

You Help Our Beautiful Community

Thank you!

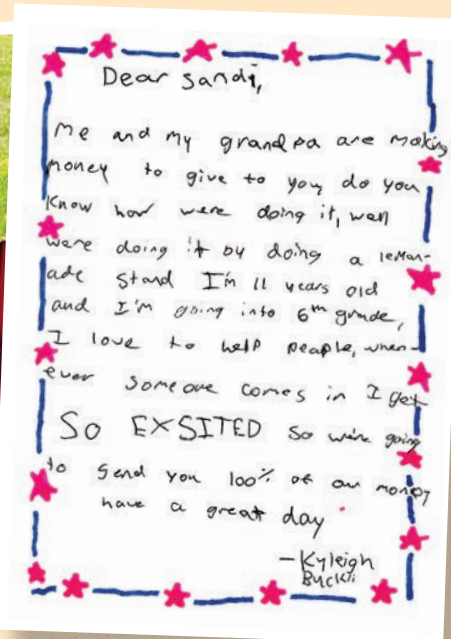
A Life-Saving Fundraiser

Earlier this year, friends of Hope Gospel Mission offered a \$1 for \$1 Matching Gift Opportunity to raise money for Automated External Defibrillator units in honor of their son who was lost to suicide.

Your and their generosity combined provided:

- ✓ **8 new AED units (one for each Mission location)**
- ✓ **Pediatric pads and an anti-choking device for the Hope Renewal Center for Women and Children**
- ✓ **The necessary staff training on the use of the new devices**

We are so grateful to our friends for these donations. We hope we never need to use them, but these AED units are a blessing.



An 11-Year-Old with a Heart for Others

This summer, a sweet 11-year-old named Kyleigh told her grandpa she wanted to raise money for Hope Gospel Mission. They put together a lemonade stand and served delicious and refreshing treats for 45 customers. After all this hard work, Kyleigh blessed the Mission with \$120.

Way to go Kyleigh! **Thank you!**



Changing Kids' Lives

On Tuesday, August 10th, change donations were collected at area Northwestern bank locations; Over \$17,000 was raised. WOW! What a blessing!



“You saved my life. Thank you!”

When Jake was sentenced to eight years in prison, he told the judge, “Thank you.”

After more than twenty years addicted to methamphetamine, living on the streets or in jail, he felt tremendous relief. He had no more worries about where he was going to sleep or where his next meal would come from. “This peace came over me. It was God relieving me from the addiction and the lifestyle I’d been living for so long.”

Jake knew prison would be lonely, but he had been alone for years, with no one to stand behind him morally or emotionally — not even his family. “I turned to the one who had given me peace, and that was God.”

While in prison, Jake prayed every night and attended church services and Bible study. He also earned his GED and took college courses. His good behavior qualified him for early release, but he had nowhere to go.

After many years apart, Jake reached out to his mother, who connected him with Hope Gospel Mission. He joined the program and focused on rebuilding his life. “Coming here has been the

biggest gift anyone has ever given me,” he says. “The staff here knows everything it takes to build a spirit-filled life. They do amazing work.”

So amazing that when Jake came across a pipe filled with meth while cleaning up some garbage, he immediately called his supervisor to come and take it. “I handled this of my own free will, with no hesitation. I could not believe it! Then I grabbed another handful of garbage and found a pad of paper and on the front it said, ‘Believe It.’”

It’s easy now for Jake to believe he has a bright future, and he hopes to lead others out of addiction as well. He plans to enroll in AODA (Alcohol and Other Drugs) counselor and peer support classes and hopes to work as a counselor when he completes his degree.

Jake has also fully reconciled with his mother and calls his teen-aged son and daughter every day.

“When I came to Hope, that’s what they gave me — hope,” Jake says. Every day, he sees your contributions changing his life and those of the other residents, and he is very grateful. “You saved my life. Thank you so much!”

Many gifts are given throughout the year in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

You can see a list of these special gift recognitions by viewing the online newsletter at HopeGospelMission.org

Thanksgiving 2021



the hope



Grateful Hearts and Smiling Faces - From Those You Help

INSIDE: Erin's Story • Thanksgiving is coming! • Jake's Story



Sandi Polzin
Executive Director

And let the peace
of Christ rule in
your hearts, to
which indeed you
were called in
one body. And be
thankful.

— Colossians 3:15, ESV

A special THANK YOU to
Andersen Corporate Foundation
Eau Claire Community Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation
The Presto Foundation
for your generosity!

You are changing lives
of people in desperate need.

Giving Thanks at All Times

Dear Friend,

This Thanksgiving, the men, women and children at Hope Gospel Mission have much to be grateful for. They have a safe place to sleep at night, three good meals every day and clean clothes to wear. More than that, they have you. You care about them and give them the financial, spiritual and emotional support they need to make a fresh start in life.

In this issue of *The Hope*, you'll meet Jake and Erin. They came to Hope Gospel Mission from very different circumstances, but they have at least one thing in common: they have a bright future, thanks to you. Both of them are looking forward to starting new careers in which they can help others who suffer from addiction or domestic abuse. Their family ties are strong and so is their walk with Jesus Christ.

The most amazing thing about their journeys? They unfolded during a very difficult year for all of us! Despite everything we had to deal with since last March, we were here to offer help and hope to everyone who came to our door. And we are very grateful to you for that!

What does the future hold? Nobody knows. But with the peace of Christ in our hearts, we can give thanks at all times.

Sincerely,

Sandi Polzin
Executive Director
Hope Gospel Mission



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You Kept Erin and her Children Safe and Loved

Erin says she was “just following God’s direction” when she came to Hope Gospel Mission for the second time earlier this year.

She and her children had first come to the Mission before the pandemic when Erin was pregnant and separated from her husband. When her youngest child was just three months old, Erin returned to her husband, but soon knew she had made a mistake.

“God told me I needed to finish what I started at the Mission,” Erin says. She found friends and family to care for her four older children and brought the three youngest back to Hope with her.

In the years before coming to Hope, Erin and her children had not only suffered abuse, they had faced homelessness twice — once living in tents in a back yard. However, she tells us, “Through all the things I’ve been through, God has always been there.” Now she also has Hope Gospel Mission — and you — on her side.

This time around, Erin says, “It’s a privilege to be

here, to be around people I know I can trust, who can help me if I have questions. I feel at peace here. I feel safe. I feel loved, and my kids love it here. They know they don’t have to worry about anything, that I’m doing what I need to do to become the best mom I can be for them. I’m very glad I was able to come back.”

When her children are in day care, Erin is completing the program and working in our Bargain Center. She is one of our most dedicated workers! “I want to do my best,” she says, “and I like to keep busy.”

Erin is determined that when she leaves the Mission this time, her life — and her children’s lives — will be very different. She plans to get a massage therapy license. She also plans to become an advocate for women in abusive relationships, especially mothers. “I want to let them know there’s hope, that they can leave.”

You gave Erin that hope. Because you care, she says, “I can keep looking forward in every aspect of my life, every day.”

Thanksgiving is Coming!

It’s time to give thanks and celebrate at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day last year, we gave out many meals through our drive-thru for those in need in our community. Last year was busy and this year could be even busier!

This year, we are planning a hybrid event for our Community Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. There will be a sit-down feast of turkey, dressing and ALL the fixings. We will also offer meals through a drive-thru again. It is a time of thankfulness and fellowship.

Preparations start the week before and continue until Thanksgiving Day. And many volunteers help to make this day a success.

If you are interested in volunteering to make this Thanksgiving season memorable, please contact Linda, Community Relations Coordinator, at (715) 491-0905 for more details.



Linda can also help you get connected with other Mission volunteer opportunities during the holiday season and throughout the year.