



FAQ's about Hope Gospel Mission's proposed new Men's Facility

- **Why are we replacing our current facility?** Our current men's facility is old and not suitable for our longer term program. We have limited parking, no green space and no room for transitional housing. The City has also identified it as a blighted property, so it doesn't make sense for us to put more money into it. The new facility is state-of-the art and would allow us to more effectively serve our residents and community.
- **Why did we choose the Mercantile Drive site?** Most of our residents do their work training at our Bargain Center store on Moholt Drive. The proposed site is conveniently located within two blocks from the Bargain Center. We have already been in this neighborhood since 2003 with our Bargain Center store and Ruth House which has served homeless single women since 2005.
- **Is HGM a homeless shelter?** No, we are a rescue mission that offers a long-term, Christian based program for homeless individuals that want to change their lives. We do offer short-term stays for interested individuals that want to come in and check us out, who may choose to enter the program at a later date.
- **How will the new facility affect the safety of the neighborhood?** Hope Gospel Mission is very concerned about safety, not only within the neighborhood but also with our staff, volunteers, customers and residents. Here are some things we do to create a safe environment:
 - ✓ We are not a "no questions asked" homeless shelter and are selective of who we take.
 - ✓ We interview and run background checks on all potential residents.
 - ✓ Residents do not line up at our door at night or loiter around our facility during the day.
 - ✓ We do not take high-risk individuals. Any pending legal issues must be resolved before entering our program.
 - ✓ Residents are required to take their prescribed medications.
 - ✓ They must follow the rules and be able to work.
 - ✓ They must have a desire to change their lives for the better.
 - ✓ Residents work and attend classes during the day. We have a very structured program.
 - ✓ We provide most of the transportation for them. We also provide bicycles and bus tokens for their transportation needs.
 - ✓ They are required to be in by dinner time every evening. They attend church on Sunday.
 - ✓ Our facilities are staffed 24/7 with security cameras.
 - ✓ We are a non-smoking facility and have a zero tolerance policy for weapons, drugs and alcohol. We do breathalyzer testing daily and drug testing on a regular basis.
- **Have you had any incidents at your current facility?** Our current House of Hope men's home has been located across the street from the public library and next to the State Theatre for the past 16 years and we have never had any major incidents. The police are very rarely called to our facilities. We have already been located in the proposed neighborhood with our Bargain Center (where the residents work during the day) and Ruth House (our facility for housing homeless single women) for 10-12 years.

The residents walk to the stores, ride their bikes and use the bus system and we have never had any major incidents.

- **What are some of the issues that our residents have?** Most struggle with alcohol and drug addictions. We are not a detox facility, so they need to be drug and alcohol free before they enter our program. They are not forced to be in our program but want to be here to receive help. Many struggle with keeping a job, poor use of money, lack of education, work ethic and life skill problems, etc. We provide them the necessary help they need to become productive members of our community.
- **How long do they stay with you?** Our average resident stays with us for about 250 days, with some staying only a few days and others up to several years. We have a short stay program of up to 30 days for those that need help finding a job or housing and want to learn about our program. For those that need more help we offer our 12-16 month Renewed Hope Program. Our new facility will also allow us to do transitional housing for an additional 12 months. These single apartment style units will allow a resident to stay connected to Hope Gospel Mission while they are employed and help them make a smooth transition back into our community.
- **What will the new facility offer?**
 - ✓ Housing will be provided for up to 14 men in a 30 day program, 24 beds will be provided for men in a focused 12 to 16 month long life skills program, and 8 beds will be provided for program graduates living in transitional housing units after graduation from the first two programs.
 - ✓ Offices for up to six staff members, kitchen, dining, laundry, classrooms, computer lab, exercise areas, and dining facilities large enough to accommodate resident graduations and special events will complete the 15,380 sq. ft. building.
 - ✓ A detached two car garage to house bicycles, lawn mowers, etc.
 - ✓ Two outdoor patio areas and a vegetable garden where residents will grow fruit and vegetables for their own consumption.
 - ✓ Parking for up to 40 cars.
 - ✓ Undeveloped space adjacent to the building has been set aside for potential expansion in 10 to 20 or more years for up to 12 more short stay men, 14 long term program men and four more transitional residents.
- **Won't the new facility be too far away from the services provided downtown?** Since we provide (within our own facilities and services) meals, transportation, and most of the services our residents need, this is not an issue.
- **When will the new facility be completed?** Before we start construction we first need to do a capital campaign to raise the funds. The earliest the project would start would be the spring of next year, however, it could be 2017 before we could start, depending upon the funds being available.
- **How are you funded?** Through donations to our stores and financial contributions from our donors who include individuals, businesses, churches and foundations. We receive no government funding.
- **Will the new facility affect property values?** The new facility is a \$2.5 million state-of-the-art facility that fits the general development plan of the city. It will enhance the neighborhood.
- **Did you give proper notice of your intentions?** Yes, we have canvassed the neighborhood and gave advance notification to the City and the School District.
- **What should I do if I have more questions?** Please feel free to call or email our Executive Director, Sandi Polzin at 715-839-9498 ext. 1112. Her email address is sandi@hopegospelmission.org You may view information on our programs and services on our website: www.hopegospelmission.org