



theHOPE
hopegospelmission.org

Hope Gospel Mission's Education Center – Rebuilding Lives

January, 2009



Hope Gospel Mission's Education Center is committed to helping each resident in our Renewed Hope Program meet their educational needs and help them become more successful as an employee. We provide an opportunity for our students to improve basic academic abilities and gain computer skills with the goal of being more competitive in the employment market. Our desire is to see each person grow academically, socially and spiritually.

The staff in the Education Center is committed to creating an environment of hope and encouragement for each participant. We want to help each student move toward the potential for which they were created.

Employers have certain expectations when they hire a new employee. The average employer expects that their new employee can read and do math at an 8th grade level. An employer expects that a new employee can remember 5-7 things that they are instructed to do and the order in which to do them. If they hire an employee who can't read and comprehend at that level, then there is disappointment, dissatisfaction, and lack of potential for advancement. Based on an initial assessment, our average resident is at a 5th grade level in these areas. Not because they aren't smart, but because time, addictions and lack of resources have taken their skills away. In some cases they never had the opportunity to learn these skills and in some cases the learned information is gone. Their memory scores are about 60% of what they need to be and the average computer literacy is at 24%.

When a resident comes to stay with us, they go through an education program and work therapy internship that lasts about 12 months. During this time they are in the classroom in the morning and working along-side our staff the rest of the day. They are learning skills to help them become the best employees they can be. We focus on character development and work ethic as well as academic skills needed to get their careers back on track and become independent of Hope Gospel Mission. During this time we see an average overall increase of about 35% in the assessed areas. That means that most are at the 8th grade level, where they need to be, when they finish the program and they know how to use a computer.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "A man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, will never regain its original dimensions." Learning is a treasured gift that will follow its owner anywhere. Knowledge is power and with your help we are giving power to people who want it and helping people create options and choices for themselves that are better than the choices they've had in the past. Thank you for supporting Hope Gospel Mission.

If you're interested in taking a look at our Education Center and having a tour of how the learning process takes place at the Bargain Center, email me at chris@hopegospelmission.org.

Search and Give

You can donate to Hope Gospel Mission's Education Center without spending any money. Please help by using <http://www.searchandgive.com> as your search engine. You can create an account for free and then choose Hope Gospel Mission as your charity. This page works just like Google or Yahoo, but every time you search a penny is donated to the Education Center. You can set this page as your home page and you can set it to remember your log in and password so you don't have to enter it every time. I know a penny doesn't seem like much, but the average person does several searches a day. If you take 6 searches a day x 500 people x 365 days per year, that's over \$10,000 a year to help us keep our computer equipment and software updated. Please consider using this free service and ask your friends to do the same.

From the Director



“My grace is sufficient for you. For my power is made perfect in weakness.”
II Cor. 12:9. We can testify to the truth of this scripture as we have seen the sufficiency of God’s grace over the past year and throughout the ten year history of Hope Gospel Mission.

God works through weak people to accomplish His mighty and wonderful purposes. We thank God for the many people that have been rescued, rebuilt, and renewed in 2008. We reflect on a wonderful annual banquet, for all of you who have contributed by volunteering your time and talents, for you supporting us financially, and for your prayers and words of encouragement.

As we enter 2009 we are aware of people who are struggling with the loss of a job, financial concerns, and family issues. We come in contact with people who are hurting on a daily basis and try to help them with what God has given us. Sometimes that is a listening ear, praying with them, and offering encouragement. Our ministry is broader than just helping the homeless. Many look to us as people who can relate to them when they experience unsettling circumstances or emergency situations.

Our Renewed Hope Program is growing and we have a very good group of individuals in our men’s and women’s shelters. Our Bargain Center and Building Hope stores provide job training, employment, and tangible goods at a very affordable price. This is especially important now with the increased unemployment and rising costs from the cold weather.

We value your partnership with us as we continue to be a Christ-centered rescue mission for people whose lives are in need of rescue and who are seeking life changing help. It is a privilege to serve together with you.

If you have any questions, would like a tour, or if we can pray for you or help you, please contact us at: phone 715-552-5566, or by email at questions@hopegospelmission.org.

Education Center Computer Upgrade Project

Hope Gospel Mission’s Education Center assists residents with math, reading, reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, memory, writing, computer literacy, typing, application, resume, interview skills, work ethics, interpersonal skills, overcoming barriers to employment, socio-economic indicator barriers, anger management and conflict resolution in the workplace, character development, and other skills as needed.

All of this requires up-to-date computer equipment and software in our education center. Right now we have several broken chairs and our computers are getting dated and are too small to hold all the software we use. Additionally, there are software updates we’d like to add to the computers to make them more valuable as learning tools.

To replace the computers and chairs and buy the updated software, we need about \$8,000. If you would like to contribute toward this goal, please use the enclosed card designated to the Education Center fund.

Also, we have a need for reliable tutors to help us one morning per month. If you are interested in helping as a tutor, please email Chris at chris@hopegospelmission.org and he’ll set an appointment to show you the Education Center and the work you would do. Then you can decide if it’s something you are interested in doing.

Finally, we need people to pray for the residents in the Education Center. Pray that God will open the hearts of the residents to new ideas and new ways of doing things. Pray that God will help them to abandon bad habits that have become comfortable to them. And that they will respond positively in learning to be the person God created them to be. Thank You!

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding. Prov. 3:13



Meet the Staff



Chris Hedlund, the Director of Education at Hope Gospel Mission, has had an interesting past that proves God has been preparing him for his current position at Hope Gospel Mission. Chris grew up working in the newspaper business, but then suddenly changed course and began a new career. At his previous employer, Express Employment Professionals, it was Chris' job to assist the employer in finding the best candidate for their open positions. In order to do this successfully, Chris had to meet with employers and learn exactly what they were looking for in a new employee. What they liked and disliked, and the type of applicant they wished would come through the door.

Now Chris teaches everything he learned from that experience to the residents at Hope Gospel Mission so that they know not only what is important to employers, but why it's important. This helps them be more successful in searching for employment and to hone their employment skills to the employer's expectations.

Chris is a member of, and serves at, Eau Claire Wesleyan Church. He's been married to Traci for over 11 years and has 4 kids, named alphabetically, Ashley, Bethany, Corey and Dylan. He has worked at Hope Gospel Mission for four years, and continues to work at Express Employment Professionals part time.



Julia (with her Dad and brother) dropped in one day. She had been collecting coins and decided to donate the coins to Hope Gospel Mission.



London Stadium 7 and WEAU Channel 13 sponsored a showing of Kung Fu Panda with a food drive to benefit Hope Gospel Mission. Over 800 food items were donated.



Thanksgiving

Hope Gospel Mission put on its annual Great Thanksgiving Banquet on Thanksgiving Day from noon to 2:00 p.m. An estimated 275 meals were served. Over a three day period, 110 people volunteered their time and talents to help make this year's banquet the largest one ever. Thanks to God and all who donated food and for all who took part in this wonderful event.

Mailing Address	Men's Shelter	Ruth House
General Contact	8 So. Farwell	2517 Moholt Drive
PO Box 1127	Eau Claire, WI 54701	Eau Claire, WI 54703
Eau Claire, WI 54702	(715)552-5566	(715)834-4000
(715)552-5566		
Bargain Center	Auto Sales	Building Hope
2511 Moholt Drive	2615 Moholt Drive	2108 Western Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54703	Eau Claire, WI 54703	Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715) 839 -9498	(715) 830-0155	(715)838-2084



Please help us Fill the Fridge. Gateway Chiropractic will once again be collecting perishable food donation for Hope Gospel Mission. Donations can be made at Gateway Chiropractic (3519 Gateway Drive) from March 9th through April 3rd. Donations can also be made on Saturday April 4th at Festival Foods. Please call Gateway Chiropractic at (831-0955) or



Visit our website
www.hopegospelmission.org



www.agm.org

Christmas Dinner

On Saturday, December 20th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Hope Gospel Mission hosted its annual Christmas Dinner for the public. An estimated 200 meals were served. 85 people volunteered over a three day period to decorate, prepare the food, serve, and do clean up. There was a short message on the Biblical meaning of Christ's birth. Angela Brown played the piano to add to the holiday atmosphere. We thank all who helped out and to everyone who attended.



Nancy received recognition for 500 volunteer hours serving in the General Administration Department. She has now received all three awards.



Bonnie has 250 hours at the Bargain Center in the Lamp Department.



100 & 250 hours— Pam volunteers not only at the Bargain Center but for special meals at the Mission.



Our Vision: To help those whose lives are in need of rescue with the necessary support and resources whereby if willing they can become productive members of society.

This is how one should regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God I Cor. 4:1

LIVES RESCUED. REBUILT. RENEWED.

Please use my gift to house, feed, and care for those who want to turn their lives around in Western Wisconsin!

- Here is my gift of : \$ _____
- \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$ _____
- I would like to volunteer for special events.
- I would like a tour.
- I would like information on donating goods.
- I would like to volunteer.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Mail to



PO Box 1127
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1127