

the hope

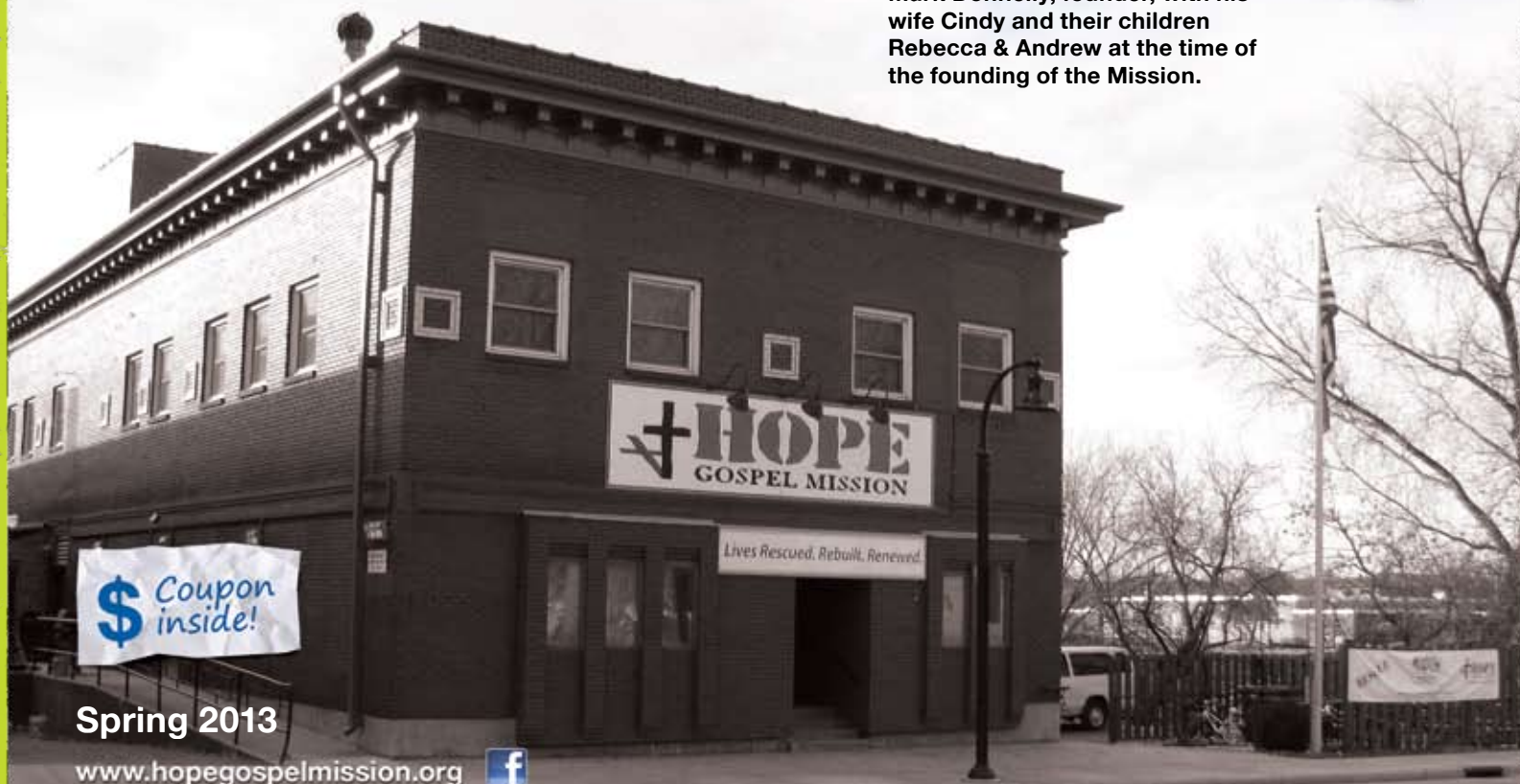
The newsletter of **HOPE**
GOSPEL MISSION

Celebrating 15 Years of Service

*Part One: The Birth of Hope
Gospel Mission (1993-2000)*



Mark Donnelly, founder, with his wife Cindy and their children Rebecca & Andrew at the time of the founding of the Mission.





Celebrating 15 Years of Service

Part One: The Birth of Hope Gospel Mission (1993-2000)

I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home but didn't come to trust the Lord as my Savior until I was about 30 years old. At that time I was a successful businessman trying to live the American dream which had left me empty inside. This caused me to start seeking for answers to the meaning of life and God gracefully drew me to himself and saved me in the summer of 1987. Instead of wanting to live my life for myself, I now wanted to live for Him!

In the fall of 1993 my former pastor challenged me about what I wanted to do for the Lord. I shared with him my desire

Top picture: Hope started serving food to the community as soon as our doors opened.

Bottom picture: Mark, with former Executive Director Gary Steward and Board Member Chuck Hartung, at the opening of the Men's Shelter in 2000.



to help those less fortunate than myself. Since he had served in several different rescue missions over the years, he gave me the book, "The Romance of Rescue," which details the history of the rescue mission movement in America. I felt this was something that God wanted me to pursue.

Not long after this, I was given a tour of the L.E. Phillips Senior Center building. I thought that it would make a great rescue mission. I started looking into what would be involved in starting a rescue mission in 1994, but it seemed overwhelming at that time. I was running our family business and my wife and I had just started our family. Every time that I would drive by the building, I would come under conviction about using the building for a rescue mission. When God calls you to do something, he doesn't give up!

Then in the summer of 1998, I happened to talk to one of the owners of the building. He said that things hadn't worked out as planned and asked me if I knew of anyone that might want to buy the building! God had opened the door again for me and this time I decided to step through it by faith! Since I was a businessman, I thought I should do some research to see what the need was in our community. I met with several local organizations that helped the homeless and they all agreed that the biggest need in our community was for single men. Next, I started looking at rescue

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Fill the Fridge

Get a raffle ticket when you donate!

Hope Gospel Mission needs perishable food items, so Gateway Chiropractic and Acupuncture for Wellness are holding Fill the Fridge, a special food drive to provide for Hope's food needs. Drop off any perishable food item from 8 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday at Gateway Chiropractic Center & Acupuncture for Wellness, 3420 Mall Drive in Eau Claire (Next to Coffee Grounds).

You can also donate food Saturday April 27 from 11 AM to 2 PM at Festival Foods. A fridge will be on site to accept donations.

Raffle, Open House, and final day of food drive are Thursday, May 2 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Gateway Chiropractic Center & Acupuncture for Wellness. There will be food, a raffle for prizes from local businesses, and Laura Berndt of Body N Soul will be doing chair massages for \$1 per minute with all proceeds going to Hope Gospel Mission. ♦

Moving Up

Congrats to the guys and gals in the Renewed Hope Program who have reached various milestones of recovery and life improvement in the last few months.

Every last Friday of the month we provide a meal and a ceremony to recognize the hard work that our program participants have put in. Join us at 6:00 PM on the last Friday of every month in support of our residents! ♦



The following residents' names have been changed to initials for anonymity.

A Broken Heart, Mending

M arrived at the Mission in the winter of 2013. He arrived broken-hearted, addicted to marijuana, and in trouble with the law. At the age of 23, M knew he needed a new life and a fresh start. He was hoping the Mission would put him on the right track. M had been heavily influenced by his Muslim-born brother-in-law, so when M arrived at the Mission he asked for a Koran. Since his arrival M has asked a lot of questions about Christianity, specifically the role of Jesus. M became aware of his need for Jesus as his savior and, despite his brother-in-law's influence and possible rejection, M accepted Jesus as his savior.

Rekindling the Fire

Six year ago A was on fire for the Lord. She attended a Bible college and was one credit short from completing her degree when Satan took hold of her and she fell into a life of alcohol and sin. A remained in a downward spiral in the following years. Broken, A came to the Mission. She knew that if she was ever going to get her Christian life back it would be at Hope Gospel Mission. A is remembering scriptures and is seeking guidance for change through the Holy Spirit. Just the other day A wanted \$23 for a vase and flowers. After obtaining the check for her purchase she was overcome with an uneasy, restless feeling. She sought after the Lord and He revealed the real reason why she wanted the money,

215 Served at Easter Dinner

With the help of over 50 volunteers, 112 lbs. of ham, and 40 candy bags, our Easter Dinner was a success. 215 people were served a great meal of ham, rice pilaf, sweet potatoes, carrots, lemon bars and more on Saturday March 30. Thanks to:



- Our volunteers who came out as individuals and families to lend a hand;
- Mega Foods for providing much of the food for this event
- All of our donors who made this event possible through your financial gifts.

A note from a dinner guest...

HGM,

I have taken part in two meals at the holiday season, one Thanksgiving and one Christmas. Thanks so much for providing a meal and fellowship for those who have nowhere else to go! You truly have the spirit of Christ. God bless you and those who you serve.

-Your friend D.

Thanks!

Thanks to Jeremiah and April Bowe, owners of Culver's on Golf and Brackett in Eau Claire, for hosting a free Easter lunch for the community. They and their family and friends staffed the successful and fun event to bring a delicious meal of chicken, fries, custard and more to everyone and anyone who walked in the door. Funds raised at this event went to provide for the men and women in our programs and to the Salvation Army.



25% OFF Any one item.

NLSPR2013

Cannot be combined with other offers (Building Hope only: does not include appliances or non-coupon related items. Item must be of equal or lesser value of \$400.). Expires 7/1/2013.

 **HOPE**
GOSPEL MISSION
BARGAIN CENTER

2511 Moholt Dr, Eau Claire

BUILDING
 **HOPE**

2108 Western Ave, Eau Claire



Find us on Facebook



Items We Need



Here are some important items that we need. To see a complete list, visit www.hopegospelmission.org and click on "Spring Newsletter" under the news. Please drop off any items on this list at 8 South Farwell Street in Eau Claire at any time.

- 15 passenger van (Call 715-271-4673 for info)
- Men's boxers, all sizes
- Men's undershirts, small to medium
- Hygiene items (soap, razors, deodorant)
- Stamps
- Tylenol
- Coffee



House Needed for Program Graduates

In order to enhance our programs for our residents who have completed our long-term program, we are looking to rent a house for two to four residents in a safe neighborhood. These residents would share the house and we would have a staff person living on site also. Hope Gospel Mission would be responsible for the lease. If you have a house to offer, please contact Chris Hedlund at Hope Gospel Mission at chris@hopegospelmission.org or call 715-514-4291.

In Memory

Thank you to those who gave in memory of a loved one or cause. To view a complete list of those who have given, visit our website at www.hopegospelmission.org and click on "Spring Newsletter" under the news.

Celebrating (continued from page 2)

missions around the Midwest.

The owner of the building I was interested in was an architect and worked with me on the plans to remodel the building into a shelter. By late fall of 1998 I formed a board of directors. My wife Cindy came up with the name Hope Gospel Mission, since

God offers hope to all through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God provided the funds and we purchased the building. We now had an empty building and a grand vision!

In January of 1999, Gary Steward was hired to assist with the remodeling and fundraising for the Men's shelter. The remodeling

and fundraising took us longer than expected, but God worked through many faithful donors and volunteers to make the Men's shelter a reality. We finally opened our doors in October of 2000. When God calls someone to do a task, He sees it through to completion.

As part of our 15 year anniversary, we encourage you to share what Hope Gospel Mission means to you or how it has affected you as a shopper at our stores, donor, or volunteer. We might even share your story in our next newsletter! To share your story visit the following web link: svy.mk/YJISwp, or tell us on Facebook, write us, or email us at questions@hopegospelmission.org! ♦

“Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him. (Psalm 41:1)”

Teaching Character

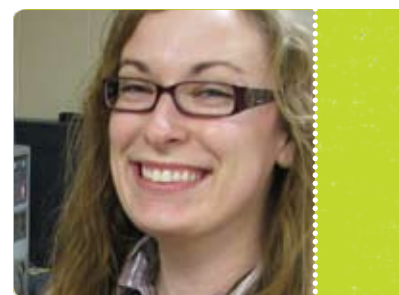
Many problems in the home, classroom, and workplace can be traced back to a lack of character. The root of success must be a foundation of character and attitude. At Solomon Learning Center, we use a character curriculum called Character First to help residents build integrity, strengthen relationships, and develop leadership skills. But what is character?

Character is the values we possess that determine our outward performance. It is the moral compass that steers the course of our lives. Our character affects everything we do. That is why character is so important. It has the power to transform our work and helps to form healthy relationships in our lives.

In the classroom we take the time to study 49 character traits, and how we can build them into our lives. It takes humility to admit our weaknesses of character, and each day residents are examining their past attitudes, morals, and values and determining what they need to build into their lives to become the person they have always wanted to be.

“Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are to some extent a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece, by thought, choice, courage, & determination.”

– John Luther



By Natasha Wilkens, Supervisor at the Solomon Learning Center.



SLC staff & volunteers work one on one with the residents & students from the community.

www.hopegospelmission.org

facebook.com/hopegospelmission

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 Center

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