

# the hope

Hope Gospel

Mission's Newsletter



April 2011

[www.hopegospelmission.org](http://www.hopegospelmission.org)

## An Inside Look at Hope Gospel Mission

By John Ailie, Stewardship Director

Would you like to see and hear from the men and women in our shelters? Have you ever thought about volunteering? Perhaps you have talked to a Hope Gospel Mission staff member on the phone, by email, or through a letter, but have never met them in person. Well now you can get a virtual "tour" of the many facilities and services that make up the four locations of Hope Gospel Mission in Eau Claire.

We have recently completed a professional video series that show the work we do and the many programs we offer to the homeless, the hurting, and those wanting to rebuild their lives. There are seven videos ranging from five minutes to nine minutes each. In the videos you will hear from several men



▲ *Filming at the Men's Shelter last Fall.*

from our Men's Shelter and women from our Ruth House women's shelter. There is a video on each of our social enterprises/businesses: the Bargain Center, Building Hope, and our Auto Program. You will meet Chris Hedlund and see his humorous side in the video for our new Solomon Learning Center. Then watch the Stewardship video to hear from people who enjoy helping others through volunteering and donating financially.

You may have seen short, 30 second versions of these videos on television or the longer versions on Charter cable. They are all now available on our website at [www.hopegospelmission.org](http://www.hopegospelmission.org). You can now view

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## April is National Volunteer Month

*Thank you to all our hard-working volunteers. Your service is helping us rescue, rebuild and renew lives!*

If you're interested in volunteering and would like to learn more about our opportunities, visit our website and click on "Volunteer Openings" or call Justin at (715) 552-5566 #103. Also, be sure to check out a volunteer's testimony on page three.



# From the Human Resources and Public Relations Specialist: Sandi Polzin

I was born and raised in the Chippewa Valley. Working and serving in and around the same area in which I was born brings great joy in my work. I have been given many opportunities to serve in the Chippewa Valley. The Lord is truly working in my life.

I have been married to my husband John for 28 years. We have two grown children, Ben age 25 and Chase age 22. We also have a daughter Mazie Grace, adopted after the horrific earthquake of 2010 that rocked the country of Haiti. She is 4 years old. My family and I own Down to Earth Garden Center, Café, and Landscape Company. We have owned this family business since 1997 and recently set up our second location on the south side of Eau Claire. John and I serve in Haiti at the Servants of All Orphanage each year as the Lord allows. A passion for the hurting and the lost runs deeply in our hearts.

I love people and am in the “business” of serving others. I dedicate my life to intentional serving and giving and find great joy in bringing a completely new level of communication to each group of people I meet.

My current role at Hope Gospel Mission is that of

developing strong Public Relations in the Chippewa Valley. I love to teach others what an important difference they make when they serve those in need at Hope Gospel Mission. I have been working diligently on internal relations, (building team communication, hosting meetings and events, and writing our staff newsletter) and external public relations, (speaking at events, committees, coalitions, leadership conferences, and media opportunities). Recently I was involved in making several commercials and documentaries to show our amazing community the full line of services Hope Gospel Mission has to offer.



*Sandi with her daughter Mazie*

I host and lead meetings for both the entire team of Hope Gospel Mission and special meetings of the Board of Directors. My passion is to support strong and healthy relationships, no matter where God places me. In addition to my public relations role, I am involved in the human resource role at the Mission and assist the team with benefits, day-to-day communications, and fresh ideas to keep the team strong.

I have written for a few local newspapers and magazines on intentional living and serving and a couple of national magazines. I enjoy reaching my audience in such a way that would show them the miracles the Lord has provided in my life. My passion for orphans has led me to a third world country practicing what I preach here in America; loving, serving, and intentional living. In my “spare” time I also enjoy the outdoors immensely, reading and spending time with my family and friends. After all, isn't that the biggest part of intentional living? Loving, laughing, giving and serving is part of the sweetest moments my God given life has to offer. ♦



*The Polzin Family*

## New Employee at Hope

**Natasha Rasmussen** is Hope's new Instructor at the Solomon Learning Center. She is also the newest Resident Manager at the Ruth House. She has a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies and a M.S. in Guidance and Counseling, both from UW-Stout.



## Become a fan on Facebook!



Stay up to date with our events, store specials and more when you become a fan of Hope Gospel Mission on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com/hopegospelmission](http://www.facebook.com/hopegospelmission)

## Inside Look (continued from page 1)

them from the leisure of your home or at your office. Let others know about these videos and email the website to them so they can view and learn about how lives are being rescued, rebuilt, and renewed.

We have several staff available if you would like someone to speak to your civic organization, church, school, or business. See the article on page two to meet Sandi Polzin and hear about her work as our Public Relations Specialist. One of our top priorities this year is raising public awareness of the many programs we have that help the homeless through shelter, food, health care, education, work readiness services, spiritual nurture, and classes related to addictions and personal finances. There is hope for those who are in desperate situations and we want more people to be aware of the help that is available.

When someone takes a tour of our facilities, or now watches the videos, the typical response is "Wow, I

*Hear testimonies from residents and volunteers at [hopegospelmission.org/videos](http://hopegospelmission.org/videos)*



never knew you offered so much!" Part of the reason why people do not come to us for help is because they do not realize what we offer or they have a faulty perception. You can help educate yourself by watching these videos. Then you can encourage others to watch them or to come for a tour.

If you are part of an area business, we would love to talk to you about how you can be an effective part of this important work. If you are in the social service sector, criminal justice sector, education sector, or health care, please contact us so we can meet with you or provide you with useful information. Homelessness and addictive lifestyles are a reality in our area. Together we can all be part of the solution. ♦

## Great deals at the **Bargain Center**

### **NEW SALE**

**80% off a tag color every Monday.**

### **PRICES REDUCED**

**on all clothing under \$10.**

### **BRAND-NEW**

**summer clothing coming soon.**

### **EVERY DAY**

**more clothing & deals available.**

## Volunteer Profile: Cheryl C.

Cheryl is a retired nurse and lives in Elmwood. She has 5 grown children and 8 grandchildren. She began volunteering at Hope in January of 2011.

Cheryl volunteers in assessing and pricing items at the Bargain Center, primarily with antiques and crafts. She chose to volunteer at Hope Gospel Mission because she believes in our faith-based vision to help those whose lives are in need of rescue. Cheryl tells us that she's "im-

pressed with the quality and variety of products donated to Hope and offered to the public." She says that she really enjoys the people she works with.

When asked what she would say to a friend interested in volunteering at Hope, she said "Do it! Give Justin a call." Thanks Cheryl for being a part of the solution to homelessness and poverty in western Wisconsin!





## Culver's Free Easter Lunch

Culver's Restaurant will be hosting a free Easter Day lunch on Easter Sunday, **April 24th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** at its Golf Road location by Oakwood Mall in Eau Claire. The meal is free and attendees are encouraged to make a \$5.00 donation, with all proceeds going to Hope Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army.

## Sponsor a Fundraising Event!

Like Culver's, your business, civic organization, church group, or school can help the homeless by sponsoring a fundraising event. Proceeds will go to our shelters and programs that help men and women receive safe shelter, food, and practical help in rebuilding their lives. Call John at **715-552-5566 ext. 105** or email him at [johna@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:johna@hopegospelmission.org) with your ideas or to discuss ways you can bring hope to someone who feels hopeless.

## In Honor of...

*We want to thank all of our donors for financially partnering with us in our vision to rescue, rebuild and renew lives. You are a part of the solution to homelessness and poverty!*

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| <b>All Military Personnel, Raymond Nawrocki</b>                | <b>Alex Hummel, Gary &amp; Mary Hummel</b>                   |
| <b>Anyone in need, Arlan and Marlene Erickson</b>              | <b>Jesus' Birthday, Eugene &amp; Roberta Liedl</b>           |
| <b>Ellen Austin, Diane Moy</b>                                 | <b>Jesus Christ our Lord, Hal &amp; Shirley Campbell</b>     |
| <b>Steve Blihovde, Ronald &amp; Betty Blihovde</b>             | <b>Jesus Christ our Lord, Raymond Nawrocki</b>               |
| <b>Bonnie Brae Dairy, Jean Holtman</b>                         | <b>Many Friends &amp; Family, Anna Swada</b>                 |
| <b>Brennan and Nathan Booth, Emily M. Bowe</b>                 | <b>My grandchildren, Ann Shipman</b>                         |
| <b>Tim and Jina Burns, Barbara J. Teasdale</b>                 | <b>Marie P., Ursula and Erik Lindblad</b>                    |
| <b>Jim Coleman, Robert &amp; Lorraine Soderquist</b>           | <b>Ruth and Loran Lessard's Wedding, Garen Toloken</b>       |
| <b>Pat Fox, Andrew &amp; Angi Gunderson</b>                    | <b>Gary Steward, Dick Cable</b>                              |
| <b>Rep. Gabby Gifford, Delores Rabe</b>                        | <b>Peg Scherlin, Dr. Jeffrey and Missy Stepanek</b>          |
| <b>Anna Schultz, Phyllis Ede-Hovey Family, Teresa Killoren</b> | <b>51st Anniversary of Robert &amp; Donna Hall (3/25/11)</b> |

# Free Easter dinner

*Christ is risen*

*Celebrate with us!*



We invite you to share a meal with us at our Easter Dinner on Saturday **April 23 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm** at our Men's Shelter at 8 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire (Downtown across from the library).

If you need a ride, would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please call **(715) 552-5566** or email [questions@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:questions@hopegospelmission.org).

## Items we currently need

- Beef roasts (chuck & arm)
- Ground beef
- Cold medicines
- Ibuprofen
- Crossword or Sudoku books
- Yarn and crochet hooks

For a complete list of items call us at **715-552-5566** or email [justin@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:justin@hopegospelmission.org). All donations are appreciated and can be dropped off at the downtown Men's Shelter at 8 South Farwell Street from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. All donations are tax deductible.

[www.hopegospelmission.org](http://www.hopegospelmission.org)

**General Office**  
PO Box 1127  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
(715) 552-5566

**Men's Shelter**  
8 S. Farwell Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
(715) 552-5566

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



*Hope Gospel Mission is a member of the ECFA and the AGRM.*