

the hope

Hope Gospel Mission's Newsletter

January 2011

www.hopegospelmission.org

The Ruth House

The Ruth House is a safe haven for single adult women who are going through very difficult life experiences. It officially opened in November of 2005 and has been helping women in western Wisconsin for more than five years. The purpose of the Ruth House is to meet the basic needs of the women residents, prepare them for successful independent living, and foster spiritual growth through sharing the gospel. Each resident's stay will vary according to individual needs.



▲ Living Room



▲ Weekly Bible study

Women come to the Ruth House with a variety of needs and issues and each person receives personalized attention and services. Some women just need emergency help and may stay for one to seven days. Others may need short term help, due to the loss of a job or housing, until they can get back on their feet. But many women come to us with serious addictions, broken relationships, mental health issues, large debt, unemployment, and related issues that have resulted in them being homeless.

We address the root issues through our caring staff and biblically oriented programs. Our Ruth House facility provides a very warm, comfortable, and safe environment for the residents to begin rebuilding their lives. They receive an educational assessment followed by classes and mentoring in our Solomon Learning Center to give them

needed skills in preparation for employment. Our Bargain Center provides work therapy where they apply what they are learning in the classroom to the work place. Then they enter an internship program to gain further skills and to start paying down their debt and save for the future.

Residents attend night classes that help them overcome addictions and teach them personal financial skills. They receive spiritual instruction and nurture by attending a local church, having a weekly Bible study, and meeting with our chaplain. As residents progress in the two-year Renewed Hope Program they find a full-time job in the community and receive a mentor who spends personal time with them to help them on their path to independent living.♦

What Residents Say...

"I have learned how to live a structured life, by doing basic everyday duties, being accountable for my own actions and to live a faith-based life through Christ. Through HGM, the Lord rescued me and I give Him all the credit."

"The Ruth House has helped me by giving classes to get a better job and how to be able to work as a team. I am able to get the things done that I wasn't able to get through the government agencies and other people."

"I came to the Ruth House for a better life. I've received the necessities of life, food, shelter, clothing (and to some that is taken for granted). I've recognized that my life was unmanageable, mainly because of my addiction to alcohol. I sought many alternatives and finally realized that help had to be elsewhere. Hope Gospel Mission gave me a sense of belonging, encouragement, stability, better judgment, wisdom, and serenity. This is a place for me that is with God... to strive forward and live a life worth living, have a sense of accomplishment and acknowledgment that I am who God created and can be whom He wants me to be."



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."
Matthew 25:35-36, ESV

From the Program Director: *Dan Adams*

What I presently find so rewarding about Hope Gospel Mission, compared to my past 30 years of experience at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, the Los Angeles Rescue Mission and Hope Gospel Mission, is how we now do the work of rescue. As opposed to before, Hope now works and ministers to those with various issues of chronic homelessness while still assisting those who just need a helping hand because of adverse circumstances such as a job layoff, a tough job market, and eviction. In the past, nothing was more frustrating than trying to help those who came to the missions' doors with sincere attempts to change, but seeing these attempts hurt them and only help them stay in a destructive lifestyle. I can remember many co-volunteers and employees at the various missions (stated above) saying things like, *"We are not really helping them by only providing food, clothing and shelter if we don't also provide a tangible way out for people who want to stop their destructive addictions and lifestyles. We are just housing them while they continue to kill themselves."*

I remember several volunteers getting discouraged at this realization and quitting mission work. I have also felt this way in the past, but not at Hope Gospel Mission in recent years. That's because we offer all the tools for each man or woman who wants to stop their destructive lifestyle and learn a new, healthy, happy way of living. What does this look like? For some it is to be free of the



Dan Adams

bondage of addiction, to have a steady job, a home they can call their own, and a normal American life with a spouse and children. Still for others it may be gaining life skills and good disciplines to live by. With all these resources they regain a sense of being a productive, useful, contributing member of society.

One man expressed it so well in the *Right Start Right Step* class – a class that directly addresses all the issues of a destructive lifestyle. He heard that it was possible, with life changes by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, to not have to be an alcoholic or a recovering alcoholic. As he realized that he was not damned to a life of always being one or the other, he looked at me with tears in his eyes and his voice cracked with emotion as he spoke. He had found new hope! He could be set free, forgiven, and start again with a new life and a new purpose – his past transgressions erased by the Divine. What a joy to not only be the one who introduces others to such wonderful hope, but to see these men and women make life changes and reap the blessings God intended for them! It is such an encouragement to see them smile and say with tears "thank you," and to hear them give all glory to Christ. Being an instrument that God uses to help and bless people is, to me, one of the most rewarding aspects of the work at Hope Gospel Mission.♦

Meet the Staff: *Terie Fiore*

Terie has been a Resident Manager at the Ruth House since April 2010. She enjoys art, painting and reading spiritual books. She considers herself a country girl at heart. She loves nature and thanks God for its beauty that He has given us to enjoy. She also enjoys her private times listening to worship music and spending time in the Word – her escape. Her goal for this year is to continue to grow in her walk with the Lord as she serves Him by serving others. Here's what Terie says about her work at the Mission:

"I think of our role at the Ruth House as more of a gatekeeper: we are always looking out for the residents' best interest and for their safety. It is not always an easy task but it definitely has its rewards and I think that we will be pleasantly surprised the day that we all go before the Lord and see the difference that we have made in the lives of others through our labor and our perseverance at the Mission."

It is so much more than a job, it is a ministry and I am so thankful to be here. I feel that we are all part of a team working together for the same goal, to see people saved and set free, to be living productive lives and for them to really experience the life that God intended for them to live.



▲
Terie with her granddaughter Chloe

There are so many ways that people in all walks of life get ministered to here. My personal story is that God has been growing me through the mission. I am farther in my walk with the Lord than I was when I first came here and to me that says a lot about Hope's ministry. I have witnessed spiritual growth with some of the residents as well since I have been here and I have witnessed hard hearts soften."♦

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9, NIV

A Letter from a Resident in the Men's Shelter

One of the men at our men's shelter put a four page letter on our receptionist's desk a few days before Christmas. It was addressed to the staff of Hope Gospel Mission. The man who wrote it mentions many staff members by name who have helped him, but we want to share some of the more general excerpts with you:

"I will admit that this holiday season is very much bitter-sweet for me. On the one hand, I have so many regrets and reminders during this season that remind a guy like me of all of the faults, failures, and wrong choices I have made over the years. On the other hand, I have been given this wonderful opportunity here at Hope to face my failures, find forgiveness, and build a sure foundation upon the very reason that we celebrate this time of year together. It's because of what Jesus is doing for me and my life through all of you that I write this."

"I want to say thank you to so many other people I have been blessed with

since coming here. I will never forget the folks at The Bargain Center and I truly have great friends at Building Hope. Whatever your position or status here at the mission, please believe me when I tell you that you are affecting people with your service here. I can say this. I am proof!! My life is so different in so many ways thanks to all of you. And because of this I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!"

This letter really lifted our spirits when we read it. What this man shares with us is evidence that our labors are not in vain. The contributions of caring staff who invest their time in the men and women who stay in our shelters are reaping rewards. God does answer prayer and is still working in lives today. We want to thank all of those who share in this ministry of rebuilding lives. God works in and through individuals as we give of our time and resources to help those who need us. The prayers, donations of goods to our stores, the people who volunteer,

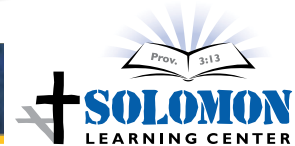
and your financial gifts all help to make this possible!

We have produced several videos that include testimonies of residents, volunteers, staff, and donors. You can watch them by going to our website at www.hopegospelmission.org and clicking on "Mission Videos." ♦

Want to be a part of the solution? VOLUNTEER!

Would you like to leave behind a legacy of service? We currently have a variety of short-term and ongoing opportunities available! We are also preparing projects and fundraising ideas for both individuals and groups for National Volunteer Month in April. To learn more call us at (715) 552-5566 or email Justin at justin@hopegospelmission.org.

Solomon Learning Center Class List



Class Info Key: Date Class Starts / Tuition + Materials (such as books) = Total

Intro to Keyboarding

Jan. 25, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$9.00 = \$28.00

This intro class briefly introduces the keyboard and the basics of keyboarding.

Interviewing Skills

Feb. 3, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = \$148.00

Identify your red flags and get rid of them. Learn how to sell yourself in a market where there are too many applicants and unemployment is high.

Intro to Microsoft Word

Feb. 15, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$9.00 = \$28.00

A new user's orientation to Microsoft Word. You'll be able to use all the standard features of this program.

Overcoming Barriers to Employment

Mar. 3, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = \$148.00

Felons and people with poor work history can get jobs too. This class helps a person understand why employers are concerned about barriers so that they can design a plan for addressing those concerns and get the job.

Interpersonal Skills / Conflict Resolution

May 19, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = \$148.00

Exploring the differences between personalities helps us understand ourselves and others in a different way. Have you ever worked with someone who is annoying? After taking this class, you may not think they are annoying any longer. If you are trying to be the best employee you can be, this class will help separate you from the crowd.

Intro to Microsoft Excel

Mar. 8, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$9.00 = \$28.00

A new user's orientation to Microsoft Excel. You'll be able to use all the standard features of this program.

Developing an Ideal Work Ethic

Apr. 14, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = \$148.00

Many employees think they have a good work ethic, but they don't know what the word 'ethic' means. They describe their work ethic with subjective terms that represent their opinion, not the employer's. Learn how employers describe an ideal work ethic. If you are trying to be the best employee you can be, this class will help separate you from the crowd.

For more information on classes offered and for online registration please visit www.solomonlearningcenter.org or call (715) 514-4291.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Hope Gospel Mission hosted its annual Thanksgiving Feast on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to all who volunteered over a three day period. An estimated 200 meals were served, over 30 bags of groceries were given out as well as candy to the children who attended.

Christmas Dinner

The Saturday before Christmas was the occasion for our annual Christmas Dinner. We had a full house with guests in both our dining area and fireside room. The program included a group song and a message from Dan Adams. With the help of many volunteers throughout the day, we served 230 meals and gave out 40 bags of groceries, Bibles, literature, and toys and candy to the children.

Culver's Christmas Lunch

Culver's on Brackett Avenue hosted a special Christmas lunch for the public. There were 225 meals served and the event raised over \$700 in donations. The donations were given to Hope Gospel Mission and The Salvation Army to help needy people in our area. Over 20 people volunteered to make the day a success. A special thanks to everyone who had a part in this Christmas day event.



Thank you!

Thank you **Xcel Energy** for a \$3,000 Community Contributions grant for the Solomon Learning Center.



▲ James Hanke from Xcel hands John the check.

Our appreciation to **Wells Fargo** for a \$1,500 Charitable Contribution that was designated for the Ruth House and Hope Gospel Mission.

We also want to thank **Gold's Gym** for their donation of 241 pairs of shoes to our Bargain Center.

Coin Canisters

If you own or operate a retail business with a good customer count, please contact us about placing a Hope Gospel Mission coin canister at your check out. We will service the canister and change the signs based on the season and time of year. The donations will help the men and women in our shelters.



Kwik Trip Card Holders:

Kwik Trip has a Rewards Fund-Raising Program for its card holders. If you're interested in helping HGM in this simple way call Kwik Trip toll free at (800) 305-6666 and press 0. Thank you!



New Toastmasters Group

Solomon Learning Center is launching a Toastmasters Group! Many people pay high fees for seminars to gain the skill and confidence necessary to face an audience. Toastmasters provides an option that is less expensive and held in high regard in business circles. Fine tune your speaking skills and develop your leadership skills. This group will be open to the public and will meet once a week over lunchtime. If you are interested in being a charter member of this group, please email Chris at chris@hopegospelmission.org or call him at (715) 225-0682 right away.

www.hopegospelmission.org

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

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

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

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



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

Items we currently need

Hope Gospel Mission's homeless shelters for both single men and single women are in need of donated items including:

- Double edged disposable razors
- Deodorant for men
- Men's socks
- Men's underwear (sizes S, M, and L)
- Coffee
- Canned corn and green beans
- Beef, pork, and venison.
- Phone calling cards

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