



Community Focused  
Relationship Driven

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A nonprofit organization

### Store Hours

Monday-Friday  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Closed Saturday-Sunday

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November-December-January 2016

# PEACE CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

## A Night With The Stars

By Jennifer Rose

The night was filled with elegant food, enlightening conversation, and excellent service provided by a star cast of local celebrities! On Monday, November 2nd, supporters from throughout Harvey County arrived eager and hungry for Peace Connections' 3rd Annual Celebrity Servers Fundraiser at Water's Edge Restaurant in Hesston, Kansas. Chef Tom and his staff opened the restaurant's doors to arrange an outstanding menu of entrees, sides and desserts. These delectable meals were served to patrons by local celebrities who volunteered their time and talent in order to earn big tips for Circles of Hope, Harvey County.

The star cast of celebrity wait staff included Heidi Regier-Kreider, Chris Zuercher, Chad Frey, James Krehbiel, Crystal Gray, Leroy Koehn, Jason Reynolds, Patrick Garrett, Roxana Koch, Todd & Lynette Hendrickson, Viktoria Bichet, Adam Strunk, Tina Payne, Shaun Rojas and Thane Chastain.

With the help of devoted staff and volunteers, over 80 meals were served and \$1,700.00 was collected in donations. In addition to supporting Circles of Hope through tips, customers had the opportunity to bid on a variety of items and gift baskets in this year's Silent Auction. Donated goods for the auction were contributed by Newton Now, Alexander's Jewelry, Gathered Goods, Karen's Kitchen, Anderson Book and Office Supply, Blue Catter's-Pro Guide Service, Family Health & Wellness, and community members Deb Zeiner, Mackala Blair, Faye Mann, Stan Bohn and Pamela Barthel.

Peace Connections expresses our deep appreciation to the real stars of the evening, the countless businesses and individuals, like yourself, who continue to support our effort to inspire and equip families and communities to resolve poverty and thrive.

*Todd and Lynette Hendrickson were 2 out of the 16 local celebrities who helped serve meals and collected tips for Circles of Hope.*



## Ways to Give

- \* The sustaining gift of **Monthly Giving** is truly a blessing. Contact us for information on how to set up a convenient monthly automatic withdrawal plan.
- \* Secure **Online Donations** through Paypal, visit our website at [www.peaceconnections.org](http://www.peaceconnections.org)
- \* Participate in **Giving Tuesday** on December 1st, 2015 (See attached flyer)
- \* Please consider Peace Connections' Summer Enrichment Activities for Kids (SEAK) and Circles of Hope programs in your **End of Year Giving**

## Learning & Growing Through Circles

By: Gordon Houser



Although Dennis and Patti Carter each grew up in poverty, they were able to work themselves out of it. Then Dennis suffered an injury at work, and everything changed.

He had worked at Full Vision for 25 years, but the heavy lifting involved in the job wore him down until his back gave out. He went on disability and could no longer do such physical labor. After workman's compensation ran out, he and Patti started their own business, organizing respite care for people with disabilities. Five years later, after Kansas laws changed regarding reimbursement for services, they lost \$40,000 and had to close down.

Meanwhile, the medical bills piled up. Dennis had three surgeries on his back before one, in 2013, finally relieved the excruciating pain he lived with. "On a scale of 1 to 10," Dennis says, "my pain was a 10." Back in poverty, they joined a Circles of Hope class in October 2013 and learned how different people view money, according to the culture they grew up in. Because of the Carters' background in a poverty culture, Patti says, "even when we were making money, we tended to spend it." And with Dennis' medical bills, they quickly used up all their savings. After graduating from the class, they became Circle leaders and were put together with several allies. Through contacts at Circles, Dennis has been able to pick up some odd jobs.

And at the end of January, Patti became a Circles coach, which involves providing counsel to matched circles (Circle leaders and allies) and helping with other administrative tasks. "Through the tools we've learned at Circles," Patti says, "we've got through the medical bills and now own our own home." They've also adopted two grandsons, who are now 14 and 16. "We continue to learn and grow," Patti says.

### Every time you use your Dillon's Plus Shopper's Card PEACE CONNECTIONS COULD BE BENEFITTING!

Dillons plans to give away almost \$2 million to local organizations this year and it's easier than ever to designate an organization:

1. Visit [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards)
2. Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll Now"
3. Sign into your online account, or create an account
4. Find and select Peace Connections, and click "Save"



# Board Highlights: Relationships & Resilience

by Jennifer Rose

Don Swender has been a member of the Peace Connections Board of Directors since 2012, but his desire to help others spans a lifetime. Don's foundational faith guides his belief that "EVERYONE is a child of God". Don has spent his life helping others improve their circumstances and prior to attending seminary, he spent 17 years teaching college courses on public speaking and debate. This was followed by 32 years of pastoral service in the United Methodist Church.



It was during his work as a pastor that Don genuinely began to experience poverty in his community and the impact it can have on families and individuals. Don's pastoral work created opportunities for him to provide food, clothing and other assistance to various families in need, and he was always amazed by the resilience of those who didn't have very much. Don's eyes were opened each time he was asked for assistance; however, deep down he felt that although these services were needed, they only provided a temporary fix.

Newly retired and returning to Newton in 2009, Don became intrigued by the Circles of Hope model after spending a year listening to his wife tell of its wonderful benefits. In 2011, Don attended training and became a Circles of Hope Ally. "Circles focuses on relationships and the long-haul" Don said, "it provides a permanent, real change in life".

Don joined the Peace Connections' Board under the premise that 'as long as there is someone in need, I cannot be fully at peace'. His gentle presence has demonstrated thoughtfulness and provided insightful additions to discussion. Don has completed 3 years of service and will soon be resigning from the board. "He has a heart for our mission" said Jeanette Stucky, board president, "and that will continue even when he no longer meets with us on a monthly basis".

Over the last four years Don has participated in four Matched Circles, all of various time spans, and continues to volunteer at weekly Circles of Hope meetings. His presence on the Peace Connections' board will be missed, but the impact he has made will not be forgotten.

## **In case you haven't heard, Peace Connections is Moving On Up!**

In an effort to increase the outreach and effectiveness of the Circles of Hope and Summer Enrichment Activities for Kids programs, we are delighted to announce that we will soon be joining The Hub. The Hub is located on the 3rd floor above Prairie Harvest. Both an elevator and stairs are available to access the new office space. We are excited about this move and the opportunity it will provide us to collaborate and expand within the community.

To better prepare us for the move, Peace Connections is having a Moving Up Sale! Currently everything in the store is 50% off. This sale will continue throughout the end of the year, with larger items (desks, tables, cabinets) marked for sale in December.

Thank you for your ongoing support which continues to move us forward. You are an integral part of our vision, to create thriving communities sustained by peace and social justice.





612 N. Main  
Newton, Kansas 67114-2230

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter,  
check here ( ) and place in return mail.

**Vision: Thriving communities sustained by peace and social justice.**



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES®

**FESTIVAL SALE**

Nov 27 - Dec 5

10am - 6pm

**New Location:**

*Peace Connections*

The bank of **LOVE**  
is never bankrupt.

- Dr. Steve Maraboli

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

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

Peace Connections Director: Jennifer Rose  
Newsletter Design and Layout: Jennifer Rose.

Board Members: Jeremy Ashby, Elizabeth Bernhart, Margaret Goering, Marjean Harris, Gary Rediger, Jeanette Stucky and Don Swender.

The Board of Directors meets monthly at 612 N. Main, Newton, KS. Meetings are open to the public.

**THANKS \* FOR \* GIVING**

# GiveNow | newton

*giving tuesday*  
**2015-2016**  
*charities*  
**WISH BOOK**  
*CHANGE for CHARITIES*

**DECEMBER 1, 2015**

GiveNow | *Newton*  
Giving Tuesday | Charities Wish Book | Change for Charities

*GiveNow - Newton* is a local charitable giving campaign, designed to raise money for charities serving Newton. Please consider fulfilling a WISH, and let's all GIVENOW!

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Everyone's heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but did you know the following Tuesday is Giving Tuesday? It's a global day set aside for us to generously give back to the organizations we hold dear to our hearts. Let's all GIVE on December 1, 2015!

Come down and visit your favorite charities during the GiveNow-Newton Campaign.

### **GiveNow - Newton Community Event**

Newton Recreation Commission  
415 N. Poplar | Newton, Kansas  
Tuesday, December 1, 2015  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Cash | Checks | Credit Cards  
OnLine Giving | [www.centrankansascf.org/donate](http://www.centrankansascf.org/donate)

**CHANGE for CHARITIES**

### **Contribute your Change for Charities!**

Drop off your spare change at one of the participating banks and your contributions of change will be incorporated into the Giving Tuesday, GiveNow - Newton Campaign dollars raised.

### **PARTICIPATING BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS**

Bank of the West  
Central National Bank  
The Citizens State Bank  
Community National Bank  
First Bank  
Heartland Credit Union  
Midland National Bank  
White Eagle Credit Union

**NEWTON**  
*charities*  
**WISH BOOK**

Consider fulfilling a WISH for your favorite charity with the GiveNow-Newton 2015-2016 Newton Charities Wish Book!

The book features 27 of your favorite charities, their mission, community impact and their wishlists, including everything from donations to non-perishable items such as paper towels and crayons. No gift is too small and no budget too small for giving!

Find an electronic version of the Wish Book online at [www.centrankansascf.org](http://www.centrankansascf.org).



Visit our  
website!

### **For More Information**

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