



theHOPE

hopegospelmission.org

Hope Gospel Mission's Bargain Center

Most of our readers have shopped at our Bargain Center, but hardly any know the full picture of why it exists and how it exists. We want to expand your understanding and appreciation of the Bargain Center and the many services it provides.

The Bargain Center opened for business in November of 2003. The purpose of the store is to provide funding for the overhead expenses of Hope Gospel Mission (HGM), provide job training for men and women in our shelters, and to be a Christian lighthouse in the community by praying with people and giving away clothing and furniture to those in need. We serve our community by providing affordable, quality goods to our customers while being good stewards of resources by recycling and utilizing, as much as possible, all the items we receive.

The Bargain Center allows for 100% of monetary gifts to HGM to be used to support our programs in helping the homeless and needy. Programs include shelter, food, education, and support staff. Your monetary donations are not used to support the Bargain Center.

Managers, staff, and volunteers in the Bargain Center have the privilege of working alongside the many men and women who stay at HGM's men's shelter and Ruth House (women's shelter). When someone first comes to live at HGM, they are generally quite broken by the storms of life and the choices they have made. At first, most just want to get a real meal, some clothes to wear and the peace of mind that comes from knowing they will have a safe place to stay for awhile.

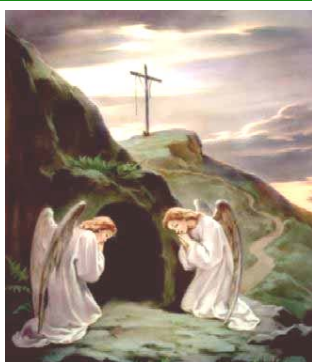
Once someone settles into the Renewed Hope Program they share with us their deeper needs; a stable job, education, a better understanding of God, and healing for the relationships in their life.

We see many go from the quietness of depression to laughing and joking with co-workers in only a few months time. Often HGM's businesses are the first positive, Christian environment in which the residents have worked. Each day begins with devotions and prayer for all staff, residents and volunteers present. We train our residents and give them regular feedback to develop them to become more employable. With the addition of our newer business, Building Hope, our program participants are able to obtain paid internships where they run the daily operations of a working business. Three current, permanent staff members of our businesses came through our program.

As a reader of this newsletter, a shopper, a volunteer, or a donor, you are one of our core supporters and we invite you to help by promoting HGM and our businesses to your friends, community, and business contacts. If you know someone who would be a good candidate for our Renewed Hope Program, please recommend our program to them and have them phone our Men's Shelter or Ruth House (women's shelter).

The Bargain Center has an ongoing need for donations of clothing, appliances, electronics, home décor, toys, and books. Your partnership with us contributes to the continuance of our many services to our residents and our community.

April 2009



Please join us for Hope Gospel Mission's Easter Dinner on Saturday, April 11th from 5 to 7 p.m. The dinner is free and open to the public. It will be at the Men's Shelter at 8 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire. If you need a ride, would like to volunteer, or would like more information please call: [715-552-5566](tel:715-552-5566). Everyone is welcome

Feinstein Challenge

Hope Gospel Mission is participating in the **2009 12th Annual \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger**. Alan Shawn Feinstein, Rhode Island philanthropist, is offering \$1 million to be divided among hunger-fighting agencies. Any donations (monetary or food items) received during March and April qualify for a portion of the giveaway. The amount we receive depends on the contributions HGM receives in March and April. The more you give, the greater the impact we can have in **helping the homeless and the needy**. Contact us if you need more information or go to www.feinsteinfoundation.org.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are in the ministry of changing lives and with God's grace we are seeing this happen day by day and week by week. We recently had a Phase Promotion at our Men's Shelter. Four men advanced to the next phase in our four phase **Renewed Hope Program** (see photo and caption on page 3). Three of the men advanced to phase four and one to phase three.

Each of the men spoke and expressed their appreciation to God, the staff, and the many supporters of Hope Gospel Mission. They realize that their progress is the result of much effort and many prayers. Two of the men going into phase four encouraged the new men in the program to continue and not give up. The men watch over each other like a band of brothers.

Our Program Director recalled how one man was so withdrawn, when he started in our program over a year ago, that he hardly talked. Now he is all smiles and speaks before groups of people. And another man is a greeter at his church and beams with happiness. Several family members were a part of the promotion dinner and testify to the positive changes they see.

Perhaps you know someone who needs our **Renewed Hope Program**. We have included a **Referral Card** with this newsletter for you to give to that person. Encourage them to contact us. Together we can continue to help Rescue, Rebuild, and Renew lives that are broken.

Please remember our men and women in your prayers. If you have any questions, would like more Referral Cards, or anything else, contact us by phone at **715-552-5566** or by email at questions@hopegospelmission.org.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.



Gary Steward



Meet the Staff: **Ron Wedlund - Bargain Center Retail Manager**

Ron Wedlund, the Retail Manager of Hope Gospel Mission's Bargain Center, feels like he has the best retail job to be found in the Chippewa Valley. Ron has worked retail since his high school days at North High School and at the Bargain Center since 2004. "Working at the Bargain Center is not like any other work environment I've been in. This is retail with a purpose and with great rewards. Every day is an opportunity to minister to others, whether they are customers, residents or work associates." Ron especially likes starting the day off right at the Bargain Center, where the day starts off with devotions and a chance to give thanks to the One who gives it all.

Ron has over 20 years of retail management experience and loves the fact that he can truly help people and make a difference in people's lives at the Bargain Center. "We see a lot of people without any hope and through the generosity of the people of the Chippewa Valley we can help those who have nowhere to turn. We know where our hope comes from and we are able to share how God has blessed us."

Ron grew up right here in Eau Claire and has been here most of his life. Ron lived in the Wild West for four years in Buffalo, Wyoming where he worked in grocery and did as much hiking in the Bighorn Mountains as he could. He has been married to his lovely wife, Pam, for almost 25 years and has two great boys, Shawn and Aaron. Shawn is in the nursing program at Viterbo University and Aaron is a senior at Altoona High School. Ron attends Pentecostal Assembly church where he helps in various areas of the music ministry.

Faith Evangelical Free Church, Chippewa Valley Evangelical Ministerial Association,
Community Arts, and WWIB Radio 103.7 Present:

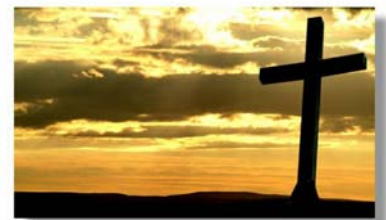
The Passion of Christ: The Word Became Flesh

Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m. & Thursday, April 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m. At Osseo-Fairchild Community Auditorium, Osseo-Fairchild High School, 13025 15th Street, Osseo, Wisconsin

Friday, April 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

At Memorial High School Auditorium, 2225 Keith Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call (715) 877-3510.

Please bring your used clothing, appliances, electronics, home decor, toys, and books to **Memorial High School** before the performances **on Friday** to donate to **Hope Gospel Mission**. The **Bargain Center truck** will be in the parking lot to receive your donations.



John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the **resurrection** and the life.
He who believes in me will live, though he dies..."

Mailing Address
General Contact
PO Box 1127
Eau Claire, WI 54702
(715)552-5566

Men's Shelter
8 So. Farwell
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715)552-5566

Ruth House
Women's Shelter
2517 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715)834-4000

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

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

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

Visit our website www.hopegospelmission.org



Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

To the left is Dan Adams, Mark Donnelly and Gary Steward with residents Matt, Lavern, Jim and Steve holding phase promotion certificates.

FILL THE FRIDGE was sponsored by Gateway Chiropractic from March 9th to April 4th. The event concluded at Festival Foods on April 4th. Special thanks to **Gateway Chiropractic, Festival Foods, Lebakken's** (who provided the fridge), and the many people who contributed food. Fill the Fridge provided much needed fresh foods and meats for the residents of HGM's shelters. We thank all who took part in making this event a success.



A youth group cooked for the phase promotion.



Mail brigade in action.

April 19-25 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. This year's theme is "Celebrating People in Action." We, at Hope Gospel Mission, want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers that come our way. We celebrate you! You make it possible to provide life changing opportunities for the people who come to our doors for help. You are people who care, who want to give; you are our neighbors and friends who inspire others by your example. It is only through the dedication and hard work of our many volunteers that we can continue to provide the level of services that we do. **THANK YOU!**



www.agrm.org

Visit our website
www.hopegospelmission.org





Gary and Kelly get a surprise.

Executive Director Surprised!

It is not often that Gary Steward is at a loss for words. Monday night January 19th was one of those rare occasions. Gary walked into a surprise dinner to recognize his 10 year anniversary with Hope Gospel Mission. Mark Donnelly, the founder of the Mission, spoke and presented a gift to Gary and his wife Kelly. It was a time of reminiscing and rejoicing and shedding of tears.

Gary was the first employee of the Mission and has witnessed the struggles and growth of Hope Gospel Mission from a start up to a well respected mission in the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM). We thank you Gary for your 10 years of faithful service to our community.

We remember

Remembered by:

Dale & Jacqueline Staebell
Kevin & Barbara Jantz
Dr. Jeffrey & Missy Stepanek
Robert & Karen Allen
Bernice Tollefson

A tribute to:

Dr. Kenneth R. Mitchell
Don Pardun Birthday
Peg Scherlin
Peg Scherlin
Smith, Bernice

Remembered by:

John and Marilyn Zmuda
John and Marilyn Zmuda
Bradley kids
Dawn Clements
Eddie & Jean Porter
Eddie & Jean Porter
Theresa Post

In honor of:

Lewis Anderson
Lisa Anderson
In honor of Dad's big 50
Mark Donahue
Jason and Milly Porter
Josh Porter
Theresa's Mom

Remembered by:

David & Brenda Robinson
David & Jane Rockwell
Westgate Janitorial Service, Inc.
Richard and Teresa Van Gelder
Swanhild Rasmussen
Judy Cigan-Hall
Swanhild Rasmussen
Swanhild Rasmussen
Margaret Benson
Don & Evelyn Townsend
Dorothy Dusick
Deanna Anderson
Mary & Joe Rindal
Nohre & Co., S.C.
Arnold & Arleen Prissel
Gwen Barneson
George & Mary Jo Halama
Billy Holm Monthly
David and Kathy Holter
Jean Holtman
Swanhild Rasmussen
Lee & Shirley Crook
Dennis & Karen Wagner

In Memory of:

Daniel B. Armstrong
Ralph Auen
Ralph Auen
Joan Bembnister
Perry Branville
John P. Cigan
Stanley Clemmens
Fern Dalhoe
Margaret Donnelly
Frank Dummer
Clarence Dusick
Timothy Dusick
Laurie Gunderson
Vernon Harper
Byron Hawkins
Byron Hawkins
Ralph Herman
Dorothy Holm
Edwin Hyland
John Ireton
Ray Lyreh
Julia Mallow
friends & relatives
who passed away
Norma Newman
Lea Rae Pastorello
Robert Repp
Blanche Reynolds
Joseph Rowan

In Memory of Lucille Anderson by:

Jack and Nancy Badger
Maureen Bushard
Karen Whitted
Bertha Chatterson

In Memory of Kimberly Loomis-Davis by:

Jill & Tom Books
Michael Longsdorf
Lorn & Joan Gunderson
Sonja Steel

In Memory of Elliot Meyers by:

Betty Pfister
Cheryl Hauser
Catrina Everitt
Peggy Meyers
Steve Ott
Blake Robinson
Vibeke Lehmann
Thomas & Kristen Kotz
Donald & Eleanor Hesse
Dale & Carolyn Meyers
Mark & Doreen Goetsch
Jeffrey & John Enyeart
Richard & Kathleen Cullen
Correctional Edu. Assoc. of WI
Glenn & Lynette Shields
Scott & Jodi Muschinske
Our Savior's Lutheran Men's Grp
Steven & Sally McHenry
Theodore & Linda Kozlowski

In Memory of Eilert Berg by:

Clarice Pierce
Evelyn Webster
Jeff Putnam
Les Larson
Marge Gharrity
Olga Vogel
W. R. Rowlett
Anne & Gene Roshell
Gene & Judy LaFave
John Bowman
Ludwig Jakober
Lavern & June Steinke
Richard & Rose Sippel
Audrey Persons
Jane Novaek
Kristi Erickson
Bernard & Adeline Feldprauh
Margaret Odegard
Vivian Landauer

LIVES RESCUED. REBUILT. RENEWED.

Mail to

NL 04/09



PO Box 1127
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1127

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

I would like a tour.

I would like to schedule a mission presentation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____