



Heart Ministry Center
DIGNITY FOR ALL

“MIRACLE ON 24TH STREET”

For Bob Head, service to others has always been an integral part of life. He helped refugees in Omaha find safe housing and employment, was active in the Saint Cecilia Cathedral parish, and served on the CUES board of directors for 17 years. “Heart Ministry Center is a miracle on 24th Street,” said Head.

Read more on Page 3.

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #2369
OMAHA, NE

 **Heart Ministry Center**
DIGNITY FOR ALL
2222 Binney St.
Omaha, NE 68110

DIGNITY
FOR ALL 

In This Issue

PAGE 2

- Letter from the CEO
- Fresh Start Graduate Recognized for Excellence
- Heart Ministry Center’s Impact: By the Numbers

PAGE 3

- “Miracle on 24th Street”
- Mental Health and Vision Care Now Offered at Monen Healthcare Clinic

PAGE 4

- Thank You for Supporting Holy Smokes!



Letter from the CEO

Hope is a valuable weapon in Heart Ministry Center’s arsenal as we battle poverty in the Omaha metro.

The past 18 months have brought unprecedented challenges to our organization and the community we serve. Thousands of families already experiencing food insecurity, unemployment, and financial hardship are facing increased adversity due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and they turn to us for resources and hope.

During the peak of the pandemic, Heart Ministry Center distributed critical food, including fresh and shelf-stable items, to more than 1,000 families in need each week. We partnered with the Douglas County Health Department to host multiple COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the Monen Healthcare Clinic.

Our volunteers, donors, staff, and other partners continue to work relentlessly to meet the challenges we face. Even during the darkest days of the pandemic, our community embodied the best of humanity.

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, Heart Ministry Center is growing and thriving:

- ♥ We now have 35 talented, dynamic employees.
- ♥ More than 90 men and women have graduated from our Fresh Start Job Placement program.
- ♥ Vision care and mental health care are now being offered in our Monen Healthcare Clinic.
- ♥ The Fresh Start Laundromat generated more than \$66,000 in revenue from January to October 2021.

We arm ourselves and our community with hope as we strive to live out our mission of providing food, healthcare, and a way forward to people severely affected by poverty in the Omaha area.

Thank you for being part of the Heart!

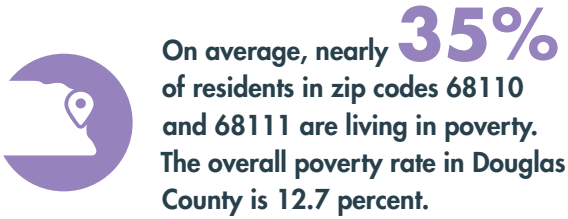
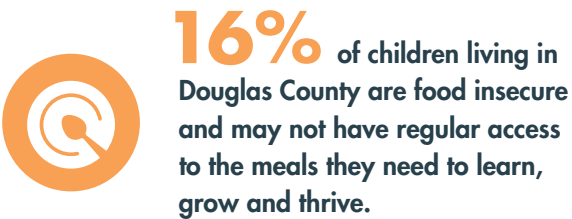
Mark Dahir
MARK DAHIR
Chief Executive Officer

HEART MINISTRY CENTER’S IMPACT: By the Numbers

AT THE HEART MINISTRY CENTER, FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2021:



IN OUR COMMUNITY:



Shannon Perkins with Kye Chumley and Mark Dahir at Holy Smokes receiving her award

Fresh Start Graduate Recognized for Excellence

The Aaron Schneider Fresh Start Excellence Award is inscribed with this message: *A rainbow acknowledges the storm and gives us hope of brighter days. And that hope is an anchor for our soul.*

The 2021 recipient of this award, Shannon Perkins, has weathered the storm and is now experiencing brighter days filled with hope thanks to her experience in Heart Ministry Center’s Fresh Start program.

“Heart Ministry Center saved my life,” said Shannon.

After years of substance abuse, Shannon was ready for a new path. She successfully completed a treatment program, then enrolled in Heart Ministry Center’s Fresh Start program in October 2019.

The Fresh Start program is a holistic, intensive human resource training program that empowers participants to achieve a fresh start in life and sustain self-sufficiency. It encompasses mental and physical health, money and household management, workplace communication, and job skills. More than 90 men and women have graduated from the program.

“The Fresh Start program taught me to step outside my comfort zone and meet people where they are. I learned that if something scares me, it is an opportunity for growth,” she said.

Shannon graduated from the Fresh Start program in March 2020 and immediately started a job she loves as a customer account coordinator with Epsen Hilmer Graphics in Omaha. She manages orders, handles shipping and billing, and builds relationships with customers. She uses many skills she learned in the program every day at her job.

Congratulations to Shannon as the first recipient of the Aaron Schneider Fresh Start Excellence Award! ■

“MIRACLE ON 24TH STREET”

For Bob Head, service to others has always been an integral part of life.

He helped refugees in Omaha find safe housing and employment, was active in the Saint Cecilia Cathedral parish, and served on the CUES board of directors for 17 years. During his time on the CUES board, he became familiar with the mission of Heart Ministry Center and visited the organization regularly.

“Heart Ministry Center is a miracle on 24th Street. I invite so many people to come and see what makes this place special,” he said.

In March 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bob read in the Christ the King Catholic Church bulletin that Heart Ministry Center was in need of volunteers. So, he began coming to the food distribution twice a week to donate his time – helping to package fresh and shelf-stable food items that are given to families in need.

Bob especially enjoys getting to know the men and women enrolled in the Center’s Fresh Start Job Placement program who operate the food distribution each day, along with community volunteers and staff members. He has attended several Fresh Start graduation ceremonies over the years.

Bob was honored as the inaugural recipient of the Louis “Big Lou” Parker Heart Heroes Volunteer Award at the Holy Smokes fundraiser on September 2.

“Bob truly embodies our core values, and we are grateful for his longtime support,” said Mark Dahir, chief executive officer at Heart Ministry Center. “Our volunteers are the best!”

Volunteers have a tremendous impact on Heart Ministry Center operations. There are volunteer opportunities for individuals, families, and groups from corporations and organizations. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit HeartMinistryCenter.org or contact Alicia Rodriguez, mission ambassador, at (402) 383-0528. ■



“Heart Ministry Center is a miracle on 24th Street. I invite so many people to come and see what makes this place special.”
— BOB HEAD

BE PART OF THE “MIRACLE ON 24TH STREET” THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEYOND

- ♥ Visit our campus and take a tour to see our mission in action.
- ♥ Volunteer at our Choice Food Distribution providing fresh and shelf-stable food items to community members in need.
- ♥ Make a financial gift to Heart Ministry Center or donate in honor of a loved one.
- ♥ Follow us on social media.

Thank you for supporting Heart Ministry Center. You are making a difference for families experiencing poverty in the Omaha metro.

Mental Health and Vision Care Now Offered at Momen Healthcare Clinic

For a dozen years, Heart Ministry Center has provided community members free, quality medical and dental care through a strong partnership with Creighton University and its dedicated healthcare professionals and students. The expanded Momen Healthcare Clinic opened in the fall of 2020 to help meet the increased demand. Everyone who comes for care is treated with compassion and dignity.

Momen Healthcare Clinic has operated throughout the pandemic providing curbside medical care before eventually moving practitioners and patients back inside the Clinic.

In addition to offering medical and dental care, along with regular visits from occupational and physical therapists, Momen Healthcare Clinic has recently augmented its services to provide community members with more comprehensive, holistic healthcare.

- ♥ Joe VanTrimmell, a full-time mental health practitioner, started at Heart Ministry Center in July 2021 to help meet the growing need for mental health services. Joe has been providing care to community members and Fresh Start participants.

[Read more on Page 4 >>](#)



- ♥ Vision care is now being offered in the Monen Healthcare Clinic. Local ophthalmologists and optometrists are volunteering their time and expertise the first Wednesday afternoon each month to do free vision screenings, glaucoma screenings, and to treat other vision issues. Practitioners are seeing children and adults.
- ♥ In partnership with the Douglas County Health Department, Heart Ministry Center has hosted several COVID-19 vaccination clinics in recent months to make the vaccine accessible to community members. More than 70 doses have been administered.



Big Lou Parker receives a COVID-19 vaccine at Heart Ministry Center.

“There is a deep sense of responsibility at Heart Ministry Center to serve the Omaha community by providing free, quality healthcare,” said Stephanie Heimann, healthcare director. “Now is the time to continue doing what is right by providing this range of new services.” ■



Heart Ministry Center
DIGNITY FOR ALL



2222 BINNEY ST.
OMAHA, NE 68110



402-451-2321



Contact@HeartMinistryCenter.org



HeartMinistryCenter.org

If you’ve never experienced Dignity for All in-person, we invite you to visit and take a tour! Meet our staff and see our campus – it will do your heart good!

Thank you for Supporting Holy Smokes!

Heart Ministry Center’s 16th annual Holy Smokes fundraiser was held on September 2 at The Venue at Highlander. Thank you to honorary chairmen, Haley and Jamie Walker, and to all the sponsors, guests, volunteers, and staff members who made the event a success. Funds raised at Holy Smokes support our mission of providing food, healthcare, and a way forward to people severely affected by poverty in the Omaha area. ■

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS:

Linda and Dave Baumert

Cindy and Mogens Bay

John Dahir

Mike Dahir

Lori and Paul Hogan

Ashley and Clark Horgan

Julia and Joe Knezetic

Dave Levy

Michael and Kyle Nelson

Emily and Jon Nguyen

Stephanie and Robb Pantano

MaryBeth and Bob Rossiter

Maria and Jeff Sauvageau

Emily and Sam Wageman

Dan Walker

Diana and Denny Walker

Haley and Jamie Walker

Left to right: Jeff Kavich, Donna Kush, and Stephanie and Robb Pantano

Fred and Gail Ross

Haley and Jamie Walker

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

 heartministrycenter

 heartministrycenter

 heartministry

HEART MINISTRY CENTER LEADERSHIP			BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
Mark Dahir Chief Executive Officer	Kye Chumley Fresh Start Director/ Food Distribution Director	Paul Weishapl Laundry Director/ Marketing Manager	Andy Kammerer President Creighton University	Emily Nguyen Vice President Omaha Community Foundation	Dan Torczon Treasurer Hancock and Dana, P.C.	Rob Wilcox Secretary First National Bank
Damany Rahn Chief Resource Officer	Linda Alsharif A Way Forward Director	Angie Grote Director of Development and Communications	Nicole Evans Nebraska-Western Iowa VA	Jeff Kavich All Makes	Terri Sanders Omaha Star	Cornelia Vermes Nebraska Medicine
Amy Holmes Chief Operations Officer	Stephanie Heimann Healthcare Director		Steve Gordon RDQLUS Creative	Fr. Dave Korth Sacred Heart Church	Mark Spadaro Dyna Tech Aviation Services	Dan Walker Bridges Trust
Tim McTaggart Chief Sustainability Officer	Markus Hines Director of Strategic Partnerships and Business Development		Judy Haney Community Volunteer	Fa’iz Rab Nebraska Children’s Home Society	Rick Thaden Community Volunteer	Alan West Deloitte
Don Nelson Chief Financial Officer			Joe Hauser Community Volunteer			