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A quarterly publication
of Circle of Care, Inc.

Lifeline

OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST
CIRCLE of CARE
for CHILDREN and YOUTH

FEATURED CONTENT

Pg. 2 President's Letter Pg. 3 Pearl's Hope
Pg. 5 Friends of Children Banquet Pg. 6 Honors and Memorials

OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST
CIRCLE of CARE
for CHILDREN and YOUTH

Ministering to Oklahoma's kids, youth & families through residential & foster care since 1917

Foster Care Services, Statewide
Pearl's Hope for Transitional Living, Tulsa
David O. Beal Preparation for Adult Living, Tahlequah

United Methodist Boys Ranch, Gore
United Methodist Children's Home, Tahlequah
Frances E. Willard Ministry Center, Tulsa
Holsinger Home for Children, Enid
Oh Be Joyful Farm, Haskell

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Lifeline

A Word From the President

KEITH HOWARD

Do More for More

This statement has resonated with me over the past few months as I think about Circle of Care's future. We have a 102 year history of serving children, teenagers, young adults, single mothers and families. Even so, there are more children and families in crisis across Oklahoma that need us.

Quite simply, there is more we can do.

The winds of change are blowing across the landscape of children and family services nationwide. Over the past several years, there has been a nationwide focus placed on moving from group care environments to family style homes for serving children who need a temporary place to stay. In 2018, federal legislation was passed to address this change and funding has been identified to put a greater focus on prevention services and keeping biological families together. Our team at Circle of Care has been preparing for these changes for more than a decade, transitioning our campuses and group home environments to foster care communities, being awarded a statewide foster care contract, launching a Preparation for Adult Living program, and enhancing Pearl's Hope – our transitional living program for single moms in crisis and at risk of homelessness.

We've been intentional at meeting the child who is in crisis through foster care services, but also looking to provide prevention services to mothers to keep kids out of foster care and intervention services to help young adults discover a new way to live and avoid some of the challenges of their own childhood and family experiences.

We continue to work to find ways we can provide help, healing, and hope and in 2019 we will be strategically rolling out counseling services, first to our own clients and then statewide to other individuals. Why? Because we are committed to doing more for more across this state.

To do this, our models and methods will continue to change and evolve. We will openly push back against statements that include, "We've always done it that way." We will not be content with our status quo and we will make decisions that move us into our future and honor our past, while not allowing our past to be an anchor that holds us back from where we are headed.

It will be challenging as we focus on the expansion of our programs, make crucial decisions about our infrastructure, identify new and innovative programs and work to increase our support, donors, and build a legacy through those who invest in our endowment allowing us to do more for more!

We are ready. Our team understands what is at stake. We are all in and committed to do what we must do to lead the way in providing Christian help, healing, and hope to children and families in crisis across Oklahoma. Are you ready? Now more than ever we need you and your support so that together we can: do more for more! Let's go!

As always, if you ever have any questions, ideas, thoughts, concerns, or you just want to grab a hot chai latte, give me a call at 918-453-3558.

To provide **Christian help, healing and hope to children** and **families in crisis** to ensure a safe, healthy, and spiritual future.

Circle of Care Mission Statement

PEARL'S **HOPE**

The Cycle Stops With Me

Marteea was a 24-year-old mother in Circle of Care's transitional living program for women, Pearl's Hope, in Tulsa. Originally from Detroit, Marteea moved to Oklahoma with a friend because she knew Detroit wasn't a place she wanted to raise her children, Christian age 1 and Madison age 6.

"When I was little, my mother was on drugs and couldn't take care of us," said Marteea. "I don't have many memories of my mom. The ones I do have are bad."

Marteea was raised solely by her father and was the youngest of three. She has a great relationship with her dad. But she believes she was brought to Tulsa so she could develop a relationship with God. "I never had a relationship with God before I moved to Tulsa. I wasn't even thinking about God. He wasn't even something that crossed my mind."

Moving to Tulsa was a struggle for Marteea because she did not have the support system she needed to be successful. She knew her first step was to find stable housing.

"The Pearl's Hope program was a blessing but at the same time it was a hard adjustment for me because I felt like I let my kids down," said Marteea. "When I first started the program it was challenging. I didn't realize the intensity of the program and I was used to being independent."

After changing her perspective on her situation, Marteea was able to flourish in the program.

"I know I am not here by accident," said Marteea. "There are so many women who call and try to get into this program. Everything has worked out in my favor. I am so blessed. I am so thankful. I am so grateful. I don't know what else to say!"

Being around the other women and learning about their past has helped Marteea come to terms with her past. Her history with her mother has been challenging for her to overcome. She has always struggled understanding how people could let drugs control their life.

While in the program, each mom is expected to attend trauma sessions. During the sessions they are able to talk about obstacles they have faced in the past and understand how to learn from and overcome recurring hurdles. Learning about generational cycles and trauma was a new experience for Marteea. It was important to her to learn about breaking the cycle of drugs and abuse.

"It happened to my mom. She didn't know how to break the cycle. Her mother did drugs and was abusive," said Marteea. "Those habits didn't stop with my grandma or with my mom because they didn't have the tools or resources they needed. I got the information I needed here at Pearl's Hope. We are taught to understand how the things that happened in our lives can affect us and our child. The cycle didn't break with my mom but it stopped with me."

Since graduating from the Pearl's Hope program in 2018, Marteea has begun working full time and started pursuing her nursing degree at Tulsa Community College. She still holds onto her beliefs strongly and pursues her faith with her whole heart.

"Everything I've gone through is now a testimony for someone else to hear," said Marteea. "God is really growing me up in maturity. No matter what the case may be, the outcome is going to be good."

For more information about the Pearl's Hope program visit http://circleofcare.org/ministries/pearlshope

Everyone Can Do Something: **Back to School Drive**

The 2018-2019 school year isn't even over, so why think about school supplies for next year? Because we would like you to consider supporting a Back to School Drive for Circle of Care between now and July 1, 2019.

Circle of Care has once again partnered with Citizen's Caring for Children to provide school supplies for children in foster care. Our goal is to provide 250 new backpacks filled with supplies to foster children in Circle of Care foster homes along with hundreds of other foster children through the Citizen's Caring for Children's Back to School event.

Here are a ways you can help:

- **Do a drive as a Mission for Vacation Bible School**
- **United Methodist Women's Drive**
- **Sunday School class drive**
- **Church wide donation**

If your church would like for Circle of Care to shop for the school supplies, we will gratefully accept monetary donations. Please write "school supplies" in the memo section of your check.

To arrange a drive or get more info, please contact Sarah Steffes, VP of Development, 405-215-1400 or email sarah.steffes@circleofcare.org.

An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure

Over the years, Circle of Care has offered a variety of prevention services including training and referral services. We're excited to announce a heightened commitment to Prevention Services through Outpatient Counseling to serve SoonerCare recipients. SoonerCare is a health coverage program jointly funded by the federal and state governments for individuals who cannot afford medical care.

Circle of Care's Outpatient Counseling services are currently available to SoonerCare recipients in the Tulsa and Tahlequah areas for individuals of all ages, families and group counseling. Case management services will also be offered. Circle of Care's clients in Pearl's Hope, Preparation for Adult Living and Foster Care will be among the first beneficiaries of this new contract with Medicaid.

Within the next 3-6 months, these services will be available in the Woodward area and then in the Oklahoma City metro by November 2019. For more information or to request services, please contact Ginarie Harrington, VP of Programs at Circle of Care, at 405-593-6306 or visit us online at circleofcare.org/prevention.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN BANQUET

SATURDAY
APRIL 6 | 2019

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM
1700 NE 63rd Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JASON JOHNSON

Jason Johnson is a writer and speaker who encourages families and equips churches in their foster care and adoption journeys offering them hope and support along the way.

He is the Director of Church Ministry Initiatives with Christian Alliance for Orphans.

Jason is the author of ***ReFraming Foster Care*** (for families and support groups), ***Everyone Can Do Something*** (for church and ministry leaders), ***ALL IN Orphan Care*** (small group based study for those considering) and his regular blog at JasonJohnsonBlog.com. Jason has a passion to equip churches and encourage families no matter where they are in their foster care and adoption journeys.

He and his wife, Emily, live in Texas with their four girls.

SILENT AUCTION

Items to include: weekend getaways, event tickets, dining experiences, packages from BC Clark, Pioneer Woman Mercantile, OKC Zoo, Petroleum Club and MORE!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: $85

AVAILABLE AT CIRCLEOFCARE.ORG

Registration & Reception | 5:15 p.m.
Doors Open & Silent Auction | 5:30p.m.
Program & Dinner | 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

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Honors & Memorials

SPRING 2019

Circle of Care sincerely appreciates the following who support this ministry through the Honors & Memorials program.

We regret any errors or omissions. Help us correct our records by writing Circle of Care, 1501 NW 24th Street, Suite 214, Oklahoma City, OK 73106, or by calling (405) 530-2078.

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my 4 Children, 8 Grands, 9 GreatGrand & Twins due June 19
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1501 NW 24th, Suite 214
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Online
CircleofCare.org

Social Media
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SITES

Administration
1501 NW 24th St, #214 OKC, OK 73106
405-530-2078

Children's Home
549 Mathes Park Drive Tahlequah, OK 74464
918-456-6166

Boys Ranch
PO Box 999 Gore, OK 74435
405-530-2078

Frances E. Willard Campus
1616 N Gilcrease Museum Rd Tulsa, OK 74127
918-583-9506

Holsinger Home
Enid, OK 73703

Oh Be Joyful Farm
Haskell, OK 74429

PROGRAMS

Foster Care Services
720 W Wilshire Blvd, # 117 OKC, OK 73116
866-978-2956

Preparation for Adult Living
549 Mathes Park Drive Tahlequah, OK 74464
918-456-6166

Pearl's Hope
1616 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd Tulsa, OK 74127
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Outpatient Counseling
405-593-6306

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