



Crossroads
of Crawford County

Community Outreach for Life's Journey

Winter 2023/2024

Crossroads Reflections

BY REV. BOB RIGGERT

The Perfect Gift

"Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." James 1:17



We would all like to give or receive the "perfect gift." Depending on life stage or context, that gift varies. The perfect gift to a grandchild might be the newest toy or latest technology. The perfect gift to a spouse might be an item of jewelry or a kitchen convenience. What may seem perfect is temporary: interest wanes; parts are broken; supplies are limited. All earthly gifts are imperfect.

God the Father has given the Perfect Gift.

The Perfect Gift came into an imperfect world in very humble surroundings-- wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger," (Luke 2:12).

The Perfect Gift is Jesus who perfectly gives the gifts of ***life, hope and peace*** this season and in all seasons of life.

As a Christian outreach to the community through its 2 programs, Crossroads shares God's gift of life. Crossroads advocates for the life of the unborn, provides family support in unplanned pregnancies.

They are a light to the paths of scared, unprepared, and often young parents. Crossroads shares God's gift of hope for those wearied with physical, emotional or spiritual challenges.

Thank you for rejoicing in God's Perfect Gift with us. Thank you for your gifts to Crossroads' ministry in all seasons. They enable us to provide life-giving services to our community.



God's perfect Peace to you!

The Crossroads' Staff & Board of Directors



Why? Why? Why? . . . (The toddler's question)



WHY?
WHY?
WHY?

WHY we are named Crossroads

For 8 years Crossroads has been

FOR LIFE & THROUGH LIFE
in the region.

Their two programs that have formed offer
light to the paths —



- ... of those making decisions in difficult or untimely pregnancy circumstances
- ...of those parents who seek to be equipped, gain insight, and receive support in their parenting journey
- ... of caregivers who are tired and overwhelmed with their journey and need encouragement
- ...of elderly who need practical assistance and friendship

WHY is it called the BIGGER Campaign

Our project is GOD-SIZED in our humanness, yet not even a miracle in His view! Our constituents from previous connection with our ministry will recall the most recent previous capital campaign named 'God's Itty Bitty & Great Big'. That was to raise monies for professional staffing and training before we knew we would be engaging in a campaign for the ultrasound program. Itty Bitty feet carry GREAT BIG PROMISE with God's plans!



IMPOSSIBLE is GOD'S STARTING POINT

And He certainly delivered MORE THAN WE IMAGINED! God is so good! He knew we would have been intimidated to do this current fundraising without first success at \$100,000 toward the wages for paid staff we need with the right heart for our ministry! Now, He is calling us to prepare an ultrasound center where we can better help toward AFFIRMING LIFE FROM IT'S EARLIEST START. He knew perfectly how to orchestrate the events over this past year so that they culminated into this plan.

CROSSROADS ULTRASOUND SERVICES & SITE PROJECT

PHASE I GOAL: \$250,000

Downpayment on the purchase/initial startup/security & upgrade/alterations

PHASE II GOAL: \$225,000

Building payments/program development, operations & remodel & upgrade payoff

PHASE III GOAL: \$200,000

Building payoff/Operations

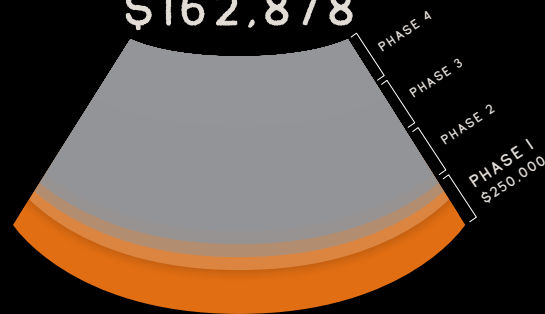
PHASE IV GOAL: \$150,000

New Development of Unused Area

Note: these figures only relate to the physical property, not staffing, training, and professional insurances

CURRENT AS OF 12-15-2023

\$162,878



Why? Why? Why? continued...

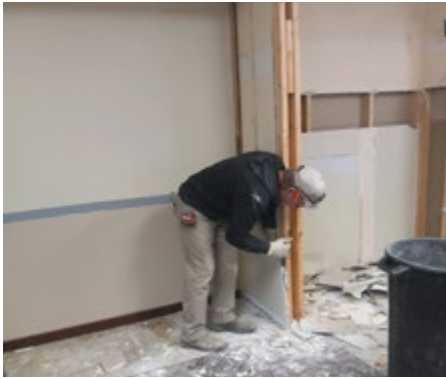
WHY a new site?

We've outgrown our current rented space! We were limited in what we can offer because of no group area, just two private office spaces, and staff filling the others! We had talked of several key advantages to owning space even before we knew God would put ultrasound availability into our near future. The offer by the Knight of Columbus to equip us with an ultrasound machine springboarded us into seeking new space.



The news is out! Crossroads closed on a new site—we are doing some light remodel and installing a safety system currently for about 1/3 of the total space.

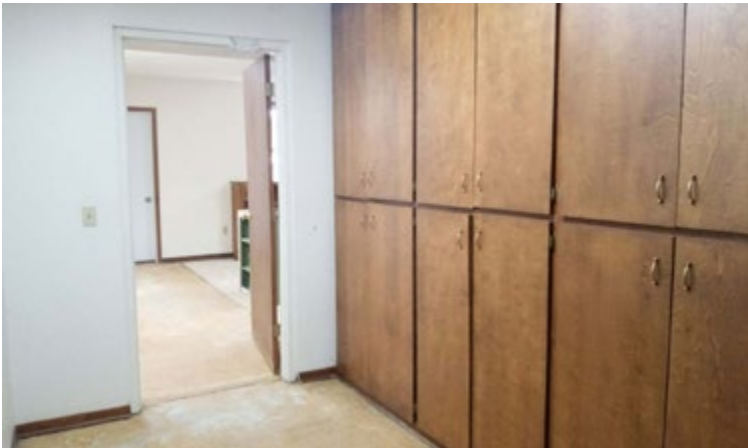
It's not about a great new office space - it's about SERVING LIFE, SAVING LIFE, and LIVING LIFE!



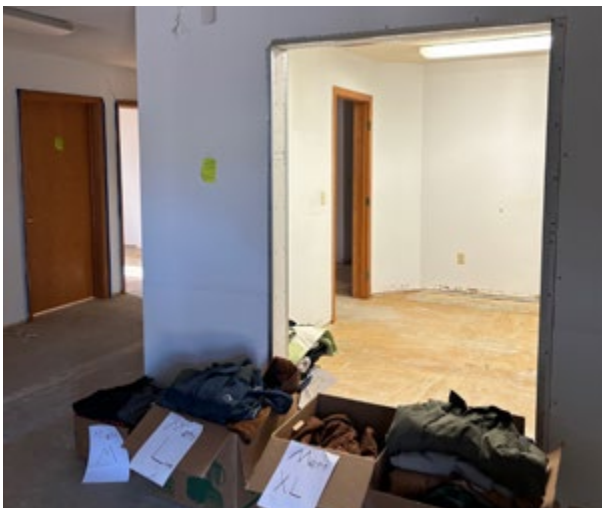
Jim Segebart in early stages of optimizing some front reception space



Pete Segabart and his father, Jim have masterminded all the changes taking place at Crossroads, their work is incredibly inspiring to ours!



With the purchase of this center, Crossroads can develop additional professional services for individuals and families. A Family Resource Center will have space for family meetings, parent-child visits, and individualized coaching. Group training and talk sessions can be offered.



The Sparrows Nest gift area, which includes baby and child items that can be purchased by clients with earned points, will be expanded and made more efficient.



**Why? Why? Why?
continued...**

This was taken early during the coat drive.

AND most importantly, there will be a great space for an ultrasound area, which includes a counseling room and medical staff office—and an ultrasound machine or course!



WHY an ultrasound machine?

The Knights of Columbus have been instrumental in the purchase of ultrasound machines across the country. Crossroads is so blessed to have their local support and energy. Research verifies that if an expectant mother hears their heartbeat of the fetus, there is an 80% higher chance of her CHOOSING LIFE for her child. With this service, Crossroads can help save lives!



Why SO B-I-G-G-I-G?!

The BIGGER space, BIGGER programs, BIGGER machines, and BIGGER staff mean BIGGER opportunities for all who support Crossroads! We chose the GOD-Sized space and already have plans over upcoming years to utilize all the areas as God enables the finances. Your generous financial support is important for the purchase, remodel, and staffing of the Crossroads site. With your partnership, LIFE WINS BIGGER!

PHASE I

\$150,000
downpayment
15,000
first monthly
payments
+ 85,000
upgrade
security
initial setup

\$250,000

*Note: The Board of Directors has spent a great deal of time over the past year checking out different options. As Admin staff, Bob, Sara, and Janette are grateful for their extra phone calls, checking potential options, weighing pros and cons, and after several closed doors on possibilities, they persisted, and unanimously concluded that God is calling us to this building! **Thank you** to past and current board members who have been anchoring in this BIGGER decision!*

Why me?

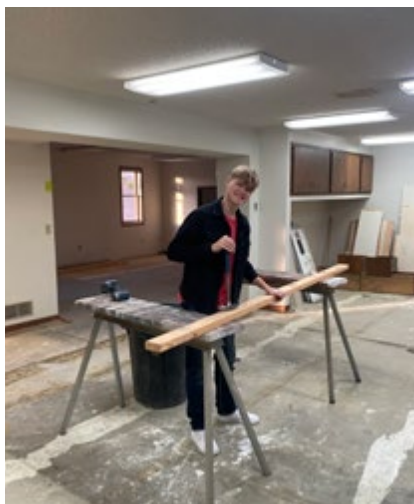
Why NOT? THANK YOU for being an advocate **FOR LIFE & THROUGH LIFE**. We invite you to pray, volunteer, and financially support Crossroads for a BIGGER impact!

This Pregnancy Resource Center + Ultrasound Service

- + Parenting Resource
- + CoCares helping for the elderly and for caregivers
- + COMMUNITY pouring in

= Love for our neighbor and lasting community impact!

Thank you for leaving a
heart print



Ezra has been helping at Crossroads when he can, this time he was pulling nails! Other times it was helping run for the coat drive.



Judy enjoying a hot coffee while working the coat drive since it's chilly over there!

Here are the Knights of Columbus Groups who have contributed or pledged to this project thus far!
We are so grateful for their passion and energy!

- Charles Council #780 Knights, Carroll
- Iowa Council Knights of Columbus
- National Council Knights of Columbus
- Manning-Manilla Council
- Denison Council
- Missouri Valley Council

Answering The Call

ANSWERING THE CALL



Crossroads' Annual Fundraiser and Celebration of Life Event

Tuesday, March 12

At the Stables at Copper Ridge

Dinner catered by Staleys Catering

Guest Speaker: Brandon J McDermott (Big B)

Abraham answered THE CALL as an elderly man;

David as a shepherd boy;

Jeremiah as a teenager;

Esther as a queen;

Peter as a fisherman . . .

God calls many people at all life stages and from many vocations. Sometimes we too are busy with our daily blessings to hear and answer His call.

*Crossroads has answered the call
to protect life*

to resource & equip families

to care for the families and

individuals in all life stages.

THANK YOU to so many who continue to answer the call to support this important ministry with their time, talents, and treasures.

Our spring event is an opportunity to

- CELEBRATE the blessings to Crossroads,
- Learn more about the opportunities through this ministry,
- Support the needs of Crossroads.



Thank you to Brandon J McDermott, who ANSWERED CROSSROADS' CALL to be the keynote speaker. Please add us to

the 2024 calendar, and watch for more information by email, post card, and radio. And, just let us know if you do not receive email from us!

With the purchase of the building and the subsequent opportunity to offer more services, this celebration will be special!



Why VOLUNTEER?

"Through love, serve one another."

GALATIANS 5:13

We are loved by God. His sacrificial love frees us to love others. Love for God and others is demonstrated through our service. Love is doing. Love is sharing our time, talents, and treasure.

But Why volunteer at CROSSROADS?

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

JOHN 10:10

Crossroads shares God's love when families are at life's crossroads. Faith & Circumstance intersect often. Being FOR & WITH someone in crisis is important, especially when they are making HUGE decisions in that time.

Crossroads brings relationships and resources to individuals and families who are facing: the challenging dynamics of an unplanned pregnancy

families seeking to grow in relationships with spouses and children

families facing the struggles of aging or adjustment to health changes

households with a caregiver who quickly become stressed and tired

Why NOW?

"And who knows whether you have not come in the kingdom for such a time as this."

ESTHER 4:14

Crossroads' new ministry center needs a variety of helpers, many different skills AND a manager who can help orchestrate them effectively.

There will be additional services provided according to the volunteers available. Training is provided for volunteer helpers.

What are some ways volunteers can serve?

- _____ Building maintenance & repair as needed
- _____ Project Development within the community
- _____ Board member who can cultivate new engagement with the community
- _____ CoCares helping
- _____ Medical advisory team (a prolife medical professional) to direct the ultrasound program needs.
- _____ Host a mini event to help promote Crossroads' ministry
- _____ Keep up cycles of purchase/mark/display/inventory in Sparrows Nest (one or all)



*Please visit with us
to let us know what
you're interested in!*

Are there other staff needs that Crossroads has?

Yes! There is need for professional staffing, who of course CAN be volunteer, but we try to balance a budget available for them so when they are ready WE ARE TOO!

While we certainly could put most every helper to work, the reality is that we cannot oversee so many helpers and still be efficient in what needs to get done with the mission. So, we are hopeful for experienced professional staff who can fulfill several roles and be independent workers within their roles.

These include:

Part Time Medical Staff

- **Medical Director** (MD or NP) to lead the ultrasound program and to provide professional supervision, oversight, and assure policy and procedural compliance
- **Sonographer**—our ultrasounds will be PERFORMED by licensed and qualified sonographers. However, we will not be READING or diagnosing ultrasound results. All positive pregnancy test patients will be referred to obstetric care through existing local providers. We would love a small pool of available options so that if they work full time elsewhere, it does not necessitate regular time off when we hold ultrasound days.
- **Nurse**—engage in direct communication and education with clients toward healthy pregnancy and parenting. We prefer a small pool of available options so that if they work full time elsewhere, it does not necessitate regular time off when we hold ultrasound days

Administrative Office Management—from granting work to fielding calls, and juggling technology, to oversight on the software on which we rely, to comfortably adding a hand to development and relations, we can run much more efficiently!

Administrative Assistant Director with intention for mentoring into an Executive Director position over time, according to training, experience, and skills.

Building Manager troubleshooting, basic maintenance, orchestration of professional technical services for the space.



QUIZ TIME!

QUESTION FOR THE DAY:

What position is NOT listed here that has been in other materials?

ANSWER:

The Nurse Manager position! It is not listed here because we have made a new hire for the Ultrasound Nurse Manager Position! Meet Stephanie King!



Stephanie's role will be chief oversight and management of how the ultrasound service flows. She will ensure any materials, forms, and procedures are within protocol. Greeting and acquainting with patients will be an important piece, as she would oversee their referrals to any other professionals and follow up on their overall goals and plan that they may have. Stephanie will report to the Medical Director, assure file maintenance, and be a huge piece of education for the patients. She will also do the clinic date scheduling and the personnel management of the medical team.

It is a lot of important tasks, and the sum total is that she will be key in helping Crossroads to carry out their mission. She is vital to the prolife, pro LIVING commitment we will protect and carry out in our day-to-day encounters with our clientele—who are typically scared, overwhelmed, confused, and shamed into thinking they are not good enough or are 'damaged goods'.

Here is what Stephanie shared about herself and her new role:

My name is Stephanie King. My husband, Mick King, and I live on an acreage outside of Wall Lake where we are raising our two children, a 9 year old boy, Jase, who is currently a 3rd grader at East Sac and a 5 year old girl, Kaelly, who is in TK. Mick is the sales manager at Rex Chevrolet GMC in Odebolt, Jase is involved in whatever sport is in season (basketball at the current moment), and Kaelly is in dance and tumbling and always wondering when she'll be old enough to do whatever Jase is doing. We love living in our small community close to all of our family and the wide open spaces we have living in the country.

I obtained my Associates Degree in Nursing in 2003 from St. Luke's College in Sioux City and then my Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 2005 from Morningside College. In my twenty years of nursing I have worked in a variety of areas including Oncology, Clinic nursing, Home Health/Hospice/Public Health nursing, and Early Childhood/School nursing. The last 5 years I have dedicated to staying home with my children who are growing up much too quickly

for my liking. I also teach 12th grade faith formation for our church and it has been such a blessing in my life. In my spare time I love to read (I usually have a minimum of 3 books going at one time), watch anything "feel good" on Netflix, and I especially love spending time with my family and watching the interests of my children grow.

I am excited to work for an organization where I can use my faith and my medical skills to provide holistic care to all who walk through our doors. I love children and my favorite "job" and title over the years has been being a mother. I feel it to be a privilege to be even a small support for any woman or couple facing an unplanned pregnancy and to show them and their unborn child the respect, care, and dignity they deserve as children of God. I hope to extend the love of Jesus to each person I come in contact with in order to offer them hope and empowerment when faced with difficult circumstances. God intended us for community and no one should have to feel alone or abandoned during the most vulnerable times of their lives.

Also meet another new staff person, Isabelle!

She joined us in September and is dabbling in learning both service areas of Crossroads. When we get into the new site, she will field most all clients who come by according to their needs as well as serve some directly herself. Isabelle plans to reduce her hours some to attend Liberty University online this upcoming semester. She is planning for a Bachelors in Biblical & Theological Studies and then to earn her Masters in Applied Ministry. She is learning about development and fundraising through Heartbeat International. You may have noticed her friendly note and signature on a thank you note recently! We team each gift to assure a thank you and receipt is given, and that it is recorded correctly.

Her spunk, love for family, and passion to serve God are a great fit for Crossroads. Her desire to SERVE LIFE is a natural attribute. Here is what she shared: "Since September when I started, I have loved it here at Crossroads! I was drawn to their love for life, wanting to help others in the community and to help grow and strengthen families. I am so excited to get our ultrasound center going so we have more resources, room, options, and services for our families. In my free time I love to work on art projects, play the piano, make jewelry and try a new recipe."



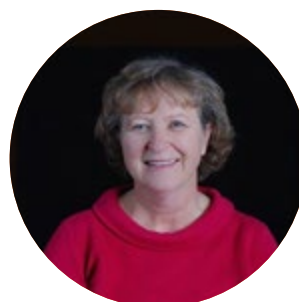
What do I do next?

We would love your prayerful consideration for how you can help! If you are interested in visiting more, simply call us! Janette, Crossroads' Director would love to hear from you, answer questions, and even if we cannot immediately make an opening, God has been known to work some interesting roles into our service at Crossroads. We never know when a connection may take bloom after an initial conversation! You may also email Janette at Director@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org.

But will there still be COFFEE???

Ohhhhhh, yes, of course! We plan to 'pour' more time into Jumpy Monkey Specialty whole bean and ground coffee again! When we move to the new site, it seems that will be a perfect time to 'grind' that. We have lots of fun coffee ideas 'perking' but just need to focus on the ultrasound center first, in addition to mentoring and assisting our young parents we serve. Unless.... YOU step in to help 'roast' up some new volunteer energy into the coffee sales!

Did you know... Jumpy Monkey uses 100% Arabica beans from the same farmers in the same countries including *Columbia, South America, Guatemala, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, & Sumatra*. This is important to them to assure they are supporting the famer who is caring for his family AND they get the same product to roast in their roastery in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. We are grateful to Lori Bride, owner and operator of the roastery, who has consistently sent us coffee at a discount they provide so we can resale for profit to the Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center, and NOW also the ULTRASOUND center!



This mother daughter duo is on a mission to serve A GREAT CAUSE AND to serve terrific coffee! They employ special needs helpers for packing and shipping.

Why the Phases of the Ultrasound Project?

The phases help make it easier to understand the whole project and its timeframe. Our priority is the ultrasound area and to utilize it, we needed more at the front end of the project. Once the building is paid, we can return to budgeting for staffing and operational expenses.

The Phase 1 goal of this project is the largest because it was needed to include the large downpayment on the new building plus necessary remodel to have compliance with safety (fire, surveillance, and entry).

Our new expenses toward the building and the ultrasound project imply **COMMUNITY** and those passionate **FOR LIFE** to help us succeed.

- Monthly purchase payments We have a 5 year contract for the purchase so we can work hard at the fundraising and then save on further interest that can better go into staffing the ministry needs.
- Remodel Expenses. Renovation was necessary to meet compliance with medical center setting, incorporate better safety, make accessibility to the clients with a variety of services, and maximize use of space available. Clients need for this to be a **SAFE & INVITING** place to come and to be comfortable sharing what is going on in their hearts and lives **AND** for us to be able to be a support in those circumstances. This includes having time with them at the center to mentor in parenting and relationships, and helping them learn new skills.
- Maintenance & repair for whole building (part time)—we have several furnaces, a big space to keep clean and tidy, and renters who will need repairs. So, we need a person and the finances to effectively manage this.

The phases **DO NOT** include our staffing salaries. Raising the monies is indeed a perpetual 'way of life' for our ministry, but please understand that until the 5 years before payoff are complete, we will need **extra fuel** for the liftoff!



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE PHASE I LIFERS WHO HAVE KICKED OFF THIS PROJECT AS ANCHORING DONORS

- **Anonymous (a former Crawford County citizen who is passionate for life)**
- **Jens Carstensen Family Memorial with UCC/Schleswig**

- Dennis & Colleen Bruhn • Jim & Marsha Lindstrom • Kerry & Jill Kierscht
- Gary & Karen Christiansen • Dale & Sandy Gronau • Denison Knights of Columbus
- Crawford Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa

IN ADDITION TO THE KNIGHTS GROUPS WHO COLLECTIVELY ARE ANCHORING DONORS, THESE ENTITIES HAVE HAVE PLEDGED OR GIVEN IN-KIND HELPING OR DISCOUNTED LABOR THAT HELPS US PAVE OUR PATH TO THE APPROACHING REMODEL SUCCESS.

- Thomas Moore Society • Computer MD • JP Flooring • Segebart Fabrication • Meseck Electric
- Feld Security Systems • Western Iowa Networks • AIG RollOffs—Aaron Gill & Adam Heiden
- Kennebeck Cleaning & Carpet • Manilla Times/Westside Observer, Janine Kock • Rasmussen Lumber
- Denison Do It Best • NewDay Painting, Kurt Grundmeier



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