

# HOPE OUTREACH

SERVING THE  
COMMUNITIES OF ENID &  
NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA

SUMMER, 2007

www.hopeoutreach.org

## The word is out about the "Refuge"



By Sandie Hamilton, Assistant to The R.O.O.F. Director - These last several months have opened my eyes. If I ever thought about Enid not having many homeless, I have been proven wrong. Individuals came streaming through our door this past winter and it has continued into spring.

Since the first of March we have served 54 (over 100 since November 2006) clients with homelessness. Intake after intake they answered questions and then slowly they began to tell their stories. Some just lost their job; some were recently evicted, unable to pay their rent; some were kicked out of friends and relatives as they had worn out their welcome; and some were just passing through on their way to somewhere else.

Their stories came to one common ground. None of them wanted to be homeless. They all were looking for a better way. Many of them not willing to just let circumstance take its course, had been to other agencies and were now waiting. They are waiting for assistance, on an agency service, funding, or just trying to get out of a circumstantial bind. Most are doing the best they can, to stay

See **ROOF WORD IS OUT** on page 4

## HEARTS OF LOVE, HOPE & INSPIRATION

By Ann Price, Family Resource Center Director - The Hope Outreach Family Resource Center began its ministry to N.W. Oklahoma three years ago. At that time they began a program for first time Moms & Dads called Earn While You Learn. It is a program designed by Dianne Monahan to teach parenting skills to our clients enabling them to earn Mommy and Daddy dollars that can be used to shop in our Baby store for the material needs of their child. Thus, "Earn While You Learn" was born. As Sara Gillespie, one of our mentors said, "The beginning of a new family is one of the most life-altering and rewarding experiences as well as challenges that life can present to a human being. I mentor without hesitation because I believe this ministry can make a difference to new Moms & Dads".

Sara, along with 44 other mentors offer 1 - 2 hours of service every week to approximately 90 first time Moms and

Dads. "These Christian ladies are the wheels that keep our ministry running smoothly and efficiently," said Ann Price,



Becky Kucera has volunteered at the Family Resource Center for two years and is currently mentoring her daughter-in-law, pictured above with her new granddaughter.

Family Resource Center Director. Without them, there would be no way to offer the clients the variety and range of opportunities to learn that they enjoy at the Family Resource Center.

See **HEARTS OF LOVE** on page 2

## Volunteer Faith Farmers

By Kate Morrison, Faith Farm Coordinator - I want to applaud all the Faith Farm volunteers. Because of them, we have managed to complete fencing,



DeAnn Cooper with her favorite "digger".

ornamental beds and 14 raised production beds equipped with drip irrigation systems. We are especially grateful for the tireless efforts of the U-Turn For Christ volunteers who have recently provided much of the muscle of the operation. We

also want to thank the Junior Welfare League Provisional Class who have donated plant materials and labor for the ornamental beds at the main entrance at 820 W. Cherokee. The beautiful front fence and trellis work was made possible by Lowe's adopting us for their 2006 Heroes Program. DeAnn Cooper has provided many hours of help working with seeds and transplants as well as weeding. OBA volunteer, Taylor Stair, has also been a great help through the summer. We also appreciate all the individuals and organizations that have sponsored raised beds and provided funds for supplies making the garden a reality.

Those of you who have gardened know a vision is needed to begin such an arduous endeavor. As

See **FAITH FARMERS** on page 3

## HEARTS OF LOVE

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Our volunteers come from many areas of expertise. *They do not have time to become involved but they have a*



*heart for this special population, so they make time in their schedules.* As a result, they are the ones who make the difference in our client's lives, one person at a time.

Judy Vickers, the original developer of our Mommy Store which is part of our Earn While You Learn program, is also a Certified Registered 'Doula as well as a Mentor. Along with Judy, we have two more mentors who are Certified Registered Doulas, Sara Gillespie and Mary Beth Davis. This is a paid

service, but is offered free of charge to any of our Earn While You Learn clients.

In the past year our number of clients has grown from 50 to 90 and mentors from 25 to 45. We have also begun offering group seminars to our clients and the general public on a variety of parenting topics as well as life skills. These seminars are taught by our mentors who are trained in these areas of expertise.

Other people in our community also offer their time and talents in a variety of areas that will benefit our clientele. A few of these people are Julie Steele - Nutrition classes; Sara Gillespie - Prepared Childbirth; Amy Ratzlaff - Childhood Development classes; John & Ramona Loewen - Financial Seminar, teaching our clients how to live within their means by developing a budget, balancing their checkbook, etc.; and Molly Helm helps any of our clients who are interested in furthering their education at Autry Vo-tech.

We are very fortunate through our mentors and special friends to have many arms of outreach to our

community for our clients. All of this is done by educating our clients so they can make better choices for themselves and for their child resulting in a more fulfilling, rewarding life.

<sup>1</sup>Doula of North America - [www.dona.org](http://www.dona.org)

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Because we have a waiting list of clients we are always in need of mentors. Pray about it. The amount of time you give is minimal to the amount of good you accomplish. God will reward your efforts many times over.

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact Glenda Aebi Coordinator of Earn While You Learn program or Denise Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

### MONETARY DONATIONS:

To purchase additional parenting, life skill, and relationship curriculum and update some of our videos to the latest information available. The approximate cost for this new curriculum is \$1,000.00. For more information please feel free to contact Ann Price or Glenda Aebi at 237-2292.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

Call Ann Price, Director, for speaking engagements - 580-237-2292

**CONTINUE TO PRAY...** for the staff and the mentors at the Family Resource Center as they strive to make a difference in each client's life.

### Hope Outreach BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Donation IDEAS

### Stuff we need:

|             |                      |                                   |                          |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Furniture   | Old Records-Tapes    | Craft Supplies                    | Kitchenware              |
| Electronics | Books-Magazines      | All Linens                        | Toys-Games               |
| Appliances  | Purses & Accessories | Drapery Supplies                  | Knick knacks - Household |
| Shoes       | Collectibles         | All Clothing for the Whole Family |                          |

**Food Products:** Summertime is especially tough for families who depend on supplemental food services during the school year for their children. We need perishable, dried and canned foods to meet these needs now. Drop by your donations at 815 W. Maine. Also include paper towels and other kitchen cleaning and preparation supplies.

**HAVING A GARAGE SALE?** We'll pick up your leftovers. Just bag or box everything and give us a call, 237-4673!

**OR DROP OFF at 215 S. Van Buren - North Side**

**Donate Your Running Vehicle...**  
with a clear, transferrable title.



*Hope Outreach, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.*



Junior Welfare League Volunteers stop for a moment from planting to strike a pose.

## Faith Farmers

*Continued from page 1*

much as we want the garden to be attractive and productive the primary goal is the horticulture therapy benefit in the lives of those we minister to. During the building stages of the garden, we saw this in action with volunteers participating in the voluntary drug and alcohol program at U-Turn for Christ. The following are quotes from some of these young men: MR says, "As iron sharpens iron, planting fruits and vegetables has also taught me to grow and learn to bear good fruit under the hand of God." Faith Farm is the perfect therapeutic match for these men as it allows them to realize the value of such an effort. "Working at the Faith Farm was one of the best experiences in gardening that I have ever had. It is truly humbling, which is good for anyone. I would do it again in a heart beat." says DJH. Though PP has had knee trouble he's been hanging in there with the crew. He said, "We got the beds done and the project seems to be really flourishing. It's a real reward to see

the beds full of various plants. It has shown me that I can accomplish something in life apart from a life of crime and drugs. Planting a seed can be an illustration of faith and hope. Seeing the results of our work has made me want to do more work there." These men come to Enid from surrounding states as well as from Oklahoma. They have been a joy to share the building of Faith Farm with as they were sent for 'such a time as this'.

We were honored to have the television program "Oklahoma Gardening" come and film a segment at Faith Farm mid-June to air on July 28, 11a.m. and on July 29, 3:30 p.m.

Our official ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for July 17th at 9:00 a.m., (at the time of this printing). To find out the latest about Faith Farm projects and which produce is harvest-ready for purchasing, see us online at: [www.hopeoutreach.org/ffharvestupdate.htm](http://www.hopeoutreach.org/ffharvestupdate.htm).

While you are visiting our website, fill out the free subscription for your Harvest Update and we'll email you updates as they happen. Faith Farm begins marketing on Tuesdays and Friday, 8-10 a.m.

Meanwhile, stop by anytime and see the beautiful gardens. I will enjoy showing you around and answering any questions you might have.



U-TURN FOR CHRIST Volunteers help Kate build the raised nursery beds for Faith Farm.

## Horticultural Therapy

Many people are unfamiliar with this term. Horticultural Therapy is a process utilizing plants and horticultural activities to improve the social, educational, psychological and physical well-being of persons, thus improving their bodies, minds and spirits.

The recognized science of horticultural therapy came into being in the aftermath of WWII. Special populations who benefit include: limited vision, youth, geriatrics, corrections, mentally disabled, physically and emotionally challenged. All of which enter the doors at the ROOF looking for help.

The use of horticulture as a therapeutic tool, for not only special populations but also anyone with an appreciation for plants, is the primary purpose of Faith Farm. Horticulture Therapy is applicable to the entire human life span.

For the homeless, working in the garden setting allows him or her to regain a sense of place and control. Horticulture Therapy is a tool provided by our Creator to "empower people toward responsible living" and help them "grow hope".

**The Mission of Hope Outreach is to minister the love of Jesus to the felt needs of our community for the purpose of empowering people toward responsible living.**

**Our strategy is representing Christ - the Hope of all mankind!**

**Our purpose is the discipleship of individuals.**

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## R.O.O.F. Word Is Out

*Continued from page 1*

clean, warm and fed. Some just aren't able and some just don't care, and smell rather pungent. But God bless them anyway. God's work has been seen around here. Shelter is found, whether it is a bed to sleep in or a house to call their own in the best cases. Even when there seems to be no way, God makes one.

That's why we sometimes have to stop in the middle of everything and pray with these folks, because we realize that we truly can't meet the need, but He always can, whatever it is!

So I sometimes just sit in amazement and marvel at how good my life really is. And how resilient others are, whose lives seem not so good in comparison to mine. They don't complain, whine or cry. And that is what amazes me most of all. They ask for what they need, if we have it they accept it gladly and if we are unable to help they say thanks

anyway and on their way they go. Could you be so cordial or as tough if it was you? I pray you never have too. If life did happen to challenge you in such a way, you can rest assured that The R.O.O.F. will offer their best to assist you through it. Thanks to our donors and the associate agencies involvement, we are providing a continuum of care for the homeless and those struggling with poverty, one individual at a time.



This year's backpacks are being stocked with raincoats and blankets in addition to the personal hygiene products.

## Passion and Need

*By Karen Kewley, Director of The R.O.O.F. -*

As I read Sandie's article I'm sure you can see why she is so valuable to the work we are doing at The R.O.O.F. You have to have a passion to help and assist people or you just won't make it around here. While our clients still stream in, that stream is getting bigger and is expected to become a river one day. And the swiftness of the current will be dictated by the need of the clients.

Currently our ongoing needs at the R.O.O.F. are: Coffee, Cups (6oz Styrofoam), napkins, clear trash bags, Men's white underwear, white socks and white t-shirts, shaving cream, disposable razors, travel size deodorant, nail clippers, emery boards, shoe insoles, ChapStick, Orajel, antacids, Tylenol, multivitamins, vitamin C, reading glasses (all strengths) and sunscreen (SPF 30).

Thank you for continuing to support The Refuge Of Our Father and it's mission to provide, under Christ's love, a day refuge and resource center for the homeless, alleviating some of their struggles, and giving them assistance in their reconnecting back into responsible living.