



Heart Ministry Center
DIGNITY FOR ALL

HOLY SMOKES HAS ITS FINEST HOUR

The theme of Heart Ministry Center’s 19th annual Holy Smokes Fundraiser BBQ was “Getting the Band Back Together,” and we certainly did that on August 29, with our most successful event ever! Longtime supporters and new friends to the organization sold out Steelhouse Omaha for an evening of delicious food, fellowship, and live music by Finest Hour. Funds raised at Holy Smokes allow Heart Ministry Center to continue providing food, healthcare, job training, educational classes, laundry services, and other vital resources on our campus.



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CEO on the Go

At Heart Ministry Center, we have the privilege of working with several other non-profit organizations in the metro area and we applaud them all for making a difference. One of our newest programs which directly involves FRESH Floral, our newest social enterprise, provides an opportunity for such outreach in the community and blossomed from a desire to impact people in a beautiful way.

Chief Executive Officer, Damany Rahn (Dom), came up with the idea while driving home one day. "I had just left a meeting about FRESH Floral and the progress we were making. So I called Nikki, our Chief Innovation Officer and told her I had an idea of delivering flowers, and wearing a "cape" (apron). I then asked her if she thought it was a good idea. She said yes, emphatically and then said, 'I've got It! CEO on the Go!'"

Every month, Dom leaves his office, puts on an apron, and heads to FRESH Floral with a specific goal in mind. With a heart full of gratitude and his arms filled with a lovely floral arrangement, "CEO On The Go" sets forth to share a smile and some words of appreciation to an individual or group that has shown exemplary support for others in the community.

Dom explains, "The recipients for CEO on the Go, are carefully selected. We utilize the gift of giving flowers and dignity to local nonprofits, businesses, and individuals. It is an opportunity to not only exhibit Fresh Floral and the great work the team is doing but also highlight the Heart Ministry Center. Further, it is an opportunity to spread "Heart" love amongst the community at places that are doing great work or have been a great partner with us in some way."

Of the many who have received flowers thus far, most have been surprised by Dom's arrival, which makes the reaction even more wonderful. Heart Ministry Center is honored to share goodness in this unique way and we hope to visit every corner of Omaha in the future. He said,

"I love being able to drive around the city, getting footage for the shoot. I also like wearing the "cape". My most favorite part of CEO on the Go, is the amazement on the recipient's face or the exhilaration in their eyes when they see me at the door or in the building bringing them flowers. This is the thing that keeps me looking forward to doing CEO on the GO! every month. Hugs are the best too."

Damany Rahn

[Signature]

Chief Executive Officer



Dom receives a hug of gratitude after delivering flowers to a CEO on the GO recipient.



A heartfelt thank you to our presenting sponsors, The Owen Foundation and Mike and Mary Jo Dahir, and to our honorary chairs, C.L. and Patty Landen and Fr. Tom Fangman. We're also grateful to all of our sponsors, past and present board members, guests, volunteers, and staff for making the event so special. Chief Development Officer Rick Berger commented, "It was a wonderful night celebrating Heart Ministry Center's past, present and future. We are grateful to everyone who attended and all who played a part in making it such a great event."

Highlights from the evening included inspiring comments from CEO Dom Rahn, our co-chairs, board president Rob Wilcox, and Fresh Start Graduate Paul Weishapl who all added to the celebration. A video was shown that captures the essence of the Heart Ministry can be viewed on our website: HeartMinistryCenter.org.

A "Raise the Paddle" was kicked off by "Big Lou Parker" with the cheer "What time is it? Game time!" Finest Hour with original members including past Heart Ministry Center board member Jeff Sauvageau and others "Rocked" to the sold out crowd.



Top: CEO Damany Rahn and Board President Rob Wilcox welcome guests to Holy Smokes.



Bottom: 'Big Lou Parker' rallies the arena.



We look forward to seeing you at Holy Smokes next year on Thursday, August 28, 2025!

Unwrap the Magic!

DON'T MISS THE 2ND ANNUAL HARMONIES FOR HOPE HOLIDAY BENEFIT CONCERT!



Karly Jurgensen, Nikki Boulay, and Natalie Hughes perform with fellow musicians during the 2023 Harmonies for Hope Concert.

Get ready for an enchanting evening that's the perfect holiday gift for your loved ones! After the incredible love we received from last year's event, we're thrilled to announce TWO performances this year at Marian High School's Mary Joy and Tal Anderson Performing Arts Center!

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7 p.m. | Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Harmonies for Hope is a celebration of music and holiday spirit, all while making a meaningful impact in our community. Proceeds will support the Heart Ministry Center's vital mission to provide food, healthcare, and hope for those affected by poverty in the Omaha area.

Mark your calendars—you won't want to miss this joy-filled event!



Scan the QR code to reserve your tickets today!

FRESH FLORAL

WEDDINGS | HOLIDAYS | CORPORATE EVENTS

JOIN US AT FRESH FLORAL FOR OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.



4922 Dodge St. Omaha, NE 68132
402-991-1970 | FreshFloralOmaha.com



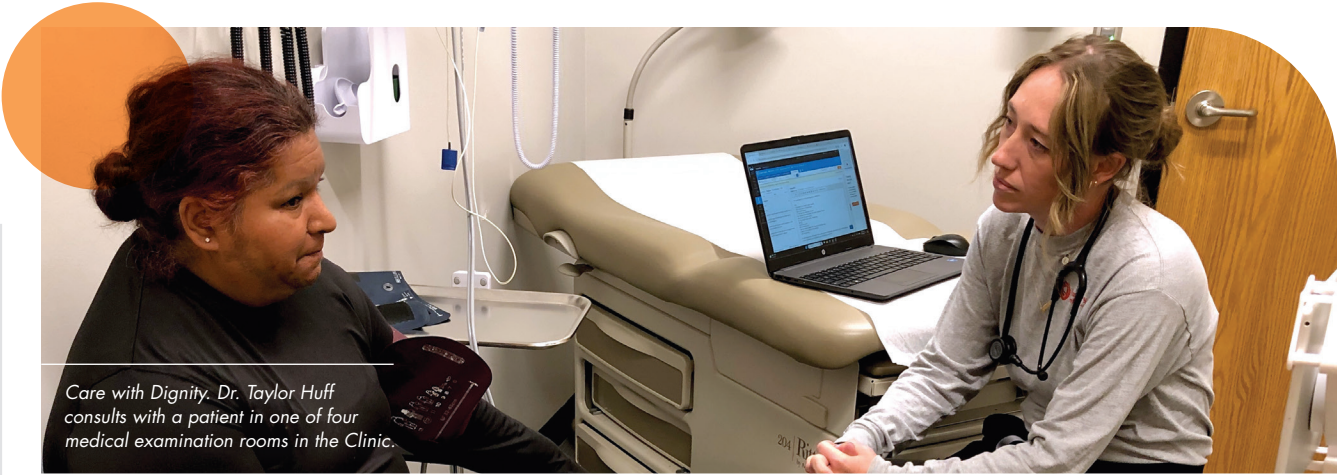
Buffie Somers with a child artist in the art room of Heart Ministry Center

Art from the Heart

On days when the lobby is filled with community members, there’s a good chance you’ll spot children on the edge of their seats waiting to be led to the art room. As they walk toward this colorful space full of toys, craft supplies, and child-size tables and chairs, they experience the love and kindness that is evident here everyday. Dignity For All is exemplified in a unique way as each inner artist emerges through Buffie Somers’ guidance. At Heart Ministry Center, we meet people on their level and children are not only welcome, they are celebrated. The Art From the Heart program is a vital part of our mission and provides children with a chance to express themselves through artwork and become part of something bigger, literally, because the artwork lines the halls of the building.

Watching the interaction between Ms. Buffie and a child artist is fascinating. She encourages them to use original thoughts, try new ideas, and laugh while creating. One young girl created a small paper doll that will be incorporated into a large multi-cultural canvas later this month. When she finished making her doll, she exclaimed “She’s my best friend!” Another said, “I made this art for the wall and it helps me be happy.”

Thanks to our generous donors, Art From the Heart is able to send each child home with a toy of their choice and a small treat. Ms. Buffie shares much more...a smile, a word of encouragement, and a reason to keep growing, learning, and painting the world full of color and love. ■



Care with Dignity. Dr. Taylor Huff consults with a patient in one of four medical examination rooms in the Clinic.

Monen Healthcare Clinic

ONE OF OMAHA’S ONLY FREE CLINICS PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE HELPS FAMILIES BREAK THE POVERTY CYCLE BY PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Families experiencing poverty often have reduced access to resources needed to support a healthy quality of life such as stable housing, foods for a balanced diet, and quality healthcare. Residents of impoverished communities are at increased risk for chronic disease, mental illness, and lower life expectancy. Nationally, children make up the largest age group of those experiencing poverty.

The Center’s Monen Healthcare Clinic provides medical, dental, vision, and mental health services along with regular visits from occupational and physical therapists. All services are provided free of charge and The Center is the only clinic in the area that does not require a copay, a barrier for many living at or below the poverty line. Over 95% of patients are uninsured and when surveyed, nearly all patients reported having insufficient income to pay for food, housing, or other essential needs.

Heart Ministry Center’s Monen Healthcare Clinic is one of Omaha’s only free healthcare clinics, and its dedicated providers are offering comprehensive medical and dental services to our community’s most vulnerable residents. The expanded clinic opened Fall 2020 to help meet an increased demand from the community, and everyone who comes for care is treated with compassion and dignity.

“Monen Healthcare Clinic is treating the entire family in an interdisciplinary and holistic manner,” said Conor Berigan, Health Care Director. “Patients are able to receive multiple services from compassionate and caring providers. Not only do they receive medical, dental, vision, mental health, physical and occupational therapy but also social services. We aim to treat the entire person and family, helping break the poverty cycle from a health and resource standpoint.”

The Clinic partners with providers from Creighton University, Nebraska Medicine Truhlsen Eye Institute, Iowa Western Community College, Nebraska Hearing Instruments, and volunteer doctors. In addition, the Center’s staff includes a healthcare director, healthcare coordinator, dental assistant, case manager, and two Licensed Clinical Social Workers/ Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioners. We also recently hired a pediatrician and a nurse practitioner.

The Clinic more than doubled the number of patients it served in two years, seeing 1,672 patients in 2021 and more than 3,500 in 2023. In 2023, community members saved over \$650,000 in medical expenses. With the addition of staff in 2024, we estimate 5,500 patients will visit the clinic, saving community members over \$1,000,000. ■

Source: <https://www.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/poverty>

Welcome to the Clinic, Doctors!

DR. TAYLOR HUFF, DNP

We’re excited to announce our new nurse practitioner, Taylor Huff. Originally from Eagle, NE, she now lives in Papillion. When she’s not chasing her young kids, she loves a good book and traveling with her husband. Taylor has spent a lot of time around the Carter Lake area and just recently discovered us at Heart Ministry Center. One of her primary goals at the Heart will be to raise awareness within the local community and strive to serve those in need. Taylor’s said, “I joined HMC during my nurse practitioner residency at the Monen Healthcare Clinic. After spending a year in the clinic, I fell in love with our patients and the community we are privileged to serve. I can’t imagine working anywhere else. I truly cherish being part of such a supportive and holistic organization.”



DR. DAVID LEVY, MD

We’re thrilled to announce Dr. Dave Levy has joined us as a pediatrician. Dr. Levy, who speaks English and Spanish, will provide free, comprehensive health care for children who visit the Clinic. He is excited to join the dedicated team at the Heart Ministry Center and contribute to its mission of serving the community. He offers appointments Monday – Friday. Contact the Monen Healthcare Clinic at (402) 932-4887 to schedule an appointment. “The Monen Healthcare Clinic is excited to offer pediatric medical care to the community members we serve,” said Conor Berigan, director of the Monen Healthcare Clinic. “We have an excellent pediatrician in Dr. Levy and are elated to be able to serve the whole family.”

Be a Part of the Heart



Whether you encounter Heart Ministry Center as a volunteer, community member, social media follower, donor, Fresh Start participant, or staff member...the love and energy all seem to flow in the same direction. We all come together to find a Way Forward for those experiencing poverty, isolation or hopelessness. Heart Ministry Center brings us all into a common space and reminds us that we are better and stronger together. We welcome you to come and see for yourself, and choose to Be A Part of The Heart.

"HMC is so much more than a job to me. I am proud to be a part of something so large and does so much for so many people!"
— SHEENA, HMC STAFF MEMBER

"Heart Ministry Center means safety and belonging"
— ANONYMOUS

"HMC means a safe space where I am encouraged to grow and where I have an opportunity to make change within the community."
— EVA, HMC INTERN

"I wish I would have had an opportunity like this when I was young."
— FRESH START PARTICIPANT

"Heart Ministry Center is home. When someone needs help, we are here. I love what I do and am so proud to be a spoke on the heart-shaped wheel."
— JEFF, HMC STAFF MEMBER

"Heart Ministry means HOME!"
— COMMUNITY MEMBER

Scan the QR code to donate today!
heartministrycenter.org/donate



Volunteering at the Heart Ministry Center is an enriching experience. Companies, schools, organizations, and individuals help by assisting community members make their food selections in the Choice Pantry.

Heartfelt Gratitude for our Volunteers

Greg Glenn,
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers have an essential impact on our operations at Heart Ministry Center and on the community we serve. We are distributing more than 300,000 pounds of food each month to 11,300 community members through our Choice Food Distribution program, thanks in part to our dedicated volunteers. Greg Glenn, our Volunteer Coordinator, summarizes the value of people who give their time to ensure others can choose food for their homes with Dignity For All. "I tell the volunteers at the orientation every morning that I sincerely believe they are the HEART of the Heart Ministry Center and that their kind words and smiles can make a community member's day!"

We also have individuals who donate their time and skills in our Monen Healthcare Clinic and Fresh Start Laundromat, and assist with classes and other initiatives in our Willing Partner program. We are grateful for everyone who has supported Heart Ministry Center by volunteering and helping the thousands of families across the Omaha metro experiencing poverty. You are a special part of our community.

I sincerely believe they are the HEART of the Heart Ministry Center...

VOLUNTEER MONTHLY AVERAGES

- 592 volunteers
- Donating 2,081 hours of service

In the Monen Healthcare Clinic, dental students receive not only the opportunity to work directly with patients, but also have the reward of knowing they are sharing compassion and hope. Kim Sherman, Clinic Dental Assistant, recalls "The students feel like they are receiving clinical experience that is preparing them for future practice along with helping our community members and truly making a difference in the lives of our patients."

If you are interested in volunteering or organizing a group of friends, family members or colleagues to volunteer, please visit HeartMinistryCenter.org to register.

Or contact Greg Glenn, volunteer coordinator, at (402) 702-1525 or Greg@HeartMinistryCenter.org. Recurring volunteer opportunities are available. ■

**Heart Ministry Center**
DIGNITY FOR ALL

**2222 BINNEY ST.
OMAHA, NE 68110**

**402-451-2321**

**Contact@HeartMinistryCenter.org**

**HeartMinistryCenter.org**

GET CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

- Visit Heart Ministry Center's 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 with families experiencing poverty in the Omaha metro.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 [heartministrycenter](https://www.facebook.com/heartministrycenter)  [heartministrycenter](https://www.instagram.com/heartministrycenter)

HEART MINISTRY CENTER LEADERSHIP

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Rick Berger Chief Development Officer	Linda Alsharif Vice President of Advocacy	Jimmy King Food Distribution Director
Amy Holmes Chief Operations Officer	Rayna Pollack A Way Forward Director	Curran Quinlivan Facilities and Maintenance Director
Nikki Huber Chief Innovation Officer	Conor Berigan Health Care Director	
Mike Masek Chief Financial Officer	Dani Rogers Innovation Director	

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