



Council of Reformed Charities

"CARING THRU SERVICE"

charities

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Winter 2006

BEGINNINGS...Resolutions...BEGINNINGS...Resolutions...BEGINNINGS...

It was interesting for me to personally observe the behaviors of different folks as the 2006 new year rolled in. Traditionally, I grew up with our family attending an Old Year's worship time at church, remembering the joys/sorrows of the past year, and then finding ourselves back at church again on New Year's morning to be challenged with hopes and dreams for the year just starting. It was a 'teachable' time, even for children as we were reminded about the fleeting years, and how it was our calling to 'redeem the time' for the purpose of bringing glory to Almighty God. The temporary celebrations of Christmas were over, and we were again faced with the realism of anticipation of what the new year might bring. I can still sing from memory such songs as:



*Hours and days and years and ages
Swift as moving shadows flee;
As we scan life's fleeting pages,
Naught enduring do we see;
On the paths our feet are wending
Footprints all will be effaced;
Present time to past is tending;
Though its page is not erased.*

OR



*Another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;
Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.*



In the recent closing-year observations at malls, in schools and in churches, I have noticed that folks are still attempting to create a blueprint for new beginnings. They all do it differently, but the thrust of emphasis is that a new year brings hope for new beginnings. Even for us, our churches and our agencies, hope drives us forward and compels us to 'begin' and to 'develop' new programs, new financial formulas, new positions, new facilities and even new staff. Rather than just forgetting the year that is past and moving on, we are wont to celebrate the positive things that have occurred and use them as a springboard for the future. New beginnings make room for new endings! We are challenged to reflect and yet to press forward! Resolutions create momentum for minor and major tensions for positive or even for sometimes negative change. We are reminded to make new resolutions daily. This is a continuous process, and we are so blest to be rooted in the faith of our fathers that goes back to the time of Abraham and Isaac. It is the faith of Truth expressed in Hebrews 11 "...being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see;...because we understand that the universe was formed at God's command".

In light of our need for consistent assessments, I asked CORC member agencies and affiliate members to communicate recent and/or anticipated changes in their respective organizations. Included in this issue are some of the responses, from among those sent to me prior to January 15, that again call us to a delivery of our special services in Jesus' name during the year of our Lord 2006.

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(Reprinted from Psalter Hymnal - 1959 Edition)

Christian Opportunity Center of Pella, Iowa launches into the New Year with New Facilities/Programs



New HCBS Home in Pella



Consolidated Vocational Site in Indianola



Recently Constructed HCBS Home in Indianola

Three new building projects in the past year will help Christian Opportunity Center to carry out its mission and provide quality residential and vocational support for people with disabilities. The largest project was a consolidated vocational training and administrative office site for the Indianola Region (about 15 minutes south of Des Moines). COC has maintained a presence in Indianola since 1994 when it opened two homes for people with disabilities. In 2002, COC acquired the Winifred Law Opportunity Center. With the acquisition came two vocational training sites in a community of 13,000 people, in addition to the site already operated at COC. Construction

of the \$800,000 expansion to the existing facility commenced in the fall of 2004 and was completed in June, 2005. The new facility allows COC to meet all vocational needs at a single site, as well as the coordination of community job opportunities from the main site location.

Two other projects are nearing completion. These are the construction of wheelchair accessible homes in Pella and in Indianola to be funded via the Medicaid Waiver. As the people whom COC supports age, the need for more wheelchair accessibility is obvious. A fundraising effort in Pella resulted in widespread support, covering the full cost

of the new home. In Indianola, COC's acquisition of another not-for-profit organization, Total Living Centers, Inc., included the transfer of more than \$150,000 in cash assets earmarked for the new home.

Although this article is focused on capital projects, the significance is the impact these new programs and facilities have in fulfilling the mission and purpose of COC. Gratitude is expressed for countless opportunities to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Submitted by Theresa Rens

CORC Conference Scheduled in Colorado

April 30 – May 2, 2006



Take a second look! These are the mountaineers who are inviting CORC members to the Annual Meeting Conference scheduled for April 30 through May 2, 2006 at Snow Mountain Ranch in the Colorado Rockies. The theme this year is "Religious Non-Profit Organizations: The Sacred vs. the Secular". Sessions will be led by Peter J. Kok and Nathan Plantenga from the Miller Johnson law firm in Grand Rapids, MI. Registration forms have been mailed. The Planning Committee CEO's, representing our Colorado agencies, are pictured above. (l-r) **Jim Schlottman - Quiet Waters Ministries; Meindert Bosch – Retired CORC director; Jim Vander Kamp – Roundup Fellowship**, and Russell DenBraber of **Christian Living Communities**. CORC members look forward to this special time of spiritual renewal, professional instruction and refreshing fellowship each year. Any questions may be directed to Gladys De Ridder at (720) 974-3509.

The cost of publication for this quarter's "Charities" newsletter is being underwritten by two sister CORC agencies on the East coast. We are so grateful for this combined deed of generosity by Christian HealthCare Center of Wyckoff, NJ and by Heritage Christian Services of East Rochester, NY. This newsletter is mailed to some 3000 churches and related ministries throughout the USA.

RETIRED CEO'S STILL AFFILIATED WITH COUNCIL OF REFORMED CHARITIES

Among our CORC affiliate members are our "Retiree Members". These are folks, who once were in the direct leadership role of several of our CORC agencies and who continue to contribute and have influence in the not-for-profit world. A good pastor-friend and Calvin College classmate, Rev. Norm Meyer, now in Glory, called a few months before his death to give me sound advice about retirement that I have used. Norm told me to remember five P's for retirement: **P**lace = have a place to go after you have gotten ready for the day - you have done that all of your employment-life; **P**urpose = have specific purpose built into the day; **P**lan = have specific things you want to accomplish for that day, recreation or otherwise; **P**rocedure = don't get too structured, but have a procedure for implementing the plan; and **P**ray = bathe your day in prayer that God will continue to use you to the end. (*Those of you who knew Norm realize that he lived his advice to the time when God took Him*). Although our CORC retiree members are listed on the inside back directory page of each issue, we want to highlight them in this issue of *Charities*. In fact, another retiree has joined the ranks effective this new year, Glenn De Mots. We welcome Glenn to these ranks! These retirees remain active in their respective communities, as they are committed to being 'used up' for the glory of the Lord. Following is a synopsis of their present situation, as requested on a prepared form mailed to each one of them. Both leaders in the churches and among CORC agencies will recognize some if not all of them from their service over the past many years. Some related articles regarding some of the named retirees are printed elsewhere in this issue.

RETIREE	AGENCY FROM WHICH RETIRED	YEAR	PRESENT LOCATION	PRESENT SERVICE
Meindert Bosch*	Bethesda Hospital and Community Mental Health Center CORC Executive Director	1986 2000	Denver, CO	Writing a book about CORC and its ministries
John DeHaan	CRWRC	1998	Sierra Vista, AZ	Executive Director of AERDO
Glenn DeMots	Bethany Christian Services	2006	Grand Rapids, MI	Part-time fundraiser for Bethany beginning 2006
E. Patricia Geurkink	Eastern Chr. Children's Retreat	2000	Naperville, IL	Elder, Asst. Coffee-Break leader, member of adult education committee - Wheaton CRC
George J. Groen <i>(Served four years as principal of Phoenix Chr. Elem. School to 2004)</i>	Elim Christian Services	2000	Surprise, AZ	Executive Director of CORC and on different church planting and school committees
John Kamp*	Elim Christian Services	1986	Holland, MI	Still active at age 83. Served as elder at Old Sarasota, FL medical facilities for Wings of Mercy Pillar CRC in Holland and is still flying
J. Richard Mulder*	Rest Haven Christian Services	1982	Marianna, FL	Fully Retired
Bruce Nikkel <i>(Vacations in Holland, MI and Sarasota, FL; plans to move to Pella, IA this summer)</i>	Bethany Home Society	2004	Ripon, CA	Consultant to Bethany Home & Ripon Christian Schools Foundation
Hudson Nyenhuis*	Bethany Christian Services	1985	Grand Rapids, MI	Caretaker Full-time @ Home
David Vanderploeg	Barnabas Foundation	2000	St. Joseph, MI	Working part-time for Barnabas Foundation; Board of Trustees for Calvin College, Jericho Road Foundation, and Family Christian Health Center of Harvey, IL and two corporate boards. Also continues his hobbies of sailing, biking and playing racquetball
Myron Wester	Salem Christian Homes CORC Executive Director	1997	Palm Desert, CA	Co-Authored book, <i>Because of Caring</i> , with former CORC CEO. Involved with Southwest Com. church

*Original founders of the CORC organization

Amplified information to that given above:

- ❖ **Meindert Bosch** serves on church and foundation boards, having been stated clerk for Classis Rocky Mountain from 1988 – 2003. He has authored a book *Bridges Over Troubled Waters* and has co-authored another book, *Because of Caring*. Presently, Mr. Bosch is writing a book about CORC and its ministries. We hope to have a full update regarding this book in the spring issue of "Charities".
- ❖ **John DeHaan** sends his greetings from Sierra Vista where the temperatures are balmy and the people are friendly! He is executive director for Association of Evangelical Relief and Development Organizations (www.AERDO.net). His wife, Alice, works as a volunteer for several different local ministries. John relates to the "Fall of Life" this way: 'In Michigan during the fall of the year the trees turn into brilliant array of fantastic colors. They are so beautiful but they do not last long. This is the fall of life for us. We are having the best years of our lives – but it won't last long.' It is good to know that God continues to use them for 'effectual ministry'.
- ❖ **Glenn DeMots** has retired as the executive director of Bethany Christian Services. Mr. William J. Blacquiere has been appointed to assume this position effective January 1, 2006. We wish Glenn and his wife, Mary, much satisfaction in retirement and congratulate Bill in being named to this strategic position with the agency.
- ❖ **J. Richard Mulder** celebrated 61 years of marriage in December. Lived in same house at Worth, IL for 51 years. Now moved to Florida where he and his wife Effie are enjoying the blessings of past ministry, family and friends. Says Rich, "It is all of grace, God's grace, and we are not unmindful that our lives are indeed an adventure. We enjoy such thoughts over a 'nearly every morning visit with Effie's brother and wife over coffee and homemade raisin bread'."



GLENN DEMOTS

Telehealth Keeps People in Their Homes

By Lauri Bonnell, Heritage Christian Services Associate Director of Development



The future of healthcare is here, and it's providing improved quality of care and comfort for those with developmental disabilities. Heritage Christian Services (HCS), a Western New York human services agency supporting 1,300 children and adults with special needs, has installed the agency's first telemedicine unit. The unit features a computer with monitoring equipment, a web camera and two receiving units. It will be used as a high-tech communication link between the staff and agency clinicians miles away.

Ruth Benjamin, HCS director of health management and research will be one of the nurses on the receiving end of the system. With this state-of-the-art technology, she can listen to a heartbeat; monitor a rash or infection; see inside a person's ear, nose and mouth; and hold live clinical conferences at any hour of the day, no matter their location.

"For those of us who are on-call, this approach will save us precious time and give us more flexibility in assessing an individual by enabling us to use our senses of sight and sound," said Benjamin. "But even more importantly, it can reduce the number of trips to the emergency room because we can make quick, informed decisions about what treatment is needed."

Heritage Christian is the first agency in the country to use this type of unit – one that combines vital sign monitoring with web conferencing - to support people with developmental disabilities. HCS is also collaborating with four other of the region's largest service providers to explore widening the use of telehealth equipment with this population. "It's a big investment," said Marisa Geitner, executive vice president and chief operating officer, "and we know that we can accomplish more by working together, and sharing resources and results."

In addition to the telehealth unit, Heritage Christian Services has been working with UltraMobile Imaging to provide in-home x-rays and ultrasounds. Benjamin said: "We realize that the more we can do for a person in their own home, the more comfortable they are and the better off we all are."

CORC BOOK PUBLICATION DUE IN 2006

Meindert Bosch, first CORC executive director and author of a new book about the Council of Reformed Charities, is working with the Van Raalte Institute of Holland, MI for publication of this work. Besides detailing the history of CORC, there will be profiles of each of the Christian agencies that are members of CORC. Meindert says that "he is amazed at the tremendous volume of services carried out by our various ministries: over 50,000 wheel chairs distributed; 25000 adoptions; thousands and thousands of hours in various forms of counseling; and millions of dollars budgeted and expensed for such ministries." This, of course, says nothing about the countless hours and hours of time and energy being put in by Mr. Bosch for research and writing. We are indebted to him and his gifts. The support of God's people through individual, corporate and church contributions continues to be such a tremendous blessings, as we proceed forward in faith. We know that the book will be read with much interest to celebrate what God has and is doing in the life of these significant ministries that are listed on the inside back page of this newsletter.

Our next *Charities* will give a more detailed update.

NOTICE TO THE CHURCHES AND RELATED MINISTRIES

The agencies listed in this newsletter are here to lend support and encouragement to our pastors and church leaders. We are here to compliment what you are already doing in Jesus' name. Persons who have specific challenges can be directed to ministries that address those challenges. We are in the service of caregiving together to meet the needs found in the churches; we encourage you to contact the ministries of CORC in your area or anywhere in the USA. Questions about a specific agency can be addressed by contacting that agency.

*If I had more time, I would
write a shorter story.*

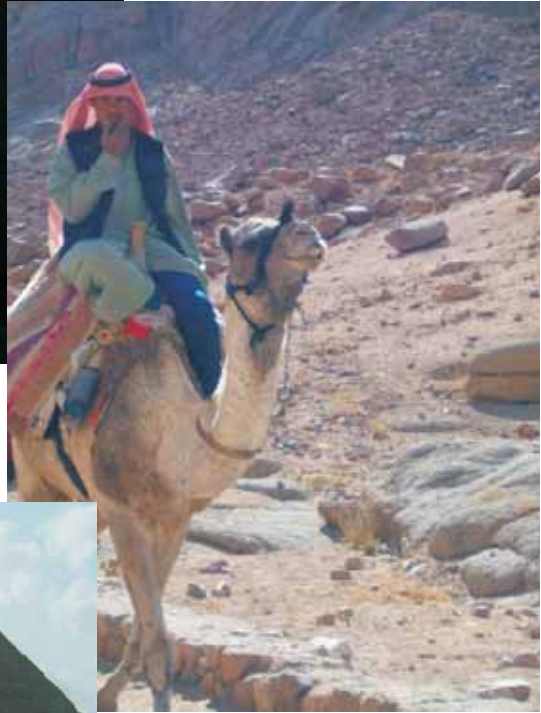
Mark Twain

Wonders of...



Area of Mt. Sinai

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24



At the Pyramids

"Be strong and courageous...do not be discouraged, for the Lord God will go with you wherever you go."
Jos. 1:9



Egyptian Landmarks

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that outweighs them all"

II Cor. 4:17



Evening on the Sea of Galilee

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide..."

Psalter Hymnal Song – P. 442

The Ages

Reflections

from a CORC Retiree about the Cycle of Life

Another article in this newsletter gives information about leaders of CORC who have retired from their respective agencies. Hudson Nyenhuis, then executive director of Bethany Christian Services, was one of the original founders of this CORC organization. When stating his 'Present Service', Hudson wrote "Caretaker Full-time @ Home". We want to thank Hudson for briefly sharing his reflections with us.

After 30 years of full-time service and 20 years in a part-time capacity, I have been in full-time retirement for almost two years now. It has become apparent that my wife needed me totally. I am the caregiver as Alzheimer's is moving closer. Retirement has given time for reflection on the cycle of my life: youth, marriage, employment, family, church, even fuller-time social services and agency expansion, empty-nesters, and now total concerns with caregiving.

It is a blessing to be able to lay aside all the cares of the earlier phases of life and to reflect on serving my Lord in the field of children, youth and families ... since now the focus of my efforts is on the care and love of the one who has been at my side during all those other facets of my busy life.

We are now making the transition from condo living, and Florida visits in the winter, to "assisted living" at the Holland Home in the Grand Rapids area. Their specialized and additional services will be readily available to us as we need them.

The Lord has been good to us; and we celebrate the continued care He is providing to our agencies through the prayers and the gifts of His people. I give my cordial greetings to all!

Executive Director Honored on the 'PROFILE' Page of Prominent Periodical

We congratulate Douglas Struyk, CEO of Christian Health Care Center in Wykhoff New Jersey, who was featured in September, 2005 issue of the *McKnight's Long-Term Care News*. With permission from MLTCN, we reprint a major portion of the article entitled "*Lending a quiet hand*" by Julie E. Williamson.



Some professionals make a name for themselves by bounding onto the scene and becoming a prominent and perpetual blip on the industry radar screen. Others opt for a more subtle approach, quietly but consistently working toward specific goals, lending an ear and support to those who need it. They're content being part of a quality ensemble cast. No clamoring for the lead necessary.

By all accounts, Douglas Struyk, the faith-driven president and CEO of Christian Health Care Center, belongs to the latter group. However, since being appointed as the sole long-term care member to the new federal Medicaid advisory commission – as well as being named delegate to the 5th Congressional District of New Jersey for the White House Conference on Aging – Struyk's name has been making headlines. It's clear he's officially reached A-list status.

"There are moments when all this can be overwhelming," Struyk (pronounced 'strike') admits. "But it truly is an honor to be part of this and to be able to tell the story of [long-term care] the way I know it." Struyk's story is an interesting one. After earning undergrad accounting and MBA degrees simultaneously, he landed an accounting position at Ernst & Young, where he performed audits for a broad range of clients, including CHCC. He developed such a good working relationship with leaders there, in 1990 he was hired as the organization's CFO and vice president of finance. Four years later, he added the title of CEO to his resume.

"CHCC was the only healthcare organization I had worked with," Struyk recalled. "So it was interesting how it all happened. Some would say it was being at the right place at the right time, but I call it providence." Genetics may have also played a partial role. His mother and sister are both registered nurses; his father and grandfather were both good with numbers, as a physics professor and math teacher, respectively.

The fact that AHCA, the National Center for Assisted Living and AAHSA jointly nominated Struyk for selection to the Medicaid Commission says volumes about his reputation. Said Paul Langevin, president of the Health Care Association of New Jersey, "He's terrific for the job. He has been politically active and understands the issues at hand, both from a financial and resident-care perspective. Struyk's lack of pretention and willingness to ask difficult questions make him a good fit for the tough tasks that lie ahead: 'He's a breath of fresh air in a world full of egos.'"

While Struyk is eager to espouse his views on expanding senior care options in a financially responsible way, he stressed that his primary role in life is "being a simple man." He said he loves spending time with his wife of 21 years, Vicky, and their daughters, who are 8 and 4 years old. He also pointed out that, despite his growing list of professional duties, he is committed to staying closely connected with CHCC's staff and residents. "Keeping that front-line connection fresh and available to me is what drives my passion," he said, "and will make me all the more effective at [representing the industry] as these discussions."

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Council of Reformed Charities is an association of christian agencies which promotes human services in an effort to exercise mercy to our neighbor. It is incorporated in the state of Michigan. Charities is published in Muskegon, Michigan. Address changes/comments may be address to George J. Groen, Editor and Executive Director, 720 East Montebello, Phoenix, Arizona 85014.

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- Donald G. Distelberg, CFRE
- James K. Haveman, Jr.
- Glenn Lowe
- Robert VanDyk
- Lloyd Vanderkwaak

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- Glenn DeMots
- Pat Geurkink
- Dick Gritter
- George Groen
- John Kamp
- J. Richard Mulder
- Bruce Nikkel
- Hudson Nyenhuis
- David Vanderploeg
- Myron Wester

"He will make your
righteousness shine like
the dawn, the justice of
your cause like the
noonday sun."

Psalm 37:6

"Early Dawn at the base of Mt. Sinai in September, 2005"



OUR LOGO

The Logo of the Council of Reformed Charities shows a dove in flight carrying olive branches in its mouth with the cross in the background. Below the logo, but part of it, is the name and beneath the name is the statement "Caring Thru Service". Emanating from the cross and its message of Christian Mercy, the dove in flight symbolizes the spirit of Christ at work through Council agencies in their "Caring Thru Service". The three olive branches reflect the concept of peace (love), namely, with God, our neighbor, and ourselves. Beyond that, life has no greater purpose.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity,
these three; but the greatest of these is
charity (love)."

I Corinthians 13:13
KING JAMES

Executive Officers & Standing Committees

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Jim VanderKamp - Roundup Fellowship, Denver CO
David VanNingen - Hope Haven, Inc., Rock Valley, IA

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