



Seeds of Hope

JAIL MINISTRY & RE-ENTRY SERVICES

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Thank You

2013-2014

Funding Partners

- ✚ First Christian Church
- ✚ Finnup Foundation
- ✚ Finney County United Way
- ✚ Finney County Attorney's Office



Board of Directors

- ✚ Scott Sherwin
- ✚ Scott Schurle
- ✚ Roy Dixon
- ✚ Joe Perez
- ✚ Marian Mason
- ✚ Barb Stephens

Vision

Seeds of Hope members foresee a time when those returning to Finney County after incarceration or addiction treatment have opportunities and supports that guide them toward safe, stable, productive and fulfilling lives.

Mission

SOH helps incarcerated and recently released individuals and those recovering from addiction grow spiritually, intellectually and in character and become contributing members of their families and communities.

Objectives

- ✚ Monitor, improve and expand efforts to reduce recidivism
- ✚ Expand evangelism efforts to support sanctification of participants as evidenced by changed lives
- ✚ Recruit volunteers from more churches
- ✚ Continue and expand collaboration with and support of reentry mentoring programs nation-wide

2013 Goals

- ✚ Hire a part-time Executive Director
- ✚ Create and implement a plan to provide transitional housing to support sustained sobriety and pro-social peer support
- ✚ Plan a fundraising drive and at least two fundraising events
- ✚ Expand services to include anger management and addiction classes

2014 Goals

- ✚ Secure funding needed to hire a full-time Executive Director
- ✚ Establish a small business to generate income and provide job skills training opportunities for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) participants
- ✚ Start a peer mentoring program

2015 Goals

- ✚ Expand staff to include a Case Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
- ✚ Expand small business by securing a facility and expanding services
- ✚ Expand services to include addiction counseling



Executive Director Becky Upshaw

News from the Director

I apologize for the long dry spell since our last newsletter. Having a full time job at the Regional Prevention Center (RPC), writing grants for Seeds of Hope (SOH) and managing the Moral Reconciliation Therapy program has kept me busy! However, things will change after the RPC at Garden City Community College closes June 28. I plan to earn a Master of Social Work degree through the University of Kansas June 2013 through May 2014 while working for SOH. On July 1 I will begin serving as part-time Executive Director. Funding for this position will be provided by the United Way during 2014. I look forward to continuing SOH's tradition of doing God's work by helping those we serve make tangible, positive differences in their lives and in our community. SOH's office and Moral Reconciliation Therapy program will move to First Baptist Church on July 1.

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**It's all happening at the Lee Richardson Zoo!
Support SOH by enjoying home-made ice cream
sundaes at the Tumbleweed Festival August 23-25.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✚ Please pray for divine guidance and intervention and growing community support that is needed to help us live our mission and achieve our goals.
- ✚ Pray for opportunities and innovative ways to tell people about the work we do and the people we serve.
- ✚ A business plan is needed to generate an ongoing source of income and provide temporary jobs for our clients. Pray that God will show us His plan if this is His will.
- ✚ We eventually hope to open several Oxford Houses in Garden City to support men, women and families in recovery from addiction. Please pray that the local and state-level support needed to implement this project successfully is acquired according to God's plan and timing.

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FUNDING NEWS

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- ✚ The **Finney County United Way** will provide funding for a part-time Executive Director's salary during 2014. Becky Upshaw has accepted the Executive Director's position starting 7/1/2013.
- ✚ **The Finnup Foundation** will continue funding for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) groups through 2014. Becky will continue facilitating MRT groups.
- ✚ **First Christian Church Mission & Ministries Fund** will continue funding participant job search incentives, which include cell phones and service and bus passes that improve access to employers.
- ✚ The **Finney County Attorney's Office** continues to provide donations from diversion funds which are used for office equipment and supplies.

Barb Stephens' Story In Her Own Words



Becky and Barb at MRT

“To say Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) has helped me become a better person would be quite an understatement. I believe it saved my life. I have been transformed from a chronic alcoholic to a flourishing, vibrant woman. This is my story... how it was...what happened...what it's like now.

I started drinking in high school. Always shy growing up, I found that alcohol bolstered my confidence. I felt unafraid – something I had rarely experienced. I worked and drank through my 20s, got married at 24 and became pregnant at 29. I stopped drinking, knowing it would harm my baby. In the ensuing years I became a devoted mother of a girl and then a boy – no drinking. My love for my children replaced the fulfillment I had experienced with alcohol. I wish I could say we lived happily ever after. I divorced my husband in 1990 after ten years of abuse.

The kids and I moved and I started drinking again. Life became a chore. I rewarded myself with alcohol.

My first alcohol treatment program was in 1999. Twelve years, three more treatments and thousands of 12-step meetings later, I found myself drunk, jobless, broke and near homelessness.

In May 2012, I was recuperating from another binge, stuck in hopelessness. I was guided to Seeds of Hope's Second Chance Reentry Initiative Mentoring Program (SCRIMP) and Becky Upshaw by a friend in AA who was participating. This was my turning point, my grace. Becky handed me a paddle and a map - the MRT program. I was also surrounded by people who cared a great deal about me. I thought I was detestable, but they saw beneath my actions.

SCRIMP mentor Marian Mason led me to various resources. I chose MRT and completed the 13-step ladder to freedom from my addiction. I trusted that this was my solution. The following quote is taken from the MRT handbook:

“Moral Reconciliation Therapy is a systematic cognitive behavioral, step by step treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive, productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning.”



Mentor & Board Member Marian Mason

I worked the program to the best of my ability and gained release from my personal, private prison.

My journey is just beginning, yet my life is full and rich. I am repairing family relationships and regaining the trust of loved ones. I have found a church family and now participate in a weekly Bible study group. I have enjoyed two promotions at work and paid off \$6,000 in debt after completing a Financial Peace University course. I also completed Within My Reach at Catholic Social Service, a computer class, a relapse prevention treatment group, individual counseling and a college computer class and job certification courses for my job.

I feel confident, capable, repaired and restored. MRT was the ladder out of my prison and it continues to be my rudder, my compass and my guiding star.”

~ Barb Stephens

Manford Koehn no doubt holds the record for most visits to the Finney County Jail by a law-abiding citizen. For the past 20 years he has faithfully devoted Monday and Friday evenings to ministering at the jail. During his many years of service Manford made diligent efforts to continue ministering to the men he met at the jail after they were released. He recently moved to be with his wife in a convalescent home. He will be missed. Our prayers go with you and Joyce, Manford. God bless you both.



Manford Koehn and Mentee Richard Molina



Eddie Shriver & son Quinten

Eddie completed SCRIMP's Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) program in 2011. He and Quinten stopped by recently to say hello. Eddie asked me to share this testimony: "Quitting drinking was the main thing. SCRIMP helped me out with that... coming to class every week and being with other people going through what I'm going through. MRT class helped a lot. The change that I made in myself shows my son that even if you mess up, there's help out there if you want it. It's brought us closer together."

Rebecca Schiffelbein explored various volunteer opportunities before taking on the task of organizing the jail library. She has spent many mornings sorting, cleaning and organizing mountains of books, puzzles and greeting cards. Thanks to her efforts, what was once chaos has become a well-organized resource room. Rolling carts are stocked with books on a variety of topics and rotated regularly. Book and greeting card requests can now be filled easily by jail volunteers. Thank you, Rebecca!



Jail Librarian Rebecca Schiffelbein

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