



**By Chris Hedlund,**  
**Program Director**

## Great Question!

*We often get some good questions about why we do what we do as a Mission. Here are some answers to some of these questions, with more to come in future issues.*

### ***How can my church be involved with Hope Gospel Mission?***

There are many ways to be involved. We are always looking for help with things such as driving residents to appointments, preparing meals, or helping us process the thousands of donated items we get every day at the Bargain Center or Building Hope. Supporting the Mission financially is also a great way to fulfill God's biblical directives to help the poor.

Another way churches can be involved is by becoming one of our partnering network churches. In this position, your church will be directly involved in the lives of our residents on a weekly basis. For logistical purposes we limit the number of churches doing this to a manageable number. However, if your church is considering being a partner church, have your pastor call Chaplain Bill at 715-828-5362 and discuss the process to see if your church is interested. They will discuss things such as availability of mentors, ability to transport residents, small group Bible study opportunities and our faith statement.

### ***Do I have to be a Christian to be helped by Hope Gospel Mission?***

No. However, our vision statement clearly explains that we are a Christian ministry. This means that we are not timid to proclaim that we believe the good news of Jesus Christ and do his work by being his hands and feet to those in need. At the same time, we do not require anyone else to believe this to receive help. Keep in mind that our programs operate on a faith-based curriculum. This means that our residents are introduced to Christianity and are required to attend a Christian church service on Sunday mornings. Hope Gospel Mission does not require our residents to be Christians to join or complete our programs. In fact, we have had atheists and residents of other religions go through our programs. One thing to note is that only about 2 to 3% of the people that come to us for assistance turn us down for religious reasons!

*Do you have any questions for Chris? Let us know at [questions@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:questions@hopegospelmission.org).*

## Upcoming Events

### **Thanksgiving Banquet**

Join us for a great meal on Thanksgiving Day from noon to 2pm at 8 S. Farwell Street. If you are interested in being a volunteer, donating food or helping financially, email us at [questions@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:questions@hopegospelmission.org) or call 715-552-5566.



**Christmas Dinner** From 5pm to 7pm on Saturday December 22 at 8 S. Farwell Street. Anyone and everyone is invited for this great meal! Includes toy bags for children. If you are interested in being a volunteer, donating food or helping financially, email us at [questions@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:questions@hopegospelmission.org) or call us at 715-552-5566.

### **Culver's Christmas Lunch**

Culver's on Golf Road will again be holding their FREE Christmas lunch from 11:30am to 1:30pm on Christmas Day. Everyone is welcome. On the menu: chicken, fries, soft drinks, and of course custard. Any donations received will go to Hope Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army.



## From the Executive Director

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 107:1, ESV)*

Is Fall your favorite season? The falling leaves, the heartwarming and rich colors, the cool air and breezes... Seeing children playing amidst the fallen leaves and rolling on them, the gentleness of the season...

Wow, what a beautiful time of year! Summer has ended, leaves have peaked in their colors and now we have the "leftovers" of autumn's last few leaves hanging on, refusing to leave their branches. Can you believe that one would call that beautiful? This time of year still amazes me. The beauty in the eyes of the most creative artist has me remember. "God chose change to be the conduit of growth and beauty."

Isn't that why we, as humans, are here? We are blessed to be the hands and feet of Jesus and we too get to be a conduit of growth and beauty and change in our lives, our families' lives, and in the lives of those we serve.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, I am most thankful for my family and this community I live and serve in. I am thankful to the God we serve and give him all the glory and praise to be living the life of servanthood in our valley.

So many amazing things are happening here at Hope Gospel Mission for us to be thankful for as well. We are excited to be on this adventure of growth and change, asking the Lord to guide us daily while we plan for the future. We truly covet your prayers as

▼  
***There are many families in need that we want to be able to help through a family shelter. Please pray that God would give us the resources we need to do this.***

we develop the leadership and direction of the Mission to honor the Lord, serve the residents, and open our doors of opportunity.

One of the hopes and visions that I,

►  
**Sandi Polzin,**  
**Executive Director.**



the Board, the Department Heads and our team have is to be able to create Transitional Housing for the men and women leaving our program and entering a brand new chapter in their lives when they complete the phases of success in their programming here.

Additionally, every day entire families are living in their cars or on the streets, or in a hotel for a night here and there. Thus our prayer at Hope is to be able to offer long-term programming and housing for the homeless families in our community. Complete wrap-around, Christian-based child care and family unity programming have been etched deeply in our hearts. This model facility would be separate from our other facilities and stand alone as a complete housing and educational hub for the entire family that we would serve. Wouldn't it be such a gift to families on the brink of falling apart, a safe haven to rest, regroup, and learn how to do life all over again?

Won't you partner with us in prayer, word, and deed? Will you help feed the population we serve for this year's Thanksgiving meal? Would you pray or give to those who are lonely and do not have loved ones nearby on this special holiday? Would you consider supporting these endeavors with a tax deductible gift this time of year? Your prayers will be ever so welcomed. No act of service is too great or small for our God. He sees it all. He is the Maker of it all, and he knows what the needs of Hope Gospel Mission are. For this we trust him.

May the Lord richly bless you this precious Thanksgiving Holiday. May your home be filled with scrumptious food, with everlasting memories, and with intentional Kingdom principle living.

God bless you as you plant seeds of HOPE,

*Sandi C. Polzin*

**Sandi Polzin**  
**Executive Director**  
[sandi@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:sandi@hopegospelmission.org)



## Unexpected Encouragement

*By Dave Mineah, Staff member & fellow servant of Christ*

There are so many wonderful stories to be shared here at HGM, I wish all who read this could experience and be a part of the miracles that God bestows upon us daily. All of us – residents, staff, volunteers, donors, those who visit our stores, our churches and especially our faithful prayer partners are all part of a very special family. Only God could weave this beautiful tapestry.

Let me tell you of how two Renewed Hope Program participants, Alex and Waylon, rocked my world and encouraged me when I badly needed it.

This last summer my church, Word of Life Bible Church, hosted a VBS program for kids. The theme was "Incrediworld." The objective was to minister to kids by teaching the wonders of God's creation. This included "Incrediworld Theme Park," a five night play. We realized we didn't have enough volunteers. I volunteered but was not enthusiastic about it.

Now Alex and Waylon have very full busy days fulfilling their individual program directives. The job training, educational training, and character awareness/development requirements they have here at Hope Gospel Mission are very intense. However, Alex stepped up to help not only with the play but also to work with the kids, a three hour nightly commitment! Alex's great attitude and dedication turned my phobia into anticipation.

Hours before the play, Alex's play partner had to drop out. Without ever even seeing the script, Waylon offered to fill in. Wow! What an awesome example.

We had an amazing VBS play thanks to Alex and Waylon (a.k.a. Gabe and Cody to the kids). They were the character heroes in the play. This made a big impact on the children, but also on the parents, guests, church members, and me. Best of all, they conveyed the truth of the Gospel in a way the kids loved and will always remember.

Alex and Waylon: thank you! You both have been a great encouragement to me and to all who participated in VBS.

Only by the grace of God,

– Dave



▲ Dave stepped out of his comfort zone for his church's VBS and was rewarded for it.



▲ Renewed Hope Program residents Waylon (left) and Alex (right) helped make Word of Life Church's VBS a success.

## In Honor & In Memory Of

*We thank the following individuals for their financial support of the Mission in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. Persons being honored or memorialized are in bold type.*

**Robert E. Andre, Jeanne Andre**  
**Gary Bailey, Susan Fox**  
**Gregory John Bredlau,**  
Dennis Bredlau  
**Addison Coates,**  
Dennis & Karen Wagner  
**Jim Coleman, Wayne & Erma Coleman**  
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John & Alice Dorske  
**Gladys Flory, Susan Fox**  
**Jeannie Gonyer,**  
Dennis & Karen Wagner  
**My Brother Jim, Alice Boehm**  
**Rev. David Kester,**  
Dennis & Cheryl Wiemer  
**Anna Kruse, Gloria Budik**  
**Carol Laizure, Elizabeth Laizure**  
**Edna Lane, Avery & Linda Burton**  
**Jean Nelson, Edward Nelson (2)**  
**Our Parents, David & Mary Fanetti**  
**Lea Rose Pastorello, Samuel Pastorello**  
**Jenell Plank, Lloyd & Jean Polzin**  
**Margaret E Scharmer, P. Ann Weaver**  
**De Wayne Solie, Ruth Solie**  
**Phyllis Velie,**  
LaVerne & Beverly Ausman  
**Phyllis Velie, Louise & Jim Peterson**  
**Harold Voigt, Tyler & Susan Widen**  
**Steven Wahl, Everette & Gloria Klopp**  
**Erma Zwiefelhofer, Bill & Ardell Kurtz**

## Meet the Staff: Jennifer Pedersen

I am an Eau Claire native who is continually grateful for the caliber of people we have in the Chippewa Valley. My parents have always been involved in the Eau Claire community and I am pleased to be following in their footsteps. I love to see what the Lord does in our community and in the lives of the men, women, and children that we touch every day.

I received my Bachelor Degree in Accounting from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. My accounting career includes employment with some of the largest accounting firms including Deloitte, McGladrey, and LarsonAllen (now CliftonLarsonAllen). I have worked as an office manager and Chief Financial Officer. I also earned a Bachelor Degree in Biblical Studies and currently help to administer a local bible school campus.

I am married to a wonderful, godly man who also works for Hope Gospel Mission. We have two beautiful children as well as a dog and two cats. I love to hunt and spend time in the woods or on the lake, fishing. I love to see how God's creation speaks to us when we

spend time alone with him.

I have seen many changes and growth since Hope Gospel Mission opened its doors. In 2003, I started as a volunteer.

As the organization grew I was hired to fill in many different positions in Hope Gospel Mission's social enterprises and the Ruth House while I home-schooled my two children.

God's hand at Hope Gospel Mission is visible as he uses his people to touch many lives through Hope's employees, volunteers, residents, and donors. Daily we are reminded that we here at Hope are his visible hands reaching out to those in need right here in the Chippewa Valley. It is my privilege to serve him in my new role as Hope Gospel Mission's Controller.



▲  
*Jennifer with her family.*



▲  
*Residents shared their life journey at the banquet.*

## Annual Banquet of Hope

*By John Ailie, Stewardship Director*

Our annual banquet was held at The Florian Gardens on September 17th. We were blessed to have many first time guests attending. Sandi Polzin, our new Executive Director, was the emcee. Chris Hedlund, our new Program Director, spoke about our programs designed to help our residents overcome obstacles to wholeness and how they are being transformed to be the people God intends them to be. Two residents from our Men's Shelter shared with the audience their journey that brought them to Hope Gospel Mission

*Continued on page 6...*

I want to provide shelter, food, education, work training and spiritual care to the homeless and poor. Here is my gift of:

- ☐ \$15.00  
☐ \$25.00  
☐ \$50.00  
☐ \$100.00  
☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to care for as many people as possible.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Hope Gospel Mission, PO Box 1127, Eau Claire, WI 54702**. Your information is safe with us; we will never share it with anyone.



Want to donate by credit credit card? Visit our secure website at [www.hopegospelmission.org](http://www.hopegospelmission.org) and click on "Donate."

## Items We Need

MS: Men's Shelter. RH: Ruth House.

- ☐ Deodorant (MS)
- ☐ Pillows (RH)
- ☐ Body wash (RH)
- ☐ Shampoo, conditioner (RH)
- ☐ Extra-strength Tylenol (RH)
- ☐ Pill organizers (RH)
- ☐ Umbrellas (RH)
- ☐ Ibuprofen (RH & MS)
- ☐ Coffee (RH & MS)
- ☐ Phone cards (RH & MS)
- ☐ Postage stamps (MS & RH)
- ☐ Double-edged razors (MS)
- ☐ Underwear, small (MS)
- ☐ Undershirts, small (MS)
- ☐ Electric knife sharpener (RH)
- ☐ White pillow cases (RH)
- ☐ Bath/shower caddies (RH)
- ☐ Exedrin for headaches (RH)
- ☐ Razors with aloe strips (RH)
- ☐ Shaving cream (RH)
- ☐ Hair detangler (RH)
- ☐ Lipstick (RH)
- ☐ Vacuum cleaner (RH)

All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off at our Men's Shelter at 8 South Farwell Street in Eau Claire. Thank you!

## Meet a Volunteer: Brad Tripp



### *Tell us a little about yourself.*

I am blessed to be able to retire. I moved from Southern California to Eau Claire in 2009. When folks ask why, I tell them for the winters! My family is scattered around the area and it makes holidays much more enjoyable. Summer finds me in the garden. I have a vegetable garden and flowers. I also enjoy arts and crafts projects and I particularly enjoy Christmas decorating.

### *How long have you been with Hope Gospel Mission?*

I started with Hope in February 2012.

### *What do you do at the Bargain Center?*

My assignment is divided between clothing and bric-a-brac. I'm the guy tagging and hanging the clothes. Pat (Clothing supervisor) has a formula for how much one should produce, in my case the timer has been replaced with a calendar. In bric-a-brac I generally put the "treasures" on the shelves. I strive to make everything appealing. I get to answer questions from the customers and hopefully be of service.

### *What do you like about volunteering at the Mission?*

There is a ton of cooperation and "Can Do" attitude here that I have never experienced in my professional life. I like the fact that I am part of something that is helping the community.

### *What is something our readers might be interested to know about your area?*

I am still amazed that nothing goes to waste. If it can't be sold it is recycled.

*Thanks for all your help, Brad. We appreciate you!*

## Prayer Requests

**NEW**

Want to support us through prayer? As a Mission Prayer Partner, you will be updated periodically on various prayer needs here at the Mission. To be added to our email prayer list, email Christine Lace at [chrisl@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:chrisl@hopegospelmission.org), or call 715-552-5566 ext. 100 or return this completed slip. Thank you for your important support!

- ☐ I would like to be a Mission Prayer Partner. My email is \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ I would like a tour of Hope Gospel Mission.
- ☐ I am interested in being a volunteer.
- ☐ I would like to give on a regular basis through credit card or EFT (We will contact you with details).
- ☐ I would like to have a speaker from Hope Gospel Mission speak to my group, church, school, business etc.
- ☐ I would like to include the Mission in my will.



## Annual Banquet of Hope (Continued from page 4)

and how they have been helped. Craig Pedersen, our Director of Business Operations, gave a very informative talk on how our social enterprises (Bargain Center, Building Hope, and Auto Program) serve our residents, community, and people in need. Craig also gave an update on the Bargain Center Renewal project, what has been completed and what remains, with an invitation to our guests to be a part of this special project. If you would like a tour or information on ways you can help on this project, give us a call at 715-552-5566. We thank the many businesses and individuals who were sponsors of the banquet and gave door prizes, the guests, volunteers, Hope Gospel Mission employees, and The Florian Garden staff who made for a very enjoyable evening together. If you would like to be a sponsor of our next banquet, please contact us for information.

## Sock Drive

From July to September, Hope Gospel Mission held a sock drive to provide socks for the men, women, and children that we help on a daily basis. Thanks to all of the area businesses that hosted a sock box and helped us to collect over 950 pairs of socks!



## Banquet Sponsors

*Thanks to the following Banquet of Hope financial sponsors:*

Associated Bank  
AutoCare Center (Clairemont)  
Ava Anderson (Kathy Ailie)  
Badgerland Printing  
Birch Street AutoCare  
Cedarcreek Community Church  
CliftonLarsenAllen  
Cottages at Serenity Lake  
Creative Memories (Kay Bradt)  
Crossroads Church  
Crusts Unlimited  
Curtis 1000 (Ross Kooiker)  
Dave & Brenda Robinson  
Express Employment Professionals  
FJ Schilling  
Fleet Feet  
Great Harvest Bread Co.  
Hagen Decorators  
Hallie Chiropractic  
Hartung Appraisal Company  
Huebsch  
Jeff Heughins  
Interstate Auto & Towing  
JC Auto Sales  
Kivlin Eye Clinic  
Marilyn Burgess & Dorothy Velie  
Marten Transport  
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Peters Real Estate  
Prestige Auto  
Randy's Family Restaurant  
Richard & Sylvia Thomas  
Scandinavian Imports  
Scheels  
SourceCut Industries  
Steve & Laurie Norlander  
The Florian Gardens  
Water Source Heating & Cooling  
Wells Fargo  
Wiersgalla Company  
Word of Life Bible Church  
Xcel Energy

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Office & Men's Shelter  
PO Box 1127 (Mail)  
8 S Farwell St  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
(715) 552-5566

Ruth House  
2517 Moholt Dr  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
(715) 834-4000

Solomon Learning Ctr  
307 S Farwell St  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
(715) 514-4291

Bargain Center  
2511 Moholt Dr  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
(715) 839-9498

Building Hope  
2108 Western Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
(715) 838-2084

Auto Sales  
2615 W Moholt Dr  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
(715) 830-0155