

If God makes every snowflake different,
imagine the magnitude of the love He
put into creating each of us!

Ridiculous Giving

When I was elementary age, I remember going to a charity auction. As the piles of donated items from quilts to commemorative quarters and doilies to power washers dwindled down, I left my friends to return to my ride home, my dad. There was a whole new round of auctioning over something I had completely missed in my initial scan: Ice cream. I listened curiously to the fast rhythm of the auctioneer, not believing I was hearing right. Then he shouted 'SOLD to farmer Jones for \$300!' I was in disbelief and confusion. How could that be, \$300 for a single ice cream cone???

As I looked up at my dad he handed me popcorn. He smiled and said I'd better enjoy it as it had cost \$25 for that small bag of a few handfuls. On the way home I was asking about the ridiculous bidding. He explained that when the money is going to something people believe in, they just enjoy giving in this fun way.

Fast forwarding a few decades into my life, and I have seen this principle at work over and over again— people are generous as they can individually be for a cause they believe in and offer a price—maybe within range of the actual value, and oftentimes at a ridiculous price, with a smile on their face.



And because of God being at work, we are seeing it happen for Crossroads! This newsletter will share a few examples, and an opportunity to engage in Crossroads' outreach in generous and creative ways in order to build a community resource we very much need. Four years ago, we started reaching out to the ears and hearts of our

neighbors who were in need or who were looking for creative Christian solutions, perhaps new hope, or just someone to talk to. Very quickly, we knew that the need would prove itself many times over. The outreach was a means through which Christians could unite toward community helping.

Community Outreach for Life's Journey

Crossroads seeks to offer an avenue in which to respond to needs around us without it being the toxic kind of giving that creates ongoing need. It seeks to make relationships with those who come for resources about something specific in their family, or who don't know where to go for help. Then we walk their path with them as they choose, and perhaps creatively work toward solutions with them.

*A safe starting place
An encouraging middle place
A healthy ending place*

One of reasons for Crossroads' onset was the recognition that there were few and remote services for pregnancy counseling—walking with those in crisis over being pregnant at a difficult time, or having a difficult pregnancy. A pregnancy can be difficult or untimely for 100 or more different reasons. Decisions will need to be made about this crisis in their life, or about moving on with life. Change, loss, fear, relationships, emotions, and hopes are all factors that will be woven together in the matter of 9 months.

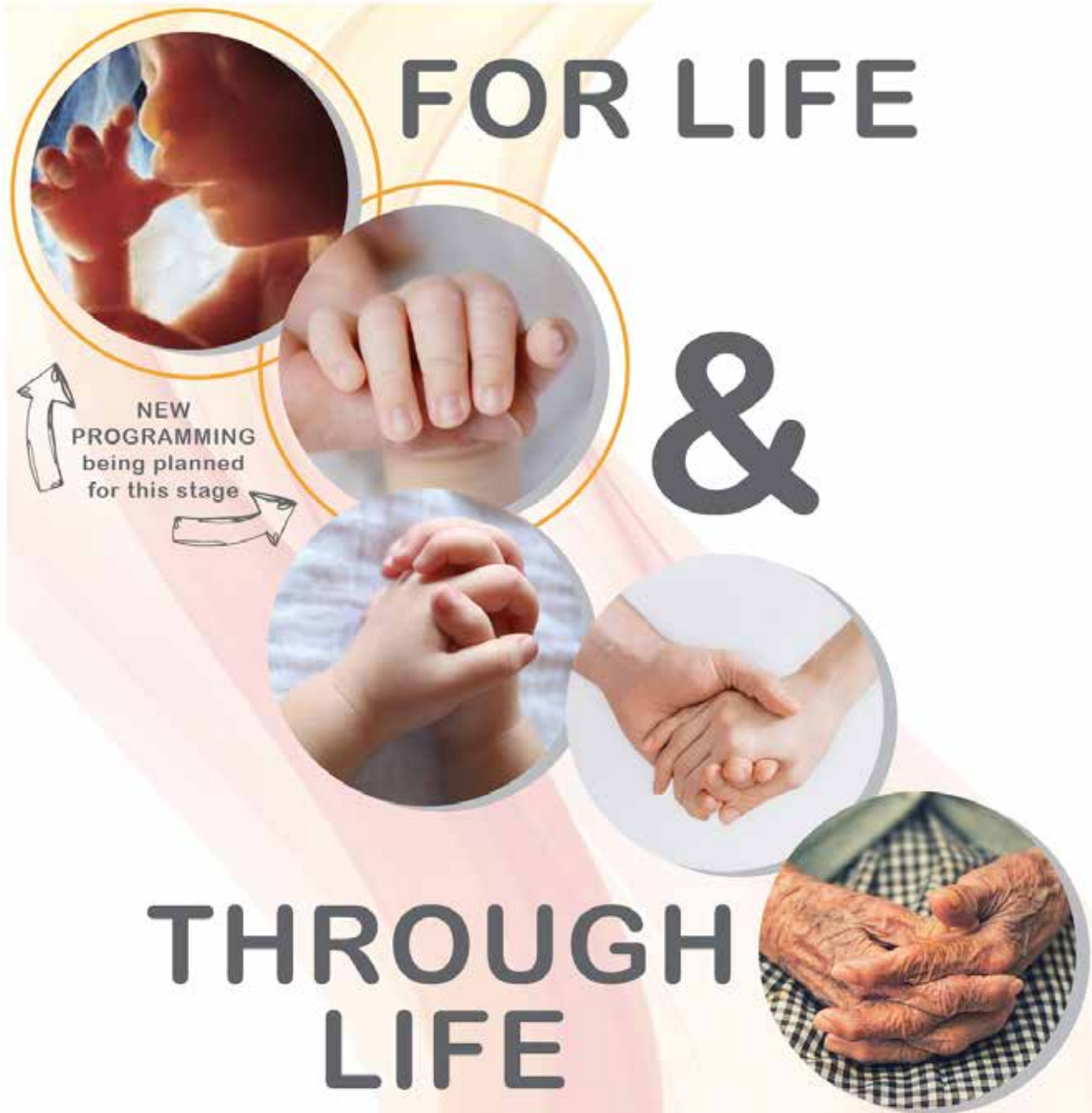


*See our exciting news
related to this next page!*



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Crossroads is eager to announce plans for development of its Pregnancy Resource program! We have been awarded a matching grant opportunity through Heartbeat International to receive accreditation, resources, and monies to develop a Crisis Pregnancy & Resource Center for Crawford County Iowa and surrounding communities that come!



Crossroads provides Christian community outreach through the whole natural life cycle.

A safe starting place An encouraging middle place A healthy ending place

- Senior Cares
- Caregiver Support
- Single Parent Support
- Adoption Consultation
- Pregnancy Resource Center
- Family & Personal Reinforcement

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are blessed to announce plans to grow an accredited program for NEW LIFE.

Heartbeat International has awarded Crossroads of Crawford County a **MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY:**

To fully develop & staff a full **PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER** for Crawford County!

Goal: To become fully equipped to respond to those involved in pregnancy decisions described as

CRISIS

UNPLANNED

UNTIMELY

DIFFICULT

HIGH RISK

\$30,000 in grant monies & resources will be ours for the pregnancy center
AFTER we raise the first \$30,000 before Spring 2021.

WE NEED YOU & many others!

PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH ANY PERSONS YOU CAN!

PRAYERS

DONORS

HELPERS

Here is a mini form to help identify how you can share toward the **CAUSE FOR LIFE!**

Please return to Crossroads at the mailing address or phone below, via Facebook Messenger, or stop by in person.

- I would like to attend an informational meeting to be held in early February. # Attending _____
(Date, time, and location to be announced) Please leave your contact info below.
- I would like to donate toward the Pregnancy Resource Center! Here is my tax deductible/charitable donation for \$_____ (amount). Payments can be made by check or cash in person, by mailing to address below, or online by going to www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org
- I would like to play a helping role in this exciting opportunity to promote LIFE!
Please identify any specific preference or skills you may wish to share.

- Count me in on praying our community through to having this life affirming program available to our young adults, their families, and the community as you keep me informed of developments.

NAME(S) _____

PREFERRED PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

NOTE: In effort to keep our costs down, we prefer to send information by email. We promise, we will not barrage you with emails...we only use it for events, newsletters, and occasional announcements.

3707 Timberline Drive, Denison, Iowa 51442 • 712.393.4673(HOPE)
www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org • info@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

Director Janette Clausen, and Crossroads of Crawford County is an approved 501c3 charitable organization; your donation is tax deductible. Crossroads' Board of Directors and staff appreciate all donations of any size to enable this outreach.

QUILT SILENT AUCTION

THANK YOU to those who made bids on the silent quilt auction. It is incredible how God does His work through each of us in everyday situations.



Jan Schultz of Schleswig loves to quilt and is masterful at it! For three years in a row, she has donated a beautiful hand sewn quilt to Crossroads to help toward our fundraising.

This year we decided to see how an online silent auction would work out. It was posted on Facebook and Instagram with basic rules for placing bids. Within a week, there were several bids, many comments, and forwarded photos of the quilt.

After about a week, the amount was \$290. It was 2 weeks to go to closing date. A week later it was \$310, then up to \$400 in the same day. By now it was down to two active bidders. The day of the final bid, it was raised to \$425. The final bid would be due before 4 pm. It was still \$425 at 3:50.

At 3:55 pm., Becky Friedrichsen called and shot out \$500.



Becky was unable to pick up the quilt so she sent her sister Debbie Wieman of Denison, another friend of Crossroads, to pick it up. Upon visiting, Debbie shared that she had purchased another of the quilts Jan Schultz had made for a Crossroads fundraiser auction, and truly appreciated Jan's excellent work!

The donations weren't done! In addition to Debbie sharing a donation for Crossroads' work, the next highest bidder for the quilt also gave a wonderful donation, as had Debbie!



to each of you for your outreach to ours!

Community Need

**+ Passion for Meeting the Need
= Ridiculous Giving**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

We need to raise \$30,000 in order \$30,000.

That's a lot of money, but when it's something people believe in (and God wants), they will give in creative and generous ways.

Please let us know if you want to keep informed and if you can help in any way! We will send out postcards to announce the date (early March is likely) once we have some helpers in place!

Here's one way to help!



All proceeds go to Crossroads of Crawford County

All orders need to be prepaid in order to hold them in your name until you can pick up at Crossroads.

You may pay in person, by mail, or online at https://crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org/fund_raising.asp

With note of size/color/description in the comment section.



SIZE	Gildan Navy	Gildan Dk Heather	Bella+Canvas Navy	Bella+Canvas Dk Heather
S				
M				
L				
XL				
2XL				
3XL				
4XL				
5XL				
PRICE	S-XL- \$20 2XL- \$22 3XL- \$23	S-XL- \$20 2XL- \$22 3XL- \$23	S-XL- \$22 2XL- \$24 3XL- \$25	S-XL- \$22 2XL- \$24 3XL- \$25

ONE SIZE	Navy Tote Bag
\$15	

Please wear our news!



TOTAL _____

INTRODUCING...



God was at work before I knew how he would answer my and the boards' prayers for the Heartbeat International grant. We have been blessed with two new helpers!



Sandy Hansohn (left) of Denison has started with Crossroads as part time Administrative Assistant. Aside from helping toward fundraising, data base upkeep, and organization requirements, she will directly assist families. Debbie Kraus (right) of Westside started part time the same week as Sandy, and is the Support Programs Manager, overseeing Jumpy Monkey Coffee sales, Sparrow's Nest, and the day-to day operations. She will also serve families directly.



Jennifer Hennings comes in once to twice weekly to assist with the Meals on Wheels tasks and keeps on top of the ever-changing coffee inventory, and helps with most any event or activity we do outside of the office.

Other helpers that are not direct staff include Brandee Blackey, who handles website updating and general 'techie' helping. She does this from her home office in southwest Iowa. I am grateful to Brandee for setting up a detailed spreadsheet system we call our data base. She started with that monster task in Oct. 2018 and stuck with me through the incredible undertaking that was. While

it is coming together, we could use your help. Please let us know your email if you are not receiving mailings, and also if there are errors with anything we are sending. And of course, any friends and family you would like to be sure we also reach, let us know!



This is Brandee (in tan sweater) with her children, husband, and grandchild. She feels like she knows many of you from working with names!



Meriah Blakely has been at my side several years, and it is her job to read my mind and get my scrambled idea onto paper or in a diagram. Really, she is a graphics designer and I am so grateful to her for her ability to truly put a vision into a diagram or flyer. Without her, getting word to you over what is happening with Crossroads would be extremely difficult.

Goodbye

We regret to share one goodbye. Diane Smith had been our bookkeeper this past year. Bill paying, record keeping, and payroll are an essential part of our outreach, and I am grateful to her for coming in faithfully once or twice a week to assure just that. Diane is divided among many other tasks and will be spending more time in the grandma department.

COAT DRIVE RESULTS:

At some point after about 90ish coats, we lost count. And actually, a few coats still came in this past month! The annual coat drive was later than previous years, and it was cold the week they were at H&R Block uptown Denison for anyone who needed one. Many, many were claimed before we brought them to West Central for them to share the rest.

Oh, the expressions of gratefulness are so inspiring! We had many more children's coats of all sizes this year, which was an incredible blessing. Some even brought in new coats! We thank EACH OF YOU who shared from your closets!

THANK YOU to United Church of Westside, Immanuel of Schleswig, and St. John of Charter Oak for collecting.

PAY IT FORWARD
Coat Drive 

**Big coats, little coats,
Boots, hats & mittens too!
Warming blankets--
Sweatshirts & coveralls even do!
We thank you Crawford County
For helping warm hearts & bodies
of our neighbors, a great few!**

Thank you!

Thank you to WESCO Day Hab for picking up and delivering for us.

Thank you to H&R for your excellent help with distribution again!



HIDDEN BLESSINGS

Throughout October and the first week of November, a group of community seniors joined weekly for the SMART (That is an acronym for Senior Mind Altering & Renewal Team) group. We enjoyed baked goodies and fresh brewed Jumpy Monkey Coffee at the Crossroads' office for the 4 sessions led by Carol Segebart. Since she works out of town all week, we are especially grateful for her time on Fridays as we learned steps to train your

brain to rethink on unhealthy patterns that can lead to depression and anxiety. THANK YOU Carol, we are blessed to have you!

If you would like to see another group specific to your age group, please, let us know! It is very worthwhile and the addition of Biblical basis for anxiety was especially helpful!



FYI: the 2nd location of Sparrow's nest that was planned to be in Schleswig is no longer taking place. We do not have items in any location but our office. Sorry for any confusion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jumpy Monkey imports its coffee beans from the countries of Columbia, Mexico, Sumatra, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Kenya, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, each offering its own unique flavor so they can offer many blends and single origin flavors. They purchase from the same farmers in these countries so they have consistent results and know the process they use to grow, harvest, and process the beans before they are shipped to Sergeant Bluff, Iowa for roasting!



Jumpy Monkey Coffee update

389 WHOLE BEAN OR GROUND COFFEES SOLD IN 2019

Starting at open house in May through December

THANK YOU customers! We hope you will keep enjoying it and contribute to Coffee with a CAUSE!



We have a couple more Jingle Joe and Pumpkin Harvest for those who love it and want to finish it through the remainder of winter. First come, first serve, no more orders for those until fall and Christmas.

Remember: Any samples of coffee you have from Crossroads are made with purified water! We have noticed some have a distinctly different taste when using tap water.

You are welcome to call or email in orders, just use this form for reference.

Jumpy Monkey now packs 16-ounce bags of any variety whole bean or ground coffee!

COFFEE FLAVORS	12oz. Ground \$13	12oz. Whole \$13	K-Cups \$13	1lb. \$15	3lbs. \$37	5lbs. \$57
Cinnamon Sticky Bun						
Cinnamon Sticky Bun (D)						
Colombian Supremo						
Colombian Supremo (D)						
French Roast - Sergeant						
French Vanilla						
Good Morning Blend						
Hazelnut Cream						
Highlander Grog						
Jamaican Me Crazy						
Jingle Joe*						
Lewis & Clark Blend						
Oatmeal Cookie						
Pumpkin Harvest*						
Sparrow's Nest						
Texas Roast						
Vanilla Buttercream						



Total: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Payment Amount _____

Check Cash



OFFICE USE ONLY
 Purchase To Order

*SEASONALLY AVAILABLE ONLY

FAQ'S ABOUT LIFE LAUNCH GRANT

Will receiving the Life Launch grant reduce your other services?

Actually, we are hopeful for just the opposite. While we need volunteer and paid staff fully engaged with the mission of the crisis pregnancy services, we believe that the foundational pieces (policy, procedure, legal angles, administration, community development) will ALSO allow for our ongoing services in the other areas. In other words, the core work would very similar for all of our areas, and our mission statement was developed in a manner that focusing in on any particular service would still cover the others.

That being said, we will have to make decisions about prioritizing even more than we already do now with inadequate staffing. We do need to assure that we fully attend to the crisis pregnancy families as we state in the grant proposal. It is our prayer that the community will also see the value to the other services, and how they also affirm LIFE as God designed, and that the funding will continue to grow for more staff for those services.

Why would Heartbeat International only offer a matching grant instead of giving money for startup as a crisis pregnancy center?

Heartbeat International knows that growing a successful crisis pregnancy center will require committed donors who are willing to maintain the resource through repeated giving. Just as all of us plan to return to the grocery store for groceries or go to a gas station to refuel our vehicles, Crossroads is asking for DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, and PRAYER SUPPORT to maintain our mission—now as we raise \$30,000 and ongoing as we continue to serve and the numbers probably grow because more staff are needed.

You have described being a Pregnancy Resource Center since onset of Crossroads. How is this different?

When Crossroads started, we knew this was an unmet need in our area. We wanted to offer something for young people seeking help with the decisions involved surrounding an untimely pregnancy. Janette Clausen, Director, was comfortable giving what she could because of over 30 years in pregnancy counseling and adoption work. Heartbeat International is a worldwide network of more than 2,700 pro-life pregnancy help organizations. Receiving their accreditation means we have solid foundational materials, excellent resources, networking with other centers, professional support, and tools to build the vision into a more effective and comprehensive program, complete with trained staff to consistently be present to respond.

Additionally, a crisis pregnancy center versus a resource center ALSO has pregnancy testing and ultrasound (non-medical diagnosing) available, and this goal has also been desired and started upon here for Crossroads by involved community churches and individuals.





Crossroads of Crawford County

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ESPRESSO YOURSELF!

A bit of Jumpy Monkey Coffee



+ strawberries too pretty to eat!



Something to color or write



& something to bring a smile

You're set for Valentines



Just give us a quick dial!



Talk with us about local free delivery for Valentines Day!

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