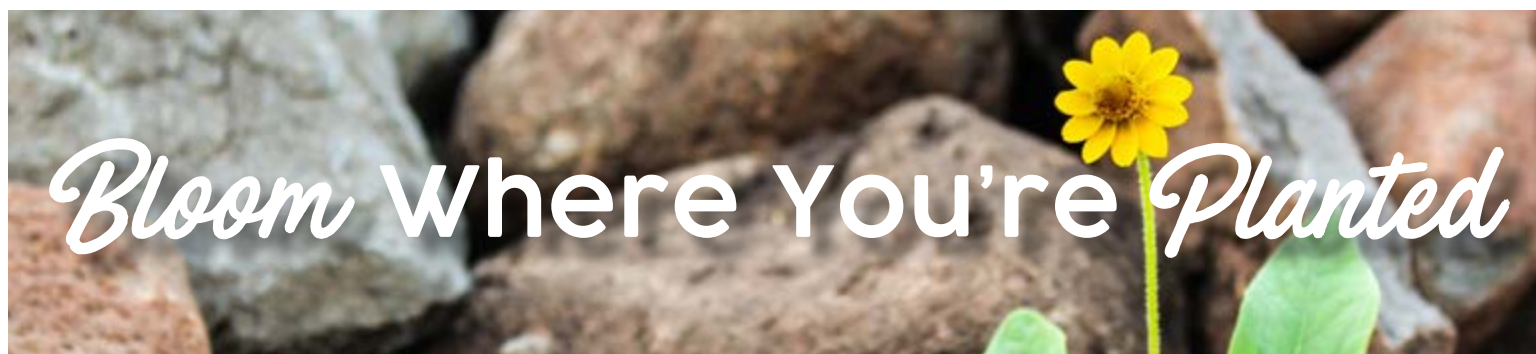




Crossroads
of Crawford County

Community Outreach for Life's Journey

Spring 2021



Bloom Where You're Planted

A year ago we were stepping into a time

that we thought would be 'over for the most part' within the next month...or the next...or the next. We over prepared, we under prepared, we cancelled and we scheduled. We went about life with caution, we stopped normal life on many levels. The constant change, uncertainty, angst, was a drain to everyone in various levels of severity. The loss is no where near fully counted, and will be different in the views of many.

But we are here! Jesus as our Shepherd, we got through (for the most part). And really, do we know anything more than a year ago? If 2020 taught us anything, it is that we do not know what is coming our way at any given time. From 35 total confirmed Covid cases in all of the US on February 22nd of 2020, to hundreds of millions of tests and over 32 million cases in the US to date, we really may still have more questions than information.

Even without Covid, our world is a mess, incredibly broken. Not knowing the future can be unsettling, and the dark valleys of life are frightening. I personally find it comforting that God protects us from not knowing everything.



When the road ahead seems uncertain, then I know God is requiring of me to be in the present, doing what I can and leaving the rest up to Him. Crossroads wants to **BLOOM WHERE HE PLANTS US.**

For our center, our prayer for and goal is the combination of **rich soil** (constituents who want our outreach), **fertilizer** (financial resources to make it happen), **sunshine** (helpers to participate) and **rain** (pledges for ongoing resources)

We don't know what is ahead. Keeping the prayer and goal constant, we will do our best and thriftily spend from the generous gifts to our work. And we will do all we can to the best of our ability as we serve in the lives of those who come to us. Cynthia Yanof, who authored 'Pardon the Mess' summed up what we know about our life this way:

'The one thing we can be certain of this side of heaven is that our lives are going to be uncertain.'

AND

'With God directing our steps, not even one (step) is unexpected or without purpose to the One who authors them all.'

In this newsletter we want to share the news of our restructuring of service areas so we can better serve two populations after some 'game changing' events of 2020.

- AND - We want to honor MOMS & DADS for their role in healthy family, healthy community.

Parents who teach their children to be resilient and at peace in the craziness of this world also pray for their children to understand that what is uncertain to them is anything but expected or unplanned to God. **And because they know that, 'they can put their trust in the One who not only knows the future, but who writes it'** (Cynthia Yarnof)

You received this newsletter because either you have requested it, or we hope you will!

We believe that communication with our constituents is essential to our success, and we want to hear from YOU and keep you in the loop with our work! **More on the next page**



Please let us know if the format you received this newsletter is correct, if we have the name and address correct, or if you prefer another means. Please share with anyone you like, letting them know you would like them to consider being added the mailing list!

We would like BOTH email and your USPS mailing info though we will only mostly utilize which you state as preferred. We promise to keep your contact information for Crossroads' use only and we also promise to only send what is directly relevant to our work at Crossroads and not bombard you!



TWO GAME CHANGERS OF 2020-2021



We went from offering Christian family resourcing in several life areas to TWO full programs

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom He has called according to His plan.'

Romans 8:28 KJV

We've remodeled within our services!



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



Service offered at no charge, with volunteers & paid staff essential to our effectiveness



Services offered for freewill donation; fee based for in depth services



CHRISTIAN FAMILY Resources & Referral ASSISTANCE

Fee-based services on a sliding scale with supplementation from community endorsements

A safe starting place

An encouraging middle place

A healthy ending place

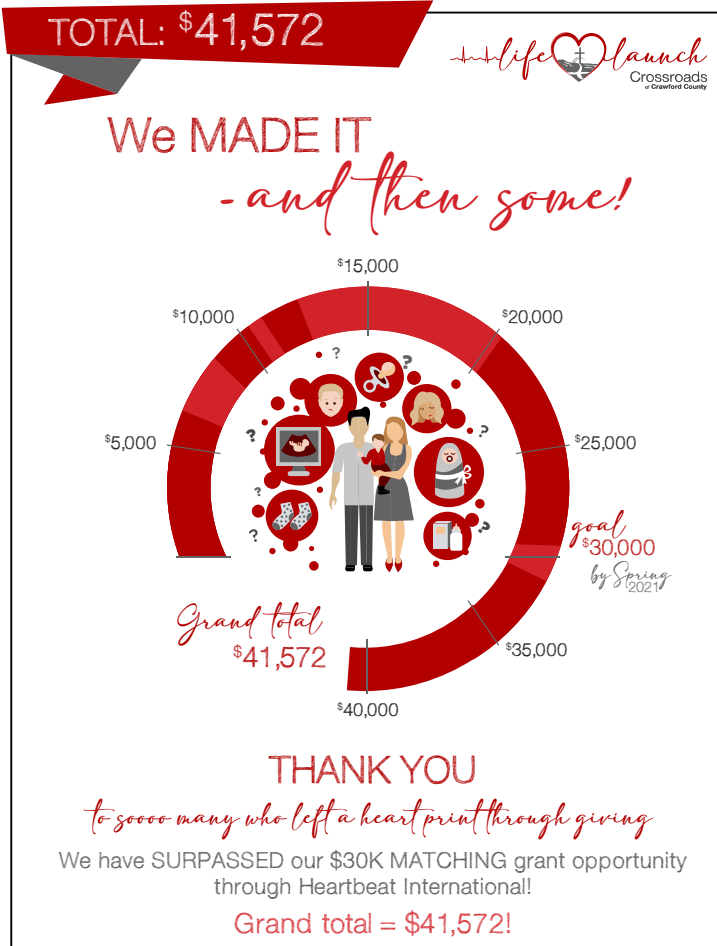


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We now provide two full services in response to specific areas of need. Our family resourcing and referral assistance can be provided by appointment.



FIRST GAME CHANGER



THANK YOU to so many who showed they want this for our community!

After a year of full time fundraising in 2020, we are now working at finalizations on agency policy, program procedure, details for the Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center, and reaching out to others in the professional community about it!



Because Heartbeat invested in us by matching those resources at \$30,000, we are on our way to becoming

fully equipped as a center who values life at every stage - conception through death. We help others who are blinded by their circumstances to choose life and encourage them in LIVING life.

The full vision by our own hearts and imaginations is daunting, yet because of the financial and practical resources God put into our path through the Life Launch fundraising of 2020, we are in process of becoming an accredited Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center through Heartbeat International.



And YES we are currently seeing expectant parents AND young parents, as we have been since onset of our center in 2016. We strive to equip them in their role as parents to be encouraged, intentional, and adept in the multiple areas common to struggling parents.



"If it's not life, how can it grow daily, have a heartbeat and move before most know they are pregnant?"

- asked by a shocked parent-to-be



A whole community pours into a successful pregnancy & parenting center—there are many fun ways to help!



SECOND GAME CHANGER

Covid magnified the needs we were serving largely through volunteers for our elderly.



Diane Vetter and Lisa Sorensen have professionally worked in a variety of backgrounds, including nursing and serving the elderly in a home aid capacity. Each of them arrived at Crossroads in very different circumstances. Once they met, they came together to 'bloom where they were planted' and authored the policy and procedure piece of CoCares. Diane manages new intakes for the program and procedural details while Lisa manages the program oversight. Without their skillful work and empathy for the elderly and caregivers, we could not be prepared to launch CoCares.

We are thrilled to be serving the first 'customers' with CoCares, and looking forward to helping with many more! Just give us a call if you have questions or would like to schedule an intake (no charge) to fully consider this terrific option. Two things mark this basic home and personal errands service as truly unique:

1) *Because we do not bill insurance or Medicare, we can get into the homes with practical helping AND for an even larger reason: visiting and conversations! Addressing things like grief, worry, regrets, and just simple need for friendship are sometimes the larger need hiding behind the physical or practical need. We want to help with BOTH!*

2) *Neighbors, family and community often wonder how they can help an elderly neighbor or a caregiver who is weary and stressed. CoCares offers a terrific means to do exactly that because the fees can be underwritten by anyone! Amounts made to Crossroads for a specific client will be credited to the client, and amounts given with specification to CoCares program are tax deductible since we are a charitable organization.*



CHRISTIAN FAMILY Resources & Referral ASSISTANCE

Our informational resourcing will continue for families looking for specific information or who would like assistance with making a referral. We strive to offer encouragement and a listening heart along the way in difficult circumstances. We plan to nurture this program as resources such as qualified staff allow, while priority will be given to the two program areas of Pregnancy and Parenting Resource and CoCares.

Here's the part where YOU come in!

We need you to help us tend to the garden!

MENTOR
DONATE
TEAM
PRAYER
VOLUNTEER
FAMILY HOSTING



Parents don't become terrific parents without a healthy dose of mentoring, teaching, and guidance...

Committed staff typically need a paycheck to offer full attention to serving needs.



A great deal of time and energy is poured into maintaining healthy center procedures and policy.

Weeds such as lack of adequate time or skill would render the programs ineffective.



Predators who try to undo the pro-life values on which our center is founded can gain powerful and devastating grip if we are not watchful and proactive maintaining integrity and our values

Please help us equip young parents

- To make decisions for their untimely or unplanned pregnancy according to the plan God has for them and their child...
- To be the parents God intends for them to be if they choose parenting...
- To be comfortable in establishing a Christian home and family, the way God designed...
- To be empowered and strengthened along the way through special challenges and obstacles...

Please help us encourage and assist caregivers and the elderly

- Through practical helping
- Through relationship building & information sharing

It's In there!

Some of our busyness this late winter and early spring has been revamping our website to reflect the changes. Check it out! www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org You will find more information on the programs, details on who we are and our mission, resources, prayer requests for Crossroads, and about the extras we offer to engage you and to help us thrive! Very soon, you will be able to see the phenomenal resource that Heartbeat International offers to our young expecting parents as part of our working affiliate status. There is even a link to Option Line, which is 24-7 answering for any person looking for information and needing to visit about their pregnancy circumstances. **THANK YOU HEARTBEAT!**

"When Crossroads told me what they could do for my mom, I was giddy with happiness and relief! Simply getting the mail and doing a couple loads of laundry has become so difficult for her. This way she gets some friendly faces to visit with and someone to check on her too!"

OUT-OF-STATE DAUGHTER OF
AN ELDERLY WOMAN



Help us SERVE LIFE!

Help us get this little bandit out!

We need \$5,000 to bail him out, though he will SERVE LIFE forever!

Every T-Shirt purchase helps toward his BAIL!



**Shirts start
at \$20**



Contact us to get yours!

Call 712-393-4673 or email

Director@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

We will have online ordering available soon.



Even Babies can help bail Bandit out!

We have a variety of sizes and colors we will have customized for you for a unique gift!

COFFEE CORNER



Pictured here is Blair, a PCS employee

Our neighbors at Professional Computer Systems found a fun way to make coffee work for them. They hosted a virtual event for a large annual training that previously had been in person. Prior to the date, they sent out packages to each participant to 'perk' up the deal, and they included the mini 4 oz. ground Jumpy Monkey coffees which make a ten-cup pot. **THANK YOU, PCS,** for the wonderful purchase that supports our work! Pictured here is Blair Patnaude, PCS employee, with the coffee stash for which she placed the order.



We have been blessed with a new member couple who have embraced our ministry in terrific ways. Kurt & Roxane Grundmeier of Westside help with many things, from landing an old desk and turning it new, to general office help, to promoting COFFEE WITH A CAUSE! This is Kurt & Roxane encouraging everyone to COFFEE UP with Jumpy Monkey coffee at the RENEW vendor fair hosted by Lori Brotherton Saturday, May 1st at the Boulders Conference Center. Thanks to Lori for the opportunity and to Kurt and Roxane for spending their day promoting Crossroads' cause! Kurt is willing to visit with any businesses or persons toward understanding our mission and work, just give us a call or email if you would like to learn more!



THANK YOU to Denison Rotary for their sponsoring of our 2021 Jumpy Monkey sales! This ongoing means of fundraising has been a fun and important way for Crossroads to connect folks with our cause. After updating the Rotary Club via a virtual meeting regarding our work, we applied for rotary funds to specifically target the pregnancy resource center needs.

\$2500 was graciously donated to promote our work and expand our outreach through coffee! We are optimistic that we can at least double that amount again simply through the increased marketing of the whole bean and ground coffee.

A new cost to our center this year, which will be ongoing, is the stocking of the baby zone area. We anticipate that the flow will enable us to generously provide baby basics and new clothing that the parents in our program can 'buy' with the points they earn from engaging in parenting curriculum, mentoring, healthy lifestyle, and appointments that optimize their health and success.

NOW ACCEPTING:

New Baby Items & Clothing
for BABY BUCKS redemption

Blankets, onesies, accessories, clothing (up to size 18 months), burp towels, booties, swaddlers, diapers, etc.

Handmade items are welcome!!

Stop out to see and shop the growing inventory of baby gifts! The area doubles as a gift area for anyone looking for adorable gifts for any baby. The proceeds go right back into helping us bring funding into the program!



THIS IS HOW WE ROLL...

Fundraising and grants are a way of business for any center for helping because there will always be needs and brokenness on this side of heaven.

With gratefulness and joy we want to share more of the donors who **HELP US HELP!**

These are some key donations from 2021.

Crawford County Community Foundation awarded \$4000 to Crossroads to apply toward the CoCares launch. What a terrific boost that gave to completing the procedural planning, training, and to offset some fees for persons who very much need the companionship and practical helping!

Schleswig Basic Fund shared \$861 to Crossroads to provide reimbursement for our volunteer driver, Larry Goering. Throughout the dismal times of Covid, we especially wanted to keep healthy meals coming to Schleswig Seniors, and having a consistent person popping in with the meals was a great advantage. We are grateful for the help from the Basic Funds to offset some of our costs to offering Meals on Wheels in Schleswig, and grateful to Larry for his ongoing time and expense driving the meals to Schleswig and delivering to each door!

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Schleswig has incorporated annual giving to Crossroads in its budget. What a helpful way to our planning and management of our programs! Individual groups within the church have also been supportive or our work through financial and in-kind gifts.

Sac & Crawford Decategorization Project and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children share neighborhood or community network mini grants to suitable applicants. They awarded \$450 to Crossroads toward a parenting curriculum that we will utilize with our young parents who want to grow

and become the best parents they can be. Parents in our program earn points for this and other growth-related activities that set them up for success! We are grateful for this significant offset to the expense of our subscription to the parenting program!

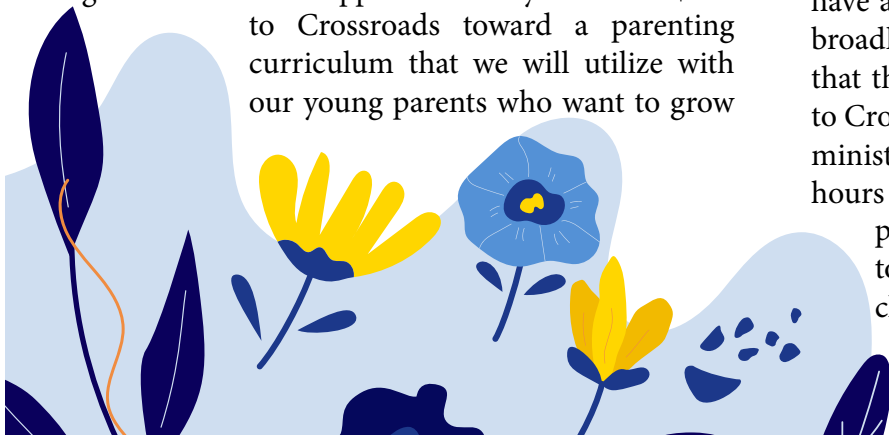
United Bank Iowa pays to wear jeans! We were notified that Crossroads was drawn to be the recipient for the drawing which occurs every two weeks between all UBI sites. We really are blessed knowing that employees engage in this fun way of raising monies to go into a growing account for so many charitable causes. We plan to accept a gift of \$2,348 from UBI toward our work.



Here is an incredible blessing which was anonymously donated to us with a simple request to make it fundraise for us. Since this beauty arrived at our office, there has been some buzzing about how to optimize finding it a home who can appreciate the intricate and numerous hours of work and overall value. It is called a Batik Quilt. It is made by covering an area of fabric with a waxy substance to prevent the dye from penetrating into that area. Batik materials are a high thread count so an extra fine needle is used when piecing the bright bold colors.

After some investigation into the time and expense and value, we have decided to make it raise funds for Crossroads' work by selling chances for it. We do not have an end date because we want to first publicize it as broadly as we can. We are striving for a meaningful price that the wonderful seamstress wanted, as she donated it to Crossroads with hopes of it making money toward our ministry. Wow, what a humbling blessing to think of the hours and cost she poured into the overall 96 x 96-inch piece that a photo hardly does justice to. Stop out to see it and if you are interested in contributing a chance!

\$25 per chance AND it can be turned into a Crossroads' membership if desired!



In this newsletter...

- Bloom Where You're Planted - Pg 1
- Game Changers - Pg 2
- 1st Game Changer - Pg 3
- 2nd Game Changer - Pg 4
- Little Bandit Shirt Sales - Pg 5
- Coffee Corner - Pg 6
- This Is How We Roll... - Pg 7



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• Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center • Christian Family Resourcing & Referral Assistance • CoCares - Creative helping for elderly & caregivers