This spring, Jennifer Rose, Executive Director for Peace Connections, often left work with a smile on her face. She’d been receiving a steady stream of financial donations for Peace Connection’s Summer Enrichment Activities for Kids (SEAK). This free program for children in Harvey County (six- to 10-year-olds) has gained increasing popularity in the community. Though never before had such financial bounty poured so fast.

“We are forever amazed at the kindness and generosity of this community and are grateful for the outpouring of donations from businesses, individuals and churches,” Rose said. “Peace Connections also looks forward to partnering with the USD 373 summer food program to make sure our community’s children receive nutritious meals this summer. For many, summer can be a time of fun and friendship, but it can also be a time of isolation, hunger and added expenses. The support and volunteer time of our community helps bring back the joy of summer. Thank you, Harvey County!”

Continued on page 2
Many tributaries of financial donations have created this life-giving river of support, including White Eagle Credit Union, the lead donor to date with its gift of $5,000.

“Each year the board allots us so much money to use as donations to non-profit organizations, and they give an amount per branch in each of our cities,” said Debbie Morse, branch manager in Newton. “I like the SEAK program that Peace Connections sponsors. I especially like that it also partners with the Summer Food Program.

“Many kids in our community don’t get a balanced meal every day, and I am really impressed how the community is working together to address this issue locally. Plus, one of our staff members volunteered for SEAK and spoke very positively about it. I remembered her passion for the program, and I’ve read a lot of positive reports in our local press. We feel confident we are giving to a good cause.”

“Many kids in our community don’t get a balanced meal every day. ... I am really impressed with how the community is working together to address this issue locally. --Debbie Morse

Other donors seem to share her enthusiasm, given their outpouring of support, too. These donors to date are: Jim and Susie Wickiser, $1,000; Book Reviews, $1,000; North Newton Foundation (grant), $1,000; Gary Rediger, $500; Kiwanis Club of Newton (grant), $500; Midland Bank, $500; First Bank, $200; Vern and Helen Jantz, $150; Citizens State Bank, $100; Evelyn Quiring, $100; Salem Redbird Circle, $100;

The free SEAK program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last summer, stays fresh each year with a new theme. This year Sue Elder, program coordinator, will help the children explore the Animal Kingdom. Volunteer coordinator Cathy Willis and her group of volunteers will also make sure kids are well fed.

SEAK has a new venue at Slate Creek Elementary School, 901 E. Fourth St., in Newton. It’s where from June 5 through July 20 kids will participate in SEAK’s half-day educational activities, special programs, reading and crafts games. It’s also where from June 5 through July 21 free breakfast and lunch will be served for children and teenagers (age 1 to 18) from 8:30-9 a.m. (breakfast) and 11:30-12:30 p.m. (lunch). Call Peace Connections at 316-284-0000 to register your child for SEAK.
Golfing for hope

On Dec. 29, 2016, two days before he died, 97-year-old Paul E. Oswald played 18 holes of golf at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Newton. In late fall, he also ate lunch with Jennifer Rose, Executive Director of Peace Connection’s. She was one of Oswald’s favorite young leaders in Newton who coordinates Harvey County Circle of Hope.

To honor his memory and to benefit Circle of Hope, Peace Connections is sponsoring a memorial golf tournament in his name on Saturday, June 24, at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Newton. Still time to sign up on the insert form found inside this newsletter!

The late Paul E. Oswald was a huge fan of Harvey County Circle of Hope (COH) and of golf. To benefit COH, Peace Connections is sponsoring a memorial golf tournament in his name on Saturday, June 24, at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Newton. Still time to sign up on the insert form found inside this newsletter!

The rapidly expanding circle of Harvey County Circle of Hope is one reason why Peace Connections is offering donors a new conduit for helping families build more positive futures.

Recently, Peace Connections launched a “Create a Circle for Circle of Hope” campaign. It invites potential donors to create a group of givers that can help Circle participants to move up and out of a cycle of hopelessness.

The new giving option invites a group of individuals to contribute a sum that totals -- when added to the generosity of others -- a $1,000 donation.

The financial support provided by these Circles could not be more timely. In the past year, Peace Connections has expanded its original Circle program on Tuesday evenings at First United Methodist Church in Newton to include two new venues.

In mid-2016, Jason Reynolds, head of the Community Chaplain Response Team (CCRT) at the Harvey County Detention Center, invited Peace Connections to partner with him in launching a six-week session of the Circle’s curriculum for inmates. Jennifer Rose, Executive Director of Peace Connections and coordinator for Harvey County Circle of Hope, has led four classes at the center. The classes offer inmates education on financial and budgeting skills and goal setting.

This fall, a $4,600 grant from Hesston Community Foundation is allowing Rose and her staff to launch a Circle of Hope class for 18 weekly meetings (including dinner and child care) for Hesston residents.

“I am always thrilled when we can touch people with hope,” Rose said. “Even if we only briefly get them to think about their hopes and dreams, it can make a big difference. It can plant a seed that helps people achieve their goals.”

Call Rose today at 316-284-000 to explore creating a Circle for Circle of Hope!
WAYS TO GIVE

Monthly Giving is our sustaining grace. Call or come by for details on how to set up a convenient monthly automatic gift.

Secure Online Donation through PayPal is available anytime at www.peaceconnections.org.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give. Our volunteers provide nearly twice the value of all other donations combined.

Thoughts and Prayers are always welcome!

SUPPORTED BY United Way

Peace Connections seeks to inspire transformation in people and systems by building relationships, resourcefulness and resilience.

This newsletter is published three times per year by Peace Connections, a non-profit.

Peace Connections Director: Jennifer Rose
Newsletter Design: Ashley Bridgeman
Newsletter Writer/editor: Laurie Oswald Robinson

Board Members: Elizabeth Bernhart, LaRita Claassen, Margaret Goering, Marjean Harris, Gary Rediger, Curtis Stubbs, Jeanette Stucky.

The Board of Directors meets monthly at 601 N Main, Suite 303, Newton, KS. Meetings are open to the public.

PO BOX 1147
NEWTON, KS 67114

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PO BOX 1147
NEWTON, KS 67114

316-284-0000
www.peaceconnections.org
info@peaceconnections.org

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
10AM - 4 PM
Closed Saturday and Sunday

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, June 24

First Paul E. Oswald Memorial Golf Tournament:
A fundraiser for Harvey County Circles of Hope

Sign up today!

VISION
Thriving communities sustained by peace and social justice.
For the past eight years, a “miracle” has occurred in the basement of First United Methodist Church in Newton: no matter how many people came to the Tuesday supper for Harvey County Circle of Hope, no one goes away hungry.

Though you may not consider this scenario in the league with Jesus’ feeding the 5,000 with a few loaves and fishes, Margaret Goering and Leann Reber are certain Tuesday evenings come very close. That’s because in cooking and serving weekly Tuesday meals since Circle of Hope was launched in June 2009, strange things have happened.

“These suppers have been a ‘loaves and fishes’ experience, because it always seems we have enough regardless with what we start with -- or what we have to multiply,” said Reber, Tuesday evening supper coordinator since 2010.

She, with Goering (who served the very first supper in 2009), provide the main leadership for the prep, serving and clean up. They are attended by a regular corp of other volunteers, including Peace Connection board members LaRita Claassen and Curtis Stubbs; Ruth Penner, a member of New Creation Fellowship; Triana Cowden, a former Circle Leader; Alex Haas, a Bethel College student who has also volunteered to help with Peace Connections’ social media needs; Elmo Newman, a longtime participant in the Circle’s family; Carolyn Schroeder; and Gerhard Neufeld.

What began as supper for the first 12 Circle participants and their children -- totaling about 20 -- has morphed into dinner for about 65 people. The multiplication is sparked by the fact that both former and current Circles’ participants and their families, community mentors and others from the community attend the meal.

“The challenge is to find groups willing to prepare a meal for so many people,” Goering said. Sometimes, Goering and Reber hunt bargains on the produce aisles at Dillons, or call to invite folks to provide a part of the meal -- a salad to go with the main dish, or a dessert. Some of the community generosity includes donations of meat from the Salvation Army, and a monthly batch of salad as well as plateware and cups from Wendys.

No matter what the source, the food flows, and with it, the kind of warm fellowship that best happens around a table encircled by people from all walks of life. “When I first started coming as a participant, this meal, and the other folks sitting around the table, brought stability for my kids,” Cowden said. “It’s a great time for everyone to talk to each other, no matter who they are. And for some people, it may be the only healthy meal they get during the week.”
FIRST
PAUL E. OSWALD
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
TO BENEFIT HARVEY COUNTY CIRCLE OF HOPE

Saturday, June 24
Fox Ridge Golf Course
800 S. Kansas Ave., Newton, KS

Registration 7:15-7:45 am
4-Person Scramble followed by lunch 8 am-1 pm
Entry Fee: $65 per person and $260 for a team

- Golf, cart, range balls
- 8 am shot-gun start
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners
- Hole prizes and mulligans available

Tournament limited to the first 18 teams (or 72 players) to sign up!

ENTRY DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

WAYS TO HELP Peace Connections support its fundraiser for
Harvey County Circle of Hope:
- Sign up a team
- Become a recognized sponsor at one of these levels:
  - Hole in One: $1,000 or above
  - Birdie: $500 to $999
  - Par: $250 to $499
  - Bogie: $100 to $249
  - Double Bogie: $25 to 99
- Advertising: $100 for business/organization sign placed at hole
- Gifts in kind: rounds of golf, gift certificates, items for goodie bags (i.e. tees, golf balls, other), cater meal, food-drink items

For more information:
316-284-0000  jennifer@peaceconnections.org