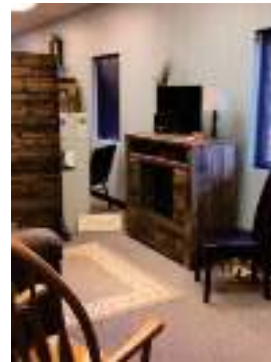
The Omaha Community Foundation approved a grant for \$2500 for Crossroads. The grant is made possible through the Crawford County HF 2302 Grant Fund. An Advisory Committee to the foundation, made up of citizens from Crawford County, votes on the applications made by approved charitable organizations within Crawford County. The grant money must be for tangible items utilized in a way which improve the quality of the community.



Kessel Construction designed & built our walls. They are very practical, sturdy and beautiful!



The area outside of the den with plenty of bulletin boards & storage space which is all portable, with casters.



The Family Den is comfortable & homey, with an electric fireplace and tv.



The Family Den after staining was complete, thanks to Connie Clinton!



The reception desk is a practical wrap around two small desks, also built by Kessel Construction. Kelsey Hipnar stained this piece for us. Thank you Kelsey!



The conference area includes shelving with many books on family issues, Christian living & parenting.

Q&A

We have heard that Crossroads is 'a Lutheran thing'...is this correct?

As a community-wide Christian outreach, the different Christian denominations are realized. The premise for the help we provide to our families is that we are an encouraging and accompanying presence on their life journey, and not that we educate in specific denominational items. The foundation on which our work is built is about what we have in common: that Christians are called to be salt AND light to others; we are called to serve.

Multiple denominations have been wonderful cheerleaders for our outreach this far, and they have joined the mission through volunteering, donating, and prayerful support. We plan recognize them one or two per newsletter with detail about their partnering with us. Crossroads cannot exist without generosity from within the community, and yet we encourage families to give to their local church first. Operating as a threat to church receipts would ultimately frustrate our work, and that of the church.

Crossroads is denomination-neutral. We offer companionship on life's journey through any situation, seeking to either refer to appropriate resources, or find reliable and personalized information relevant to a person's situation, as well as mentor and assist as we are able. In compliment to the church mission, we are an intentional effort to offer Christian love, encouragement and hope regardless of the path a person is on. Just as few Christian songs are about a denomination-specific practice or belief, or most Christian bookstores are not related to one denomination of specific teachings, Crossroads of Crawford County is a source of Christian information with an underscoring effect of unifying the Christian churches as THE church.



Thank you to the generous and helpful support from the congregation, pastor, vicars, and board of Our Savior Lutheran over the span of our first two years of service! Before Crossroads officially began, Crossroads' Director Janette Clausen was employed full time through an agency which rented office space from Our Savior. So when Janette made the decision to leave her employment in order to fully engage in 'Crossroads' work, a first problem became adequate office space and paying for space. Since the site at Our Savior would no longer be occupied by the agency she worked for, it was available to transition into use by Crossroads of Crawford County. The board gratefully accepted, with plans to move when God provided that step could be taken, after some rooting. Our Savior Lutheran also generously provided practical support through helping with some regular bills until Crossroads was a bit more financially grounded by 2017. As Janette had shared prior to leaving for the new site that was made possible through a private donation, she felt like she was leaving home as a young adult--scared to death but also excited!

We pray regularly that there will be strong Christians from all Christian denominations who will remain engaged with our outreach to achieve our mission. Reducing division between denominations will strengthen community!



"God's love can change the unchangeable so that we are able to love others with the love we received. What a privilege!"

-Rick Warren

HIDDEN BLESSINGS

1st of 2

Anne Neumann's Taekwondo students were ambitious about doing something to benefit the community. They sought pledges for doing as many Taekwondo kicks as possible for 30 seconds (I dare you to try it!) When they collected on the pledges, they had saw they had made quite an impact—\$1326.50! They had learned about Crossroads' services through another community member, and then followed a bit of their work through Facebook and newsletters before surprising the director, Janette Clausen with a check totaling their whole campaign earnings.

Master Anne coaches her students at the Dojang (West Iowa Martial Arts) to do two things daily: 1) do something nice to surprise someone and 2) tell your parents you love them. Her enthusiasm and teaching are valuable to our community! Thank you, Anne, and the families who participated and contributed. This group has a rich understanding of the needs of everyday people and a heart for helping!



Janette receiving gift check from Master Anne Neumann



The Dojang class with Janette

Back row: Ashley Johnson, Carolyn Gehling, Anthony Lewis, Axel Neumann, Juan Murillo, Anne Neumann
Middle: Logan Harper, Jenner Fineran, Roman Bygness.
Front: Merci Frazier, Jack Smith.

2nd of 2

The Schleswig TAG grade students have been terrific help this year in delivering Meals on Wheels to Schleswig residents. About half a dozen adult individuals have been willing to drive to pick up the meals. Then 2 students from the school, would bring the meals from the vehicle to the person's door so that it would run most efficiently. Our seniors receiving the meals enjoyed the students' bubbly smiles, and the students typically reported enjoying the break away from school!



Pictured here are the students from 7th and 8th grade in Schleswig who made a difference by a bit of running and a genuine smile:

Left to Right Front Row – Kamden Bruhn, Kamryn Larson, Calli Korner, Aiden March, Brody Schneider

Left to Right Middle Row – Kaitlyn Bruhn, Elli Heiden

Left to Right Back Row – Payton Butler, Jinessa Lewis, Jakob Wigg, Tessa Petersen, Emily Espinoza

WE NEED YOU

In order to provide this community service, and to cover our increased costs from the new space, we need to FUNDRAISE so we can employ more helpers!

Please mark your calendars for our fun auction of Upcycled and Repurposed projects!

Handcrafted items and sponsors toward the materials are key to the event's success!

PLEASE ACT NOW by *registering as either!*

See more information concerning the fundraiser on the very back page of this newsletter.

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3707 Timberline Drive
Denison, Iowa 51442

Crossroads
of Crawford County



beauty in BROKENNESS

Please help us

FUNDRAISE

for this local
Christian outreach!



Contact Taylor at

712-269-7199

crossroadsbrokenbeauty@gmail.com
or info@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

The event is set for September 20th, 2018 at the
Schleswig Community Center
Auction & Dinner catered by Staleys

- We need -

UPCYCLED, REFURBISHED, or REPURPOSED
Crafts, Decor, Furniture & Yard Items



BUSINESS OR PRIVATE SPONSORSHIPS
(to cover material costs of one or several
projects at \$100 and up per sponsorship)

Join
the Fun

HELP LOCAL FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS, ELDERLY



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