



You Are Making Jack's Dream a Reality

Jack grew up in a world no child should ever see, let alone experience. His parents were addicted to drugs and alcohol, and his father was involved in sex trafficking. At eight years old, Jack witnessed a police raid on his home. The following year, he watched his mother stab his father. Jack eventually ran away and lived on the streets of Eau Claire until his godmother found him. She saved Jack from the nightmare he had been living ... but there were more tough times ahead of him.

By the time Jack was 18, he had followed his parents into addiction. First, he drank. Then he progressed to using cocaine, methamphetamine and ecstasy. Even so, he worked at a series of jobs until he discovered he was a natural at sales. A mattress store gave him an opportunity and he ran with it. "It really changed me. I felt like I could make my dream a reality if I set my mind to it."

Jack's attempt at sobriety came to an end when he went out drinking on a business trip. He had been a top salesman, but his addiction now took a toll on his work and his life. He told his

manager that he needed help, but his insurance didn't cover treatment, and he couldn't afford it on his own.

Jack's godparents told him about Hope Gospel Mission. "I fought coming here," he says, "but I had to humble myself. I was broken. I was hurting. But I was convicted to make some changes. I had to make my dream a reality again."

Twelve months after arriving at Hope Gospel Mission, Jack sees his dream of a sober, successful life getting closer. "My family is coming alongside me because they see my dedication and the good decisions I've made. I've got a couple of business owners who want me to come in and see them once I'm done here." Jack also looks forward to showing his son, 16, and daughter, 12, what a man of God looks like.

"If you want to be successful," Jack says, "you have to build the blueprint in your mind. Ask yourself what you want out of life. And get stronger in Christ!"

Harvest of Hope



Thank you to everyone who made the 20th Annual Harvest of Hope Fall Fundraiser Banquet possible!

Your support provides positive life-change in our community.



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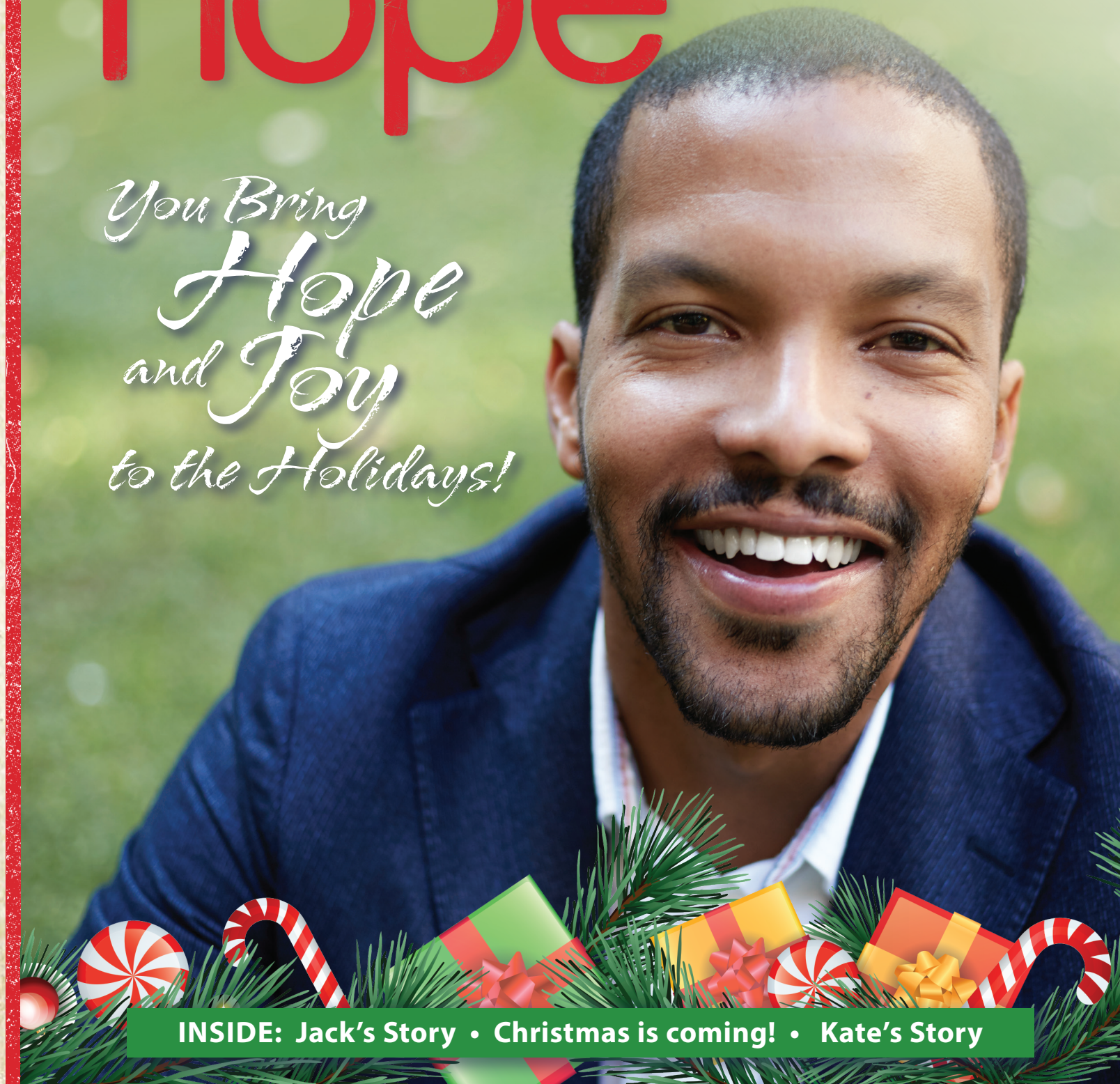
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If you missed the event, it is available for viewing at www.HopeGospelMission.org/HarvestofHope

the hope

You Bring
Hope
and Joy
to the Holidays!



INSIDE: Jack's Story • Christmas is coming! • Kate's Story



Sandi Polzin
Executive Director

May the God of
hope
fill you with
all joy and peace
in believing, so that
by the power of the
Holy Spirit you may
abound in hope.

— Romans 15:13, ESV

**A special THANK YOU to
The Nordson Foundation
for your generosity!**
*You are changing lives
of people in desperate need.*



Dear Friend,

Christmas joy will be everywhere again this Christmas as we celebrate the wonder that the Lord is with us.

Living without God brought much pain to some of our residents. But coming to the Mission encouraged them to turn to Him and receive His favor. They no longer face the world feeling oppressed and without hope. God now guides them and lights their way forward.

You helped our hurting neighbors find a bright spark of joy in lives that were darkened by addiction, poverty and abuse. And with your support, they will celebrate the source of their joy this Christmas among people who care about them. People like you. I hope you'll come by this holiday season and share some fellowship. You are important to every man, woman and child here.

May the joyful happiness of Christmas be yours. You have cared for those who were trapped on the road to destruction. You lifted the light of Jesus to shine in this place and many responded.

Now they enjoy the favor of the Lord forever.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Sandi Polzin
Executive Director
Hope Gospel Mission

PO Box 1127, Eau Claire, WI | 715-552-5566 ext. 1300 | HopeGospelMission.org

JOY FOR THE Holiday Season

This past year was difficult for many. We are so grateful you continued giving so no one here went hungry or without care. Thank you for being faithful.

Now, our joyful Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. Soon, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with delicious food and wonderful company. It truly is a happy and heart lifting time for residents at Hope Gospel Mission.

This means the list of needs keeps growing! You can meet these needs this Christmas by detaching and mailing in the donation card with your gift.

God uses you to turn lonely and hurting people to Jesus where they receive peace and everlasting life.

Thank you for making a difference.
God bless you!



Annual Christmas Community Dinner
Saturday, December 18, 2021 | 11:30 am-1:30 pm

**Gifts given in honor of or in memory of loved ones can be viewed online at
HopeGospelMission.org.**



“Hope has given me hope!”

Kate seemed to have the kind of stable, successful life many women would envy. She was married, had a son and a daughter and had 20 years of solid work experience. But when her marriage broke down, so did everything else in Kate's life. “I filed for divorce and proceeded to drink myself to death,” she admits. In fact, she almost succeeded on two occasions.

By the time Kate hit rock bottom, she was down to 82 lbs. Kate's drinking had alienated her from her family, but her daughter still believed Kate could fight back if given the chance. “My daughter is a nurse, and she heard about Hope Gospel Mission from her colleagues,” Kate tells us. “She brought me here, and every time I talk to her, I tell her how grateful I am!”

Since arriving on August 26, 2020, Kate is sober, happy and healthy. She gained 35 lbs. in her first nine months here and quit smoking after 50 years! Kate is also in a good place emotionally and spiritually. “Getting to know the Lord has helped me get back on my feet and stand tall again,” she says. “I wake up and ask Him for

guidance and He's here for me. He's holding my hand and we go down the path together.”

Kate also has the support of Hope Gospel Mission staff and her peers in the program. “I'm like a little five-year-old, still learning,” she says. “I'm willing to ask questions, and there's always someone to help me. They show me grace.”

As she works her way through the final phase of the program, Kate looks forward to living independently again. Her son lives in Minnesota and her daughter lives in Milwaukee, but Kate plans to stay in Eau Claire for a while. She has made a number of friends at church and enjoys Bible studies there.

Whatever God has in store for Kate, Hope Gospel Mission will always be close to her heart. “It's a major help for our community,” she says. “If you're willing to work on yourself, Hope Gospel Mission will help you succeed. I've gone over some speed bumps, but I'm here and I'm determined. I do not give up. Hope has given me hope!”