

RECENT EVENTS

WASHINGTON FAMILY HOPE CENTER GRAND OPENING

Thursday, May 28

The Joplin Chamber of Commerce and a large crowd of friends gathered for the opening of our 6-unit, 30-bed shelter for mothers and their children. Three years in the making, this \$1.2 million renovation of the Washington elementary school came in under budget and 100% privately funded. We thank God for the families this Christ-centered facility will help restore.

20th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Monday, June 1

Our staff, supporters, and friends gathered to share a meal, look back, and give thanks for 20 years of ministry. It's been an amazing ride working with the Lord and His people to impact countless lives.



WFHC Director, Matt Ingle, cuts the ribbon on the new facility.

John Doe
123 Street
Joplin, MO 64801



UPCOMING EVENTS

FORGE GRADUATION

Friday, September 25th | 7 PM | Outreach Center

Each quarter, we host a graduation for Forge students as they move from one phase of the program to the next or complete it entirely. You're welcome to attend and encourage these men as they transition back into a healthy, productive life.

EVENING OF HOPE

Saturday, November 7 | 5 PM

Joplin Family Worship Center
Save the date for our 7th Annual Evening of Hope, our holiday dinner and silent auction to benefit Watered Gardens Ministries. For more information, call 417-825-0536.

EMPTY BOWLS

Thursday, November 19 | Empire Market in Joplin
Save the date for our 8th Annual Empty Bowls event where a \$20 donation provides you with a serving of soup in a keepsake bowl from regional artisans. For the best bowl selection, you can buy in advance for an extra \$10. Presales begin September 14 and are available 9-5 every weekday except Wednesday at the Outreach Center. All proceeds go to local True Charity-certified food ministries.

flourish.

a quarterly publication from watered gardens ministries

S U M M E R 2 0 2 0

THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY OUGHT TO BE.

Those involved in charitable work see it every day: insidious issues of poverty like addiction, isolation, and unhealthy dependency relentlessly claim new victims. What if the solutions we deemed best are actually making matters worse? Have we cheapened justice for the marginalized, allowing it to morph into injustice? It's time to expose harmful counterfeit justice and champion that which is actually good, right, and equitable.

JUSTICE HAS BEEN STOLEN. LET'S RECLAIM IT.

Join us for the True Charity Summit, **Reclaiming Justice**, with author, speaker, and president emeritus of the Foundation for Economic Education, Dr. Lawrence Reed. A fierce lover of liberty and economic justice, Reed has made it his life's work to advance free market principles built on a strong moral foundation.

Along with three presentations by Reed, the Summit will feature breakout sessions on economic, historical, social, and practical justice with Dr. Anne Bradley, Dr. Patrick Garry, Mr. Scott Allen, and Dr. James Whitford.

Held at Missouri Southern State University on September

22 and 23, the Summit is for anyone—churches, non-profits, social workers, or individual Good Samaritans—seeking to bring greater justice to their poverty-fighting efforts.

Learn more and register at TrueCharity.us/Summit.



VOLUNTEER NEEDS

OUTREACH CENTER

- Kitchen Asst - Tue & Thu
- Mission Market - Tue, Thu, Fri
- Office Asst - Thu
- Maintenance Asst - Thu & Fri
- Overnight RAs
- Breakfast Crews

WORTH SHOP

- Craft Asst - Thu & Fri
- Worth Shop Asst - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
- Thrift Shop Counter - Thu & Fri
- Inventory Sorting - Tue & Thur

WASHINGTON FAMILY HOPE CENTER

- Building Host - Mon AM, Thu PM
- Childcare Asst - Thu
- Dinner Crews

To get involved, contact:

Dana Bunn
Volunteer Services Coordinator
dana@wateredgardens.org
or visit wateredgardens.org/volunteer



CHANGING SEASONS AND AN UNCHANGING GOD

By Chris Hoyer, Director of Mission Operations

The world has certainly been shaken since COVID-19 broke out. We still don't know what recovery

will look like or when it will come. Uncertainty has been a constant in this season, except for the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Our God is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), so a shaken world provides an incredible opportunity to share the unshakable Gospel of a God who is unceasing in His love and provision.

We've continued to share that good news at Watered Gardens Ministries. Sure, our campuses pivoted as needed to follow best practices during a pandemic, but by God's grace and provision, our mission carries on. The hungry continue to be fed, the naked are clothed, the homeless are sheltered, the sick are resting, the lonely are befriended, the lost are found, and wanderers are coming home—all to renewed faith, hope, and purpose.

Let's not miss this opportunity to share the Gospel! It's the most important thing we can do because the impact is eternal. Thanks to faithful volunteers and financial partners, the work of Watered Gardens Ministries stays constant during the pandemic, and we are excited to keep pivoting so that God is glorified no matter the season.

To learn about ways you can join us, visit WateredGardens.org.



One example of precautionary measures, tarp barriers between beds in our shelter.



DO GOOD AND DON'T GET MIXED UP

By James Whitford, Executive Director

In the last chapter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote, "...be wise in what is good, yet innocent about what is evil." These words are essential as we round the corner to the second half of a tumultuous year in which it seems some evil is reported in a headline every day. The deluge of news about political corruption, police brutality, coronavirus conspiracies, far right fascist violence and far left anti-fascist violence makes it impossible to be ignorant of evil. Yet, we are instructed to be "innocent" of it. More literally, Paul's admonition translates "to be unmixed."

But it's hard not to be "mixed" into the mess of it all when our emotions are riled. I'm not saying we shouldn't cry "Injustice!" when it needs to be voiced, but if focusing on injustice interferes with doing justice, then certainly we fail to "be wise in what is good." The original meaning of the word "wise" in this text indicates more than a

philosophical understanding, but a skillful practice. We need to be wise in the application of good for those hurting around us. We should focus more on honing those skills than arguing our points, lambasting politicians or protesting in the streets.

Mickey at our shelter who hobbles on a crutch knows injustice personally, but what he really needs now is someone to help heal the wound on his ankle. Brandon knows injustice, but what he really needs is rest in our respite to recover from his 3rd degree burns on both his arms. Jill knows injustice, but what she really needs is a second chance with her one-year old son at our Washington Family Hope Center.

We define justice very simply: things as they ought to be. There's much in the world today that shouldn't be as it is, but if we only note it, yell about it, and wish it were different, we will never bring justice 'round.



One example of justice in action: helping Mickey recover from his wound and loss of livelihood.

PS. I hope you'll join us at this year's True Charity Summit, Reclaiming Justice. Let's take back a stolen virtue.

THREE WAYS CARES COULD CAUSE HARM

By Savannah Aleckson, True Charity Regional Director



Attempting to stabilize the economy during COVID-19, Congress passed the CARES Act, a relief package far surpassing any stimulus in US history. Thoughtful citizens should watch for three overlooked, but real negative effects.

1

It will cause inflation, a win for bureaucracy and a loss for the average citizen.

To cut checks and float loans, the government employs sleight of hand: it sells government bonds that, when cashed in, require more money to be printed. It feels harmless, but increasing the money supply without producing more labor, goods, or services causes inflation—a hidden tax on everyone. It is the price paid later by citizens for receiving the check now.

2

It will prop up non-profits with little or even negative impact.

Unlike private donors within a community, the federal government is inept at determining where to direct resources at the local level. Since CARES has no requirements to vet effectiveness, it will end up funding ineffective and even mismanaged non-profits that further unhealthy dependency and generational poverty.

3

It threatens the role of civil society.

As responsible citizens who value liberty and care for vulnerable neighbors, we must guard against the government "relieving" us of our responsibility to care for family, friends, and neighbors. When we think the government is taking care of our neighbor, we're less likely to, and the fraying of our social fabric becomes a worse crisis than COVID-19.

For the full op-ed originally published in the Joplin Globe on May 3rd, 2020, visit truecharity.us/category/blog/.