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For Immediate Release

HOPE GOSPEL MISSION PART OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Nov. 22, 2004—Hope Gospel Mission will be joining more than 275 Rescue Missions across the United States in providing over 500,000 meals to the homeless and poor this Thanksgiving, making it one of the nation's largest coordinated efforts to provide holiday meals to people in need.

The fifth annual local Great Thanksgiving Banquet will take place on November 25 at Hope Gospel Mission, 8 South Farwell St., from noon to two p.m. An estimated 150 needy men, women and children will enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner as Hope Gospel Mission's doors are open to anyone from the community looking for a Thanksgiving meal and companionship.

“Traditionally, we serve more people at Thanksgiving than at any other meal of the year,” Gary Steward, Executive Director of Hope Gospel Mission said. “But this event is bigger than our community and our mission. The Great Thanksgiving Banquet is a table stretching from coast-to-coast where the most vulnerable citizens of the community are the welcome guests.”

The national event will kick-off at the New York City Rescue Mission, the nations oldest Rescue Mission, on Monday, November 22nd.

For more information about The Great Thanksgiving Banquet or Hope Gospel Mission call (715) 552-5566.