



Crossroads
of **Crawford County**

Community Outreach for Life's Journey

A HELLO & SPRING SMILE,
*we wanted to just reach out at this crazy, weird,
blessed, difficult time - because we can!*

Changes for now at Crossroads:

As for everyone, Covid 19 has switched things up for us. We are keeping staff to one at a time at the office in order to avoid unnecessary risks. We want to be proactive about not transmitting anything unknowingly to any of you, but especially to the two populations that happen to be our largest service areas: **pregnant mommas, and seniors!**

We will do what we can for any urgent situations, but please call so we can do things by phone. We will do our best to reinforce with what services and resources we can link you with.



At Crossroads of Crawford County, we propose '**Pardon the Mess**' for our current status as we juggle what may come up as priority and change again.



We hope to adjust some time into the terrific training resources and foundational work Heartbeat International is ready to help us with through our new affiliate status.

Its truly a time we're all in this together

So it's a historic time to **DO YOUR PART**. Let's make history. I would like to go down in the books as being wise.

Following are some typical ways how YOU can be the change for someone



If you're suffering, I pray you can still count your blessings.

If you are unaffected in huge ways, please know it seems weird, but your part may be **STAYING HOME** when possible. Think of germ-free ways you can reach out to someone lonely or scared.

If your financially scared and unsteady, I pray you know what is available for help, and **don't worry about tomorrow** because it does nothing but deplete your energies. Turn it over to God and then let it go. He will bring those answers when it is time.

If you have to be part of the decision making in the tough calls, I pray for **wisdom and strength**. If you are irritated by a tough call made, I pray you just are thankful you are healthy enough to be irritated.

It's truly a time everyone can do something...even if it's nothing! And it's truly a time we are all in this together. And the same will be for the recovery. The human race has largely reached a mentality of 'take care of yourself' and I am certain that a healthy rebound from this pandemic will only come by everyone doing their part, to the point where they have no time to bark about someone else not doing theirs. I have contemplated several times that it may be a way God sews us back together—like a beautiful quilt with sharply contrasting pieces and all shapes and sizes.

I am sharing this photo of my cousin who has been an expert seamstress for many years. Her beautiful quilt symbolizes exactly that for me at this time.



Linda Vanden Berg of Worthington, MN

**Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry about itself.
Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Matthew 6:34 NIV



AND this incredible work symbolizes a great reminder that as Easter approaches, empty churches don't mean Easter is canceled. It means now, more than ever Christians need to **BE THE CHURCH!**

*To borrow from a Facebook post I saw, the Church is not closed, the Church is **DEPLOYED!***

Our only hope today, pandemic time or not, is because of what Christ did for us through death on a cross that was anchored in all of our sins, **AND** because He defeated death as He rose that first Easter Sunday and brought **NEW LIFE!**

Christians can be the thread (in many colors) that pulls back together very different humans with very different roles and needs; **AND** they can be the thread that anchors both what is seen and what is not seen together in our actions and our words.

Fix your eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

*Church buildings
might be empty
on Easter,
but so is
the grave!*

- THANK YOU GROCERY STORE CLERKS
- THANK YOU MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
- THANK YOU RESTAURANT WORKERS
- THANK YOU TRUCKERS & DELIVERY DRIVERS
- THANK YOU GENEROUS NEIGHBORS
- THANK YOU SANITATION WORKERS
- THANK YOU WAREHOUSE WORKERS

THANK YOU NEWLY HIRED HOME SCHOOL PERSONNEL

THANK YOU CLERGY & CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGERS

THANK YOU FARMERS

Resources

There are so many terrific resources if you have internet—from activity and homeschooling ideas to Christian encouragement, to family and parenting issues, and reliable updated Covid information! We included some of our favorite ‘go to’s’ here. Crossroads’ group & page on Facebook has and will have more as we have time to share. Please feel free to pass on to me anything you found especially helpful.

We know some of you do not have internet. If we can assist with sending you books, magazines, and print outs, we will do our best!

Here are some of our favorites. Specific references to Covid issues are on the home page of most of them, with links to tons of excellent reading and activities for all ages!

Our local radio, KDSN (www.kdsn.com) announces online church services, easily accessible through YouTube & Facebook, which is virtually every church in the area!

 @CrossroadsofCrawfordCounty

Family, Marriage, Parenting—kids activities, printables & online studies

<https://familyfire.reframemedia.com/>

<https://axis.org/> *Discipleship for the Whole Family*

<https://www.drjamesdobson.org/>

<https://www.familylife.com/>

Educational materials for all ages

<https://www.afineparent.com>

<https://biglifejournal.com/>

Music, Music Music

<http://www.tropicalglen.com/>

A juke box of music variety from the 50's to late '99!

Health, Diet, Fitness

<https://www.amenclinics.com/>

Accurate & unbiased Covid Info & Updates (Including for pregnant and nursing women)

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Christian fueling up:

<https://livingontheedge.org/>

<https://rickwarren.org/>

Help for Iowans cope (mental health, addictions, parenting, etc.) amidst Covid changes

<https://yourlifeiowa.org/>

Financial Hope

<https://www.daveramsey.com>

And, to put a fun spin on the toilet paper crisis:

<https://www.Redtedart.com>



Reflections

Early on, before seeing words like **PANDEMIC & QUARANTINE** pop up in auto spell, we figured at Crossroads we would ‘tough it out’. As the realities and facts changed near daily, so did our planning. Fundraising ideas changed. To Do List changed. Changes changed.

While I have heard from others much anxiety, some fear, and even anger over decisions that had to be made, I am heartened by the overall impression that folks know we are **STRONGER TOGETHER**, and that means **EMOTIONALLY**, or at least 6 foot away.

CONNECTING...from what I can see, those that are coping well are **CONNECTED** to **OTHERS** through relationship and commonality. They may be frustrated or challenged, but not angry, bitter, or scared.

A second thing I see is a revival of some religious caliber—reminders that God never promised us that we wouldn’t have struggles, yet He **HAS** given us so many promises to hold true for us and to share with others in Christian outreach.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 NIV

CHANGEABLE EXTREMES

- *Many are working incredibly hard through incredibly hard decisions, others bored out of their minds.*
- *Some have normal business exploding with demand while others have come to a screeching halt.*
- *Some ignore the crisis warnings and repeated requests while others have known it to result in death or are vulnerable to a high degree.*
- *Some are using quarantine as a personal retreat or creative family time, while others are uncomfortable being alone, unable to structure time beyond their technology or outings.*
- *Some show resilience and faith while others reflect fear and defeat.*

LIFE LAUNCH MATCHING GRANT & THE PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

While the fundraising campaign plans are being reworked, we hope you can still help us in a very large way:
PLEASE SHARE THE NEWS ABOUT THE MATCHING GRANT FOR CROSSROADS TO BECOME A FULLY EQUIPPED PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER THAT IS ROOTED IN CHRISTIAN VALUES

We know finances are completely changed for many. Please realize that as always, we are in no way putting any expectation on you. If you are looking for a way to help, and are able, we hope you will consider how you could contribute for this very needed resource for our community.

In 2019 we served about 8 families affected by unplanned or a difficult pregnancy.

Of those,

- 2** made a decision to place for adoption
- 2** are single parents and appreciate the emotional support & encouragement we can give at Crossroads
- 1** is still pregnant & planning to parent. There will be many barriers to that being easy or typical for her
- 3** are doing what they can to be a good parent(s), yet are challenged by the reality of inadequate paychecks to cover rent, food, daycare, food, and travel

The Point Is:

The total time we serve a family at Crossroads varies. But most helping involves reoccurring visits, over time, as their situation unfolds. Some of the barriers and challenges we help anchor them through are:

- Lack of dependable emotional support
- Lack of appropriate helpers to give parents a break
- Inadequate home or finances
- Verbal and/or physical violence in the home
- Anxiety and depression of one or both parents
- Substance abuse issues by extended family
- Religious emptiness—disconnected from God and a home church, yet searching for it

It takes a village---we know God works through us to offer these parents hope & encouragement, and we are fueled by your support in various ways.

Meeting the more tangible, sometimes crucial needs like

housing assistance
parenting education
transportation

is always a challenge. What we can do directly correlates with the time we can offer because of the financial support we have been given to share back into **HEALTHY FAMILY & COMMUNITY**

For the Pregnancy Resource & Parent Support programs to be what these and so many more parents need, it will require:

- *A team of passionate volunteer helpers & staff*
- *Prayer – ongoing, focused, heart-filled prayers!*
- *Financial gifts toward the \$30,000 MATCHING grant through Heartbeat (they will match it after we make \$30,000 before spring 2021)*
- *Financial gifts toward ongoing service throughout the years*

Additionally, the other areas we serve through outreach will **ALSO** need financial and prayerful nurturing and helping hearts and hands.



Due to Covid changes, **PLEASE DON'T WAIT** for the informational meeting to let us know if you're interested in helping!
Call or email SOON!

Director@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org or **712-393-4673**
We will discuss via phone & email how you'd like to help.

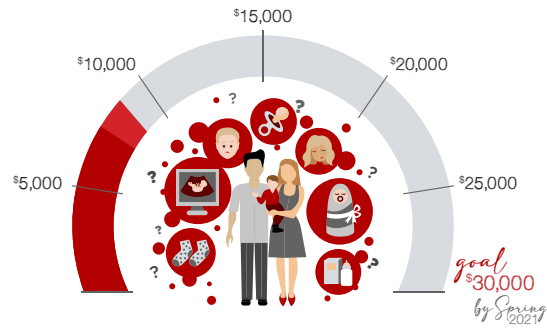


We are so grateful for the generosity from near & far!
Please spread the word to help us grow to meet the match! All financial gifts are DOUBLED by Heartbeat International as AFFILIATES with them!

An easy & COVID-free way to donate a gift of any amount is going to this link:
https://crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org/fund_raising.asp
Crossroads of Crawford County is a 501c3 charitable organization

CURRENT TOTAL: \$8,151

AS OF APRIL 2, 2020



An easier way to help us AND give yourself a little perk (pun intended) is to remember that our Jumpy Monkey whole bean and ground coffee help us help! As an ongoing fundraiser, every bag enables more face to face time with those looking for hope, help, and encouragement!

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
RIGHT NOW, I'M POSITIVE THAT I NEED A COFFEE. ASAP!

If this is you...

PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT

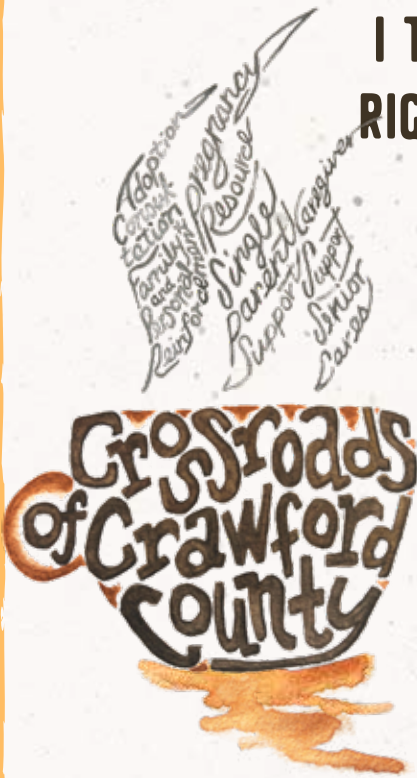
Crossroads of Crawford County: 712-393-4673

WE CAN FIX YOU UP WITH WHOLE BEAN OR GROUND JUMPY MONKEY COFFEE.

We are now offering Deliveries on Wednesday's to Westside, Denison, Schleswig, Charter Oak, & Ricketts. Or Pick up at the office, we will run it out to you!

EVERY PURCHASE - EVERY DONATION -
IS DOUBLED THROUGH HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL

Jumpy Monkey Coffee!! That's my love language!



CHRISTIAN REFRAME: TURNING TRIALS & CHALLENGES INTO BLESSINGS

While the upside down, inside out nature of this time is unprecedented (at least in my lifetime)

BE A BLESSING to someone having trouble finding the good in this.

HOME & FAMILY are not cancelled!

Most have this wonderful technology called **INTERNET & CELL PHONES**

We can connect with family & friends through pictures & humor almost instantaneously

No one has an excuse to not 'go' to a church service, or two, or ten!

At home concerts from top artists!

Christians can outreach to others while in their pjs, just listening, or offering hope, any encouragement.

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose**

Romans 8:28