



## WHO ARE WE?

Founded in 1969 as a collaborative project of the Daughters of Charity (an order of Catholic Sisters) and the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City, Seton Center is a Catholic-sponsored human services agency that helps people break cycles of poverty. With the help of donors, volunteers, and prayers, Seton Center is able to provide a multitude of services to our neighbors in need.

- A 21-day supply of food for 700 families every three weeks
- 9,000 dental services every year to individuals of all ages
- Free clothing from the Thrift Store for 3,850 individuals
- Rent and/or utility assistance to 240 families annually
- Programs for 39 seniors
- Back to School supplies for 511 children
- Christmas assistance for over 1,530 neighbors including food, hygiene products, toys, gifts, clothes, coats, blankets, hats, scarfs, gloves, undergarments, and candy
- Annual Health Fair for our neighbors and the community

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Seton Center is an anchor of hope for our community. Our neighbors know that as long as we are here, they have someone to turn to when life's challenges become unbearable. If they are unable to feed their family – they turn to us. If they do not have clothes for work or school – they turn to us. If they need help keeping their lights or heat on – they turn to us. If they are suffering from oral pain and need dental services – again, they turn to us.

Seton Center's mission, in short, offers hope to many for a better life.

Seton Center is able to assist our neighbors in need with the help of others - donors, volunteers, and those who pray for us. As a thank you, we are introducing our first newsletter to provide updates on all that we accomplish through your continued support. I hope you enjoy our first issue.

*From all of us at Seton Center – Thank you!  
-Sister Loretto Marie Colwell, SCL*

## TURNING PAIN INTO JOYFUL SMILES

Imagine living with the severe pain of 10 cavities at the young age of 7. Unable to chew anything except soft food. Unable to focus at school because of the throbbing pain and discomfort. Unable to get a full night's sleep. It's hard to believe, but children right here in our community suffer daily with severe oral pain.

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Hope



# TURNING PAIN INTO JOYFUL SMILES

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**“The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner He wills it; and thirdly to do it because it is His will.”**

- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Parents of the children we serve are the working poor. After paying rent and putting food on the table, they do not have the resources to afford oral care. Plus, most of the parents have always lived with oral pain and believe that is the way of life. At Seton Center, we are working to change this generational behavior through our Adopt-A-School program. Through the program, our dental team performs oral screenings in neighboring schools. The hygienists clean the children's teeth and the dentists determine the services each child requires to restore their oral health. The children are then transported from school to Seton Center on a regular basis for dental services.

Dental Services provides a room designed just for younger children - smaller chair, fun pictures on the wall and even a stuffed kangaroo with big teeth and an oversized toothbrush for proper brushing demonstrations. After one visit to Dental Services, children realize that they can leave pain free – and they receive their own toothbrush, toothpaste and small toy. The children actually look forward to coming back.

Cory is the son of a single mother struggling to provide for her family. Some mornings when Cory flips the light switch on to get ready for school, the lights don't come on. Other times, when he turns the water on to wash his face and brush his teeth, no water comes out. Although Cory is only 15 years old, he understands that by staying in school and accepting the support services offered to him through agencies such as Seton Center, he will make a better life for himself.

As part of our Adopt-A-School program, Cory receives dental services without having to depend on his overly stretched mother to get him to his appointments. Currently, Cory needs two, or possibly three root canals and caps. He has three additional teeth that are almost completely decayed and may need root canals or even to be extracted. Cory, like so many of the children we serve, is grateful for the opportunity to restore his oral health and is committed to regular brushing and dental visits.

Currently, we have 900 children in our Adopt-A-School program. The number of children we will be able to serve will increase in proportion to increased donations.

**ALL CHILDREN DESERVE A HEALTHY SMILE**



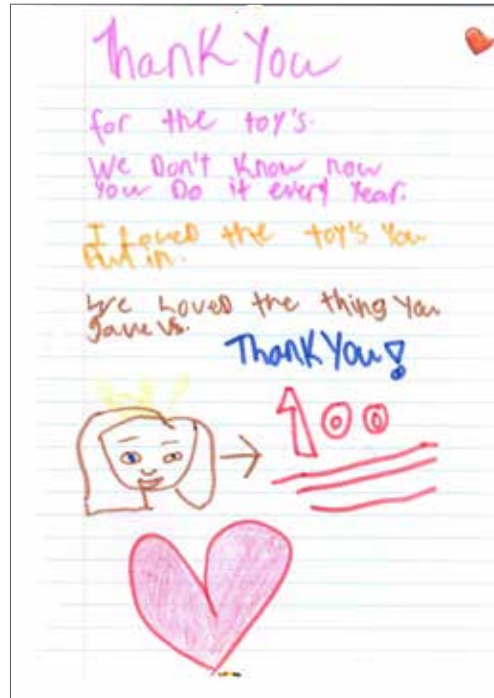
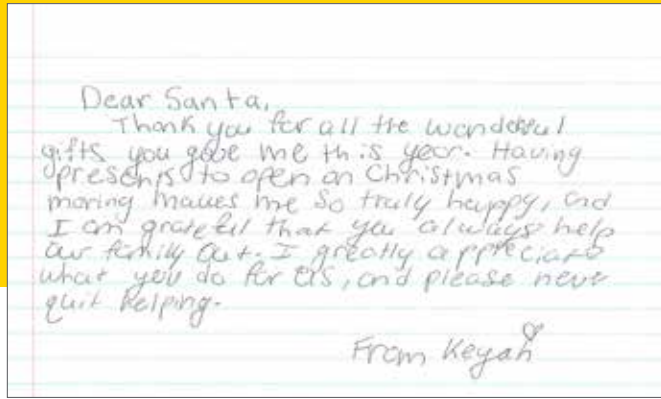
# FOR A CHILD IS BORN UNTO US...

Nearly all our neighbors live at or below the poverty level, making it nearly impossible for them to gather food for Christmas dinner or toys for under the Christmas tree. In fact, the neighborhood household median income is barely \$21,000. Wanting to brighten Christmas day for our neighbors and share the true meaning of this blessed day, over 300 volunteers, donors, and staff members worked to provide Christmas for 583 families (1,530 individuals).

Our neighbors receive one month's supply of food including commodities for baking Christmas goodies, hygiene products, toys for the children, clothes for the family, coats, hats, scarves, underclothes, gifts to exchange with others, and a \$15 gift card to purchase something special for their Christmas dinner at a grocery store.

Seton Center is thankful for our loyal donors and dedicated volunteers who make these Christmas blessings possible. We could not have done it without you.

Letters from three siblings expressing their gratitude for what they received from Seton Center this past Christmas.



## UPCOMING EVENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9 – 6:30 P.M.

### SWINGIN' AT THE STACK

Fiorella's Jack Stack  
Private Dining  
13641 Holmes  
Martin City, MO 64145

**“Cheerfulness prepares a glorious mind for all the noblest acts.”**

- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton





## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

*Oh God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry.  
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a warm home; help me to remember the  
homeless;  
When I am without pain; help me to remember those who  
suffer;  
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and  
bestir my compassion;  
Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.*

*Amen  
-Samuel F. Pugh*

## AS DEMAND FOR OUR SERVICES CONTINUE TO GROW, SO DOES OUR LIST OF NEEDS

- ✓ Canned Fruits, Vegetables and Soup
- ✓ Instant Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Packets
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta
- ✓ Peanut Butter and Jelly
- ✓ Macaroni and Cheese
- ✓ New or gently used clothes and shoes of all sizes and ages

Volunteer opportunities are available in our Food Pantry and Thrift Store. For more information, please contact our Director of Mission Integration, Shelli Lange at 816.581.4758 or by email at [Shelli.Lange@setonkc.org](mailto:Shelli.Lange@setonkc.org).

## WAYS TO GIVE

To help us provide services to our neighbors in need, please visit our website at [setonkc.org](http://setonkc.org), mail your donation to Seton Center, 2816 E.23rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64127 or contact us to discuss an estate gift option. We also welcome in-kind donations and prayers.

*Seton Center depends on your donation to provide services to our neighbors in need.*

Please contact us if you prefer to receive our newsletter by email at [mbiondo@setonkc.org](mailto:mbiondo@setonkc.org). We take your privacy seriously. We never share or sell lists or email addresses.

**“Live simply,  
so that all may  
simply live.”**

- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton