



Hunger News & Hope

...a Seeds of Hope publication

Finding a Home: *Unaccompanied Youth in America*

by Chelle Samaniego

Sammy makes his way down the long center aisle of the bus. He spots his friend David sitting three seats up from the back. Bracing himself, Sammy slides in next to him just as the bus lurches forward. He stashes his backpack between his feet, then turns to do the standard 15-year-old early morning greeting. But, instead of asking about homework or the latest party, Sammy says, "Can I crash at your house tonight?"

Sammy is one of the millions of children¹ in the United States who face homelessness every year. But, unlike the majority of children categorized as "homeless" under McKinney-Vento legislation who live in transition with family members, Sammy is doing this alone.

Officially recognized as "unaccompanied youth," teens like Sammy are making it to school on time, keeping their grades up and even starring on their high school's football teams, all without a parent or legal guardian.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness, as it applies to school-aged children, as children living in domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, transitional housing, hotels or motels or "doubled up." The latter means that the child and his or her family are living in the house with another family and their names are not on the lease.

This legislation also secures funding and help for children like Sammy who are not living with biological parents or a guardian. Under this legislation,

See "Finding a Home" on page 2

What You'll Find Inside:

2-3

Finding a Home,
continued

4-5

Seeds of Hope Celebrates
25 Years in Waco

6

Resources & Opportunities

7

Our Pebble in the Pond
by Merrill J. Davis
a review

8

Quotes, Poems & Pithy
Sayings

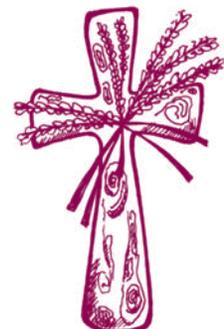


photo by LeAnne Kerr

Finding a Home

continued from page 1

a homeless unaccompanied youth (1) has the right to immediate enrollment without proof of guardianship, (2) can select a school of attendance, whether it is the local attendance area or the school of origin, and enroll immediately, and (3) can receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.

McKinney-Vento legislation also requires every school district in the US to designate a local homeless education liaison to assist homeless students and families. In Waco, TX, the homeless liaison's passion for the unaccompanied youth in her district helped launch the idea for an after-school nurturing center called The Cove.

"The number one thing we want to do is make sure the kids graduate," states Cheryl Pooler, who is the homeless liaison for Waco Independent School District. Numbers show that in the United States, less than 25 percent of children who are documented homeless under McKinney-Vento legislation graduate from high school.

However, the Waco school district recently announced that 100 percent of its McKinney-Vento seniors graduated last year. This is, in part, due to Pooler and her team of volunteers, interns and social workers who stay connected, encourage and help these teens see a future for themselves that is different from the one revealed in national statistics and generational poverty models.

According to Pooler, more than 90 kids will be eligible for the new after-school services. Half of these children currently reside with family members or friends and are considered to be in healthy environments. The rest? They will have The Cove.

Set to open officially in the fall of 2017, The Cove will serve up to 50 students daily offering tutoring, homework help, mentoring, laundry facilities, showers, counseling, social services assistance and more.

But, the best part is that The Cove will offer a sit-down, family meal. Pooler recognizes that the center "cannot replicate a home," but it will do whatever it can.

The idea stems from the concept of the "warming/cooling center," which communities across the country operate to assist those living in homelessness during extreme weather conditions. Shelters typically are closed during the day for various reasons, including cleaning or the simple lack of manpower. When the shelter is closed during summer and winter months, and temperatures reach the extremes, these centers are open to help keep homeless individuals alive.

Many unaccompanied youth join extracurricular activities to have a safe place to be when the school's doors are closed. They also develop a close-knit, like-minded family this way. But what about the rest? And where do you go when band practice is over?

When unaccompanied youth get out of school everyday, where do they go? Many join extracurricular activities to have a safe place to be when the school's doors are closed. They also develop a close-knit, like-minded family this way. But what about the rest? And, where do you go when band practice is over?

Many children who live with someone who is not a parent or guardian do not have the structure of the typical family. They simply have a place to sleep. "Couch surfing" is a typical phenomenon, where teens bounce from house to house, wherever friends will allow them to sleep on the couch or floor for a few days.

Yes, these children may have a place to sleep. However, they may not be allowed in the house until bedtime. No dinner is available at 6 p.m. No one sits and provides homework help.

Statistics show that dropout rates among homeless or runaway youth are at 75 percent. If they haven't dropped out, studies show they *will* drop out. That is why centers across the country like The Cove are so important.

"Unaccompanied youth are our kids at greatest risk," Pooler continues. They are not only at risk of not receiving a high school diploma, but they are at risk of becoming a victim of violent crime. One out of three children who run away becomes a victim of human trafficking within 48 hours.

As many as 20,000 kids are forced into prostitution by human trafficking networks every year in the United States. An April 2016 brief by the National Conference of State Legislatures shared, "It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year as a result of assault, illness or suicide."

Youth ages 12 to 17 are more at risk of homelessness than adults. Today, over 40

A Few Things You Can Do for Homeless Youth

1. Educate yourself. Check out the sources from Chelle Samaniego's article on pages 1-3, and then find out what's happening in your area. How many homeless youth are in the closest school district? Who directs the homeless liaison office?
2. Educate others. Most people don't realize how many students are homeless, or how many are food-insecure. As soon as you get the facts, share them.
3. Contact your district's homeless liaison director. Find out what the local needs are, and how you can help. There may be a mentoring or after-school program in your area. You could help with a weekend backpack program. Some churches work together to collect school uniforms for homeless students. If none of these programs exist, you could start one.
4. If you aren't able to volunteer, you might be able to contribute financially to your district's homeless education program.

—Adapted from "Five Things You Can Do to Help Kids in Homeless Situations," Texas Homeless Education Office.

percent of homeless people in America are children under the age of 18.

Numerous factors could make a child homeless at any moment. Family dysfunction, substance abuse, pregnancy, sexual activity or orientation, or a parent becoming incarcerated, deported or passing away—all of these contribute to youth homelessness. Some run away from a foster-care placement or find themselves aging out of the foster care system and on the street due to limited emotional intelligence and no support system.

In 2015, the Covenant House network provided services to more than 51,000 homeless children. Covenant House began in 1972 with the mission of getting homeless kids off of our nation's street. It currently operates in 27 cities in the United States, Canada and Central America. It is the largest privately funded charity in the Americas, "providing loving care and vital services to homeless, abandoned, abused, trafficked and exploited youth."

Covenant House first addresses the initial needs of a teen coming in from the streets—a warm shower, clean clothes and a bed to sleep in. Then, once the child is safe, "the covenant" occurs when a next-steps plan is established to further secure the child's future.

There is a question of whether the number of unaccompanied youth in America is increasing, or the stigma behind being homeless and alone is diminishing. Whatever the case, teen nurturing centers, shelters and concerned adults are reaching out to teens like Sammy, not only to enhance their present conditions, but also to secure their future.

—Chelle Samaniego is a freelance writer, mom and social-media guru living in Waco, TX. She is the social-media editor for *Seeds of Hope* and a number of other anti-hunger organizations in Central Texas. Sources: Covenant House (www.covenanthouse.org), *The Cove* (www.thecovewao.org), National Conference of State Legislatures, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Washington, US Department of Education. See also the National Coalition for the Homeless (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/youth.html>).

Endnotes

1. Numbers vary, depending on criteria, but anywhere from 1.3 to 2 million children experience homelessness during a year's time in the US.

1. To learn more about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, visit <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/youth.pdf>.

West Texas School District Creates College & Career Readiness Camp for Homeless Students

According to various networks that work with homeless youth, somewhere between 1.7 million and 2 million children and young people experience homelessness in the US at least once during the year. These children, teens and young adults spend their days in school thinking that their living situation defines who they are.

The fact that they don't have a home on solid ground leads these kids to believe that they will never be able to reach graduation, earn a college degree or hold a job that could get them out of homelessness. There are people in their lives who tell them that they are worthy and able to attain these goals, but Socorro Independent School District in West Texas, near El Paso, is doing something more.

This Socorro ISD recently hosted their first "No Excuses College and Career Readiness Camp" (also known as "No Excuse U") for homeless students in the area. These students rely on their school building to be their place of shelter during the day, so, when Spring Break rolls around, they do not have anywhere to go. "No Excuse U" was created to give the homeless youth of Socorro a place to go during the day during school breaks, and also provide resources and teachings about the importance of graduation and higher education.

The camp was available for students from the sixth to the eighth grade who were chosen based on "outstanding behavior, grades and [class] attendance." Out of the 30 students who were chosen, 14 participated in the camp. Although attending college and acquiring a job seem far off for middle school students like these, SISD believed that the sooner it makes an effort to inspire these kids to reach beyond what they may expect of themselves, the better impact it will have on their futures.

During the camp, students went through sessions of activities like resume building, searching for potential career paths, learning about universities and technical colleges, and understanding budgets. When the students learned about career paths, there was a significant emphasis on careers that require some kind of degree or certification, to instill the idea that hard work will pay off.

The camp hosted several guest speakers from different career fields. Included with the camp was a group tour of the University of Texas in El Paso (UTEP). The students provided positive feedback about the week, and two students, who said they had once felt wary about college, began to welcome the idea that attending college is a realistic goal for them.

District officials say they hope to open up program attendance next year to migrants and foster children and to continue encouraging students about the importance of college degrees. Whoever is chosen for "No Excuse U," in the next few years they will stop believing that people like themselves who suffer in homelessness never stop suffering in homelessness. Rather, these students will be ushered into a learning experience that will hopefully benefit not only their futures, but those of generations to come.

—Compiled by LeAnne Kerr. LeAnne, who hails from Shreveport, LA, is a professional writing student at Baylor University and a *Seeds of Hope* intern. Sources: The Texas Homeless Education Office (<http://homelesseducationconnection.blogspot.com>), National Network for Youth (www.nn4youth.org).

Sowing Seeds of Hope

A Decatur-Born Ministry Celebrates 25 Years in Waco

It all began with an earthquake in Honduras. In 1974, George Sheridan, a member at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, GA, traveled to that country with a group from the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to help with disaster-relief efforts. Later he wrote that the experience awakened him to the stark realities of hunger around the world.

George returned to Oakhurst, which was, at that time, a Southern Baptist church, with the hope of doing something about hunger. He preached a sermon about world hunger that galvanized the congregation. One member issued a challenge in the church newsletter: "To be brought face-to-face with the reality of hunger issues and fail to respond would be inexcusable."

The church responded by embracing hunger relief as a major missions effort, with Gary Gunderson and Andy Loving following George's lead. In January of 1977, they sent out a mimeographed one-page newsletter to 600 Southern Baptists, and the Seeds ministry was born.

The Seeds mission group, which soon included Tom Peterson and Ken Sehested, continued to push Southern Baptists to respond to hunger issues. In 1978, they helped organize a convention-wide Convocation on World Hunger at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly site in North Carolina. That same year, Seeds initiated, along with a few other organizers, the first Southern Baptist World Hunger Day.

The next year, the group produced the first issue of *Seeds* in magazine format, with the tagline "Southern Baptists Concerned about Hunger," and a book of 30 "miss-a-meal" meditations, entitled *Roots of Hope*. The magazine began a bimonthly format, alternating with the newsletter supplement *Sprouts*. In the next few years, the Seeds staff assisted in starting soup kitchens, night shelters, food pantries and other poverty-related assistance programs across the United States.

By 1982, the ministry had expanded to include other Christian groups, and the tagline on the banner changed to "Christians Concerned about Hunger." That year, the *Seeds Reader* issue on Women and Hunger won the prestigious Hunger Media Award given by World Hunger Year. The next year, Seeds co-published, along with the *Alternatives* group, the curriculum *All Tied Up*, a weekend hunger-education retreat for youth.

Andy Loving left in 1984 to work for St. Luke Episcopal Church's ministry for homeless people. Ken Sehested also left that year to become the founding

director for the new Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Gary Gunderson became the ministry's director and Tom Peterson took on the editor's job. Also that year, Seeds organized a strong effort to respond to the famine in Ethiopia and published *A Guide to World Hunger Organizations*, edited by Louis Knowles.

The next year, Seeds won another Hunger Media Award for "The Church and Hunger," a second *Seeds Reader*, and helped the city of Decatur form a sister-city relationship with two cities in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Seeds representatives led a study tour to the Philippines in 1986, during the revolutionary "People Power" election of Corizon Aquino as president. Also that year, the Seeds group

But the history of Seeds, as Marla Pierson wrote in a Waco Tribune-Herald article, is a tale of resurrection.

visited 22 US cities and towns to examine the "State of the Hunger Movement," and published a special issue with the Food First organization on *Hunger and Democracy*.

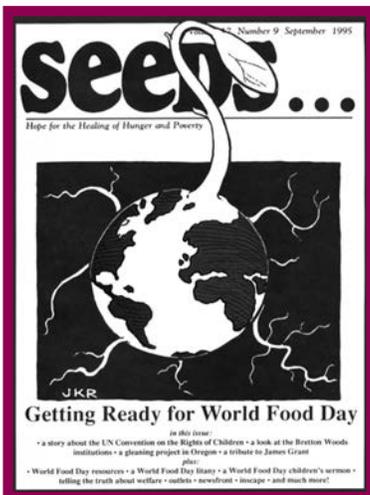
A special 10th anniversary issue with UNICEF on Child Survival took the staff to West Africa, Brazil and Indonesia in 1987. Also that year, Seeds published the *Hunger Action Handbook*, by Leslie Withers and Tom Peterson, with 24 "how-to" chapters.

However, in the next couple of years, the sense of call and purpose began to wane. By that time, the founding editors were gone and people were tired. The Oakhurst folks thought maybe it was time for the ministry to be laid to rest. But there was a group of people in Texas who didn't want Seeds to die.

So, in 1991, Seeds of Hope, Inc. was formed in Texas, and the ministry moved to Seventh & James Baptist Church, with Katie Cook, then on staff at Caritas of Waco, as editor. In July of that year, Oakhurst hosted what amounted to an adoption ceremony, with the founding editors and the Oakhurst congregation giving their blessing to the new incarnation.

Sandy Dwyer, who provided the lions' share of the transition work, and former editor Tom Peterson, presented Katie with a framed copy of the original newsletter, the first issue of *Seeds Magazine* and "Seeds...a New Generation," the Waco group's introductory brochure. The accompanying inscription read:

Fourteen years, three months and 13 days ago, this newsletter began as a mission of hope out of Oakhurst Baptist Church. Today, we pass on that mission to a new group of people who "have a sense of call." Katie Cook comes to us representing a new generation of Seeds, ready and able to carry on....





The Seeds of Hope mission statement declared that this group “intended to act on our belief that the Bible’s mandates to feed the poor are not optional, and that we are responding to those commands with joy, out of a sense of gratitude for the abundance in our own lives.”

On September 4, the Waco office was officially open for business in a former Sunday school classroom at Seventh & James. That first year, the new group published *Roots of Hope, Volume II*, a book of 40 meditations from an ecumenical, interfaith pool of writers.

The first issue of *Sprouts* from Texas came out in January 1992, as the ministry began a quarterly publication of *Seeds Magazine*, with two issues of *Sprouts* in between.

In 1994, Michael Williamson compiled *A Guide to World Hunger Organizations, Volume II*, a 10th-anniversary update. The next year a group of Central Texas volunteers organized a benefit concert, “Seeds for the World,” featuring the News Boys, Sixpence None the Richer and five other gospel acts.

In 1996, Katie represented Seeds in a human rights delegation to Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico, sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Also that year, the Smyth & Helwys publishing house hosted the first fledgling Seeds website. The Seeds staff developed the site with a grant from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In 1998, the Council and staff, in the face of the changing landscape of journalism, began to face the fact that there wasn’t enough money to keep printing a magazine. But the history of Seeds, as Marla Pierson wrote in a *Waco Tribune-Herald* article, is a tale of resurrection.

Within the year, church leaders said that they missed the worship resources published in *Seeds*, and that they were looking for such materials to help them lead their congregations, gently and consistently, into awareness of economic justice and food-security issues. So the staff began to create *Sacred Seasons*, a series of resource packets (for Advent, Lent and a fall Hunger Emphasis) with a biblical focus on justice issues, particularly hunger and poverty.

Also during that year, the Seeds team received a phone call from hunger educators who represented different faith communities in the US. These leaders, part of an ad hoc group called Interfaith Hunger Educators, said they missed the information and inspiration they had received from *Seeds*.

That conversation began negotiations for a partnership that would produce the award-winning *Hunger News & Hope*, now a mostly electronic newsletter that is distributed through several religious denominations and through the Seeds website and social media.

In 2000, Seeds published, through *Sacred Seasons*, a series of monologues about the events of Holy Week for a scene-to-scene dramatic presentation to children. Over the years, writers added to the monologues, and now the popular *Easter Walk* packet includes 12 monologues that are used in presentations for all ages. In 2008, Seeds published a companion packet: *With*

Our Own Eyes, a group of scene-to-scene monologues about the seven resurrection appearances in the gospels.

From 2003 to 2005, Seeds created and posted worship kits for three peace services, sponsored by the American Baptist Church. In 2006, the staff created *Developing a Heart for the Hungry: A Hunger Emphasis Primer for Beginning Churches*. Seeds received a grant from the H. C. Gemmer Christian Family Foundation in 2015 to update the primer, and the Waco Regional Baptist Association (WRBA) printed a number of them for its churches.

In 2007, the Alliance of Baptists sponsored a collection of hunger sermons called *Speaking of Hunger*. Just before press time, Seeds of Hope received a Gemmer grant to create another collection of hunger sermons for fall 2016. In 2008, the Alliance of Baptists sponsored *Hope Is in Our Hands*, a collection of hunger lessons and activities for youth and children.

Over the years, the Waco staff developed a curriculum for a four-part workshop for churches called *Hunger in God’s World*. In 2015, that curriculum was published in collaboration with the Hunger Ministry division of the WRBA.

The Seeds folks in Waco, like their predecessors in Decatur, have not been content with publishing only, but have been active in organizing and training people to respond with compassion and integrity to difficult and compelling issues in our world. In addition to the national Interfaith Hunger Educators group, Seeds works closely with a number of local groups: Caritas of Waco, World Hunger Relief, the McLennan County Hunger Coalition, the Heart of Texas CROP Hunger Walk and others.

The Waco Seeds council and staff have been engaged several times in intense discernment about the future of the ministry. During the most recent one, someone came across a meditation on the call of the prophet Isaiah, written by Frederick Buechner. In the meditation, Isaiah asks God, “How long should I do this?” The answer, in Buechner’s paraphrase, is “Do it ‘til the cows come home.”

The Council and staff saw this as a sign from God, and that is why, 25 years after the “adoption,” Seeds is still here.

Forty-two years ago, as Oakhurst historian Alverta Wright wrote, “the winds of a hurricane planted a seed in the heart of a Christian relief worker.” That seed sprouted and has been nurtured by hundreds of people. We hope it will flourish until the cows come home.

—Compiled by Katie Cook. Sources: Houston Chronicle: “Magazine on Hunger Transplanted to Waco,” 1991; SBC Today (now Baptists Today): “Historic Magazine Moves to Texas” by Michael Usey, 1991; Waco Tribune-Herald: “Bread for the Masses” by John Young, 1992; Oakhurst Baptist Church archives: “A Pre-History of Seeds” by Alverta Wright, 1993; Seeds Magazine: “A Brief History of Seeds, So Far” by Katie Cook and Sandy Dwyer, 1997; Waco Tribune-Herald: “Sowing Seeds of Hope,” by Marla Pierson, 1999.



Resources & Opportunities

Would you like to receive
free electronic copies of
*Hunger News
& Hope*

as they come out?
Email seedseditor1@gmail.com to
add your name to the e-list.

We're collecting sermons
about hunger.

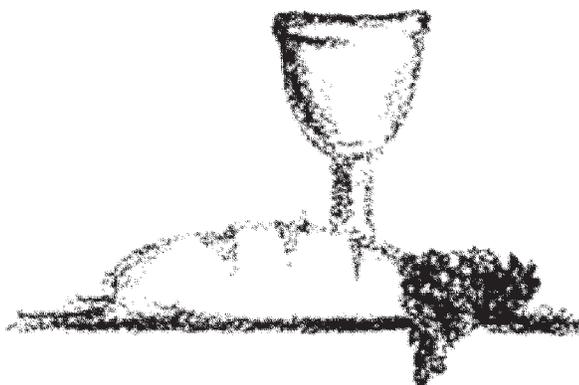
Thanks to a grant from the H.C. Gemmer Christian Family Foundation, we are planning a second edition of *Speaking of Hunger*, our popular collection of hunger sermons.

If you have preached or written a good sermon about hunger and the church's call to respond—or if you've heard a good one—please let us know. Contact us at seedseditor1@gmail.com.



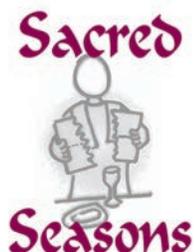
art by Peter Yuichi Clark

Teach Justice
through Worship.



Ask for a free promotional copy of a
Lent, Advent or Hunger Emphasis
worship packet from Seeds of Hope.

Sacred Seasons is a series of creative worship tools to help raise awareness of hunger and justice issues. A year's subscription of US\$100 includes Advent/Christmastide, Lent/Eastertide and a fall Hunger Emphasis resource. To order, call 254/755-7745 or e-mail seedseditor1@gmail.com. Single packets are US\$40. (Non-US subscriptions are US\$115; individual packets are US\$50.) For more information, go to www.seedspublishers.org.



Is the idea of a Hunger Emphasis new to your congregation? If so, email seedseditor1@gmail.com or go to www.seedspublishers.org to get your copy!

*Developing
a Heart
for the Hungry*



art by Jesse Manning

*a hunger emphasis primer
for beginning churches*

Resources & Opportunities

Our Pebble in the Pond by Merrill Davies

reviewed by LeAnne Kerr

When we see people who are homeless, they are being served at a soup kitchen or holding signs on street corners. However, when we see people walking around town or reading a newspaper in the park, we could be seeing homeless people without knowing it.

Those who suffer from homelessness could be walking among us daily, but the perspective by which we see them determines how we approach them.

In Merrill Davies' novel, *Our Pebble in the Pond*, she tells many stories in one. Davies tells stories that reveal reality

The story digs deep into the truth that when a person becomes homeless, he or she is stripped of self-confidence and self-worth, and it takes more than getting back up on one's feet to regain what was lost on the inside.

through loss, redemption, setbacks, comebacks, romance, friendship, loyalty and self-worth. She illustrates the main idea of perceiving others—homeless or not—through the fictional story of Joy Bridges.

Joy is not only the director of the homeless shelter House of Blessing. She is also a resident. When there is talk of rezoning the Forest Grove neighborhood, drama occurs around the question of the shelter's continuing existence in that area. Although there had been little fuss about the shelter

before the idea of rezoning had come about, Forest Grove residents become adamant about its impending danger to the neighborhood.

Joy is a loveable main character who advocates for the acceptance of others and the idea of lending a hand to one's fellow citizens. She also encourages the shelter's residents to think of their higher goals—ones that require perseverance and steadfast dedication.

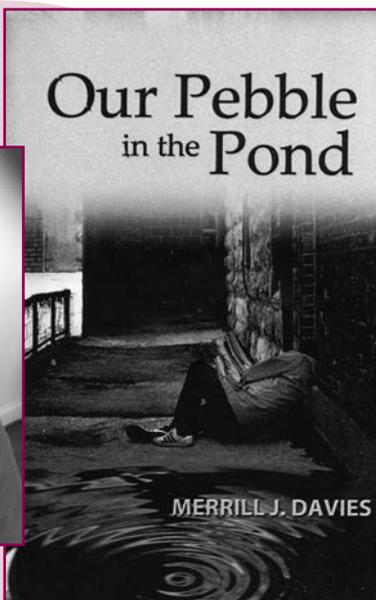
Some are alcoholics, some have created a pattern of losing jobs and some have had addictions they just could not shake. But, as Joy points out, each resident, no matter his or her circumstances, deserves respect above all else.

The conflicts in the story uncover dishonest beliefs and corrupt assumptions from one particular Forest Grove resident, Marissa Franklin, and her idea that homeless shelters are full of "those kinds of people." To Marissa, homeless people are dirty, addicted and desperate. However, Davies creates shelter residents who are redemptive and worthy, with potential to be more than one person's idea.

The story digs deep into the truth that when a person becomes homeless, he or she is stripped of self-confidence and self-worth, and it takes more than getting back up on one's feet to regain what was lost on the inside.

It explores the reality that people who have lost loved ones, financial stability, substance control and guidance on the path, are everyday people—not just those who live in a shelter. This story expresses that even when we fail time and time again, whether by choice or through misfortune, God is there to accept us with open arms.

—LeAnne Kerr hails from Shreveport, LA. She is a Professional Writing student at Baylor University and a Seeds of Hope intern.



Hunger News & Hope Receives 'Best of the Christian Press' Awards

Seeds is proud to announce that *Hunger News & Hope* has once again received "Best of the Christian Press" awards from Associated Church Press. One of the awards for 2015 is a "Best in Class" Award of Merit, and one is an Award of Merit for a theme issue, for the Summer 2015 issue about immigration. (Special kudos to Linda Freeto for a huge amount of work on that issue!)



Hunger News & Hope is published quarterly by Seeds of Hope Publishers, in partnership with the following denominational groups:

- Alliance of Baptists
- American Baptist Churches USA
 - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 - Christian Reformed Church in North America
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Reformed Church in America

Staff and Volunteers

Editor.....L. Katherine Cook
Acting Business Manager.....John Segrest
Editorial Assistant.....LeAnne Kerr
Copy Editor.....Deborah E. Harris
Web Designer.....Lance Grigsby
Social Media Editor.....Chelle Samaniego
Library Assistant.....Bill Hughes
Artists.....Robert Askins, Sally Askins,
Peter Yuichi Clark, Robert Darden,
Van Darden, Jesse Manning,
Erin Kennedy Mayer, Lenora Mathis,
Kate Moore, Sharon Rollins,
Susan Smith, Rebecca Ward

Seeds of Hope Council of Stewards

Sara Alexander
Guilherme Almeida
Sally Lynn Askins, Vice Pres.
Meg Cullar
Derek S. Dodson
Deborah E. Harris, Corresp. Secretary
Sandy Londos, Recording Secretary
B. Michael Long, President

Board of Advisors

Dale A. Barron
H. Joseph Haag
Kathryn Mueller
Jo Pendleton
Jacqueline L. Saxon
Jon Singletary

Statement of Purpose

Seeds of Hope is a private, independent group of believers responding to a common burden for the poor and hungry of God's world, and acting on the strong belief that biblical mandates to feed the poor were not intended to be optional. The group seeks out people of faith who feel called to care for poor and hungry people; and to affirm, enable

Quotes, Poems & Pithy Sayings



Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.
—Muhammed Ali

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We are not too generous. We have been willing to see hundreds of thousands of children go to bed, if they have any beds at all, too hungry to sleep and sometimes too weak to rise on the next morning to await the bus for school.
—Jonathan Kozol

When you are hungry, you can't think about anything else.
—Juana "Janie" Mendez, 17

It's easy to talk about others' poverty. Only rarely do we understand how little we know.
—Will D. Campbell

Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead.
—St. John Chrysostom

The very worst development of recent years, I think, is that people no longer feel a sense of horror (or even uneasiness) in the face of injustice that wrecks human lives.
—John Howard Griffin

Congregations should not be allowed to drop a few extra bucks in the plate on a special Sunday or suffer a meal of rice and beans and then think, "Well, that's over for another year."
—Raymond Bailey

and empower a variety of responses to the problems of poverty.

Editorial Address

Seeds is housed by the community of faith at Seventh & James Baptist Church. The mailing address is 602 James Avenue, Waco, TX 76706; Phone: 254/755-7745; Fax: 254/753-1909; E-mail: seedseditor1@gmail.com. Web: www.seedspublishers.org. Copyright © 2016; ISSN 0194-4495. Seeds of Hope, Inc., holds the 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status.

Seeds of Hope also produces *Sacred Seasons*, a series of worship materials for the liturgical year—with an attitude "toward justice, peace and food security for all of God's children." These include litanies, sermons, children's and youth activities, bulletin art and drama.

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version, Copyright © 2003 by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.