

## Difficult days

# will not keep Kevin down



There was a catch though ... if he was accepted, he could leave jail early and become a resident. However, if he was not accepted, he would be sent back to his cell.

Understandably nervous, Kevin attended the interview. After only a few short hours, Kevin heard the good news that he was accepted! Ecstatic, but still unsure what he was headed into, Kevin began his journey toward sobriety.

“Some days are very difficult,” he admits, “but there is always someone here who will see you struggling and help you get through it.”

By trusting the Lord, Kevin worked hard to hold on to sobriety. He is encouraged by his children, two boys and a girl. “When my son asked me if I would drink after my programs were done, I said I would not,” he says through tears. “The look of happiness on his little face encourages me every day.”

Determined to lead a good example for his children, Kevin is actively involved in his church and looking forward to continuing his business ventures. He is saving for a home where his children will be able to grow roots.

“The journey is not always easy,” Kevin says. “But as long as you hold on, and follow God, it is worth it!”

Kevin also knows he could not have a bright future without your support. “I am so thankful for the opportunity you gave me. It does not go unnoticed. Everyone here is thankful for you.”

Kevin grew up in a small, quaint town, but his childhood held some dark secrets. There was abuse at home, and it was not a place Kevin wanted to be. By the time he was 15, he began smoking marijuana to ease the pain he received at home.

Spending his time on the streets, Kevin found a group of friends who introduced him to more drugs and alcohol. “The drugs made me numb,” he says. “I didn’t want to feel any more pain.”

Living a young life filled with drugs and alcohol led Kevin to jail. While there, he attended chapel services and began hearing the Gospel. Kevin soon felt God working in his life.

Kevin was approached with the opportunity to take an interview at Hope Gospel Mission.



Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart, and do not  
lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

## The dream of the new *Hope Learning Center* is becoming a reality



With your help, the new Hope Learning Center is becoming a reality! The groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 10, 2023, bringing the staff, volunteers and community members together in celebration! The design of the new 8,664-square-foot Hope Learning Center will meet immediate and projected needs for classrooms, counseling and office space.

This additional space is desperately needed. As individuals come to Hope Gospel Mission more ill and in need of greater care, a new learning center will help meet these growing needs.

We have outgrown the current learning center as more individuals are seeking help. With increased bed capacity and enhanced program offerings, the old learning center has become cramped in both classroom and counseling space.

The community really needs this larger learning center. Together, we can help end homelessness and suffering for many more in our community.

Thank you for saying  
*“Yes!”* to changing lives.

LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED AT [www.hopegospelmission.org/hopelearningcenter](http://www.hopegospelmission.org/hopelearningcenter)

# the hope

## Blessings and Bright Futures



PO Box 1127, Eau Claire, WI 54702 | 715-552-5566 | [HopeGospelMission.org](http://HopeGospelMission.org)

Inside: Hope Learning Center Update • The Impact You Made





**Sandi Polzin**  
Executive Director

# Building on Blessings

Dear Friend,

I have great hope that 2024 will be a wonderful year for the men, women and children served by Hope Gospel Mission. That's because we're building on the many blessings of 2023.

With your help, men, women and children found support from painful pasts by receiving hope, time to heal and the tools needed to learn how to live again. Those who completed our program built healthy and supportive relationships with family, friends and community and were ready to make a fresh start.

As we look forward to the coming year, there is great anticipation. The new Hope Learning Center is under construction and will bring much-needed office space, educational areas for residents and quiet counseling space. The new building will accommodate the growing number of men and women and women with children receiving the services they need to rebuild their lives.

Your kind support provides a solid footing for residents to stand strong and persevere. Thank you for your support. You are making a big difference here, and I greatly value your partnership.

May God bless you and yours with a very happy new year and the joy of seeing your kindness continue to bear fruit through 2024.

Sincerely,

Sandi Polzin  
Executive Director  
Hope Gospel Mission

**He alone is my rock  
and my salvation,  
my fortress;  
I shall not be  
greatly shaken.**

Psalm 62:2 ESV

## A Big "Thank You!"

We are so grateful to these donors and organizations for their generous life-changing support.

- Ann Gunderson Thornburg
- Green Bay Packers Foundation
- Scheels

You are helping to rescue, rebuild

Scan  
to give  
online



# The *impact* you made

**T**hank you for the powerful support you gave the men, women and children here. Hope began for men and women when they came to Hope Gospel Mission. They would not be here without kind friends like you.

## Those you helped are truly grateful.



*"Thank you for saving my life. Your donations and volunteer hours saved me."*  
— Blodwyn



*"Finding Hope Gospel Mission was the brightest day of my life! Having a Christian-based Mission allows me to have faith in the One who will never let me down!"*  
— Bethanne



*"Hope Gospel Mission really opened me up! The Bible studies and the structure helped me become a born-again Christian."*  
— James



*"When I came to Hope Gospel Mission, I realized God never left me, even when I no longer cared. I am so thankful for your support!"*  
— Jennifer



*"I'm just thankful for being here. I'm in a safe place, and I thank God for that. I'm moving toward my goal, which is to become a new person."*  
— Miguel



*"God brought me to Hope Gospel Mission and He has done great things for me. I want to tell the young people in my youth program, and everyone, who Jesus is and what He can do!"*  
— Andrew

Thank you for your support as you join us to rescue, rebuild and renew lives that first began in 1998!

## Hope Gospel Mission is more than a typical homeless shelter

Hope Gospel Mission focuses on wellness through holistic recovery programming for men, women and women with children. All residents engage with counselors, chaplains, staff, volunteers, mentors and peers who help them become healthy by addressing the root issues of their struggles. Many also find the grace and security Jesus provides along with supportive fellowship in local churches.

### While in our recovery program, residents work on nine areas of wellness

- Academics
- Addictions
- Finances
- Life Skills
- Mental Health
- Nutrition and Fitness
- Parenting
- Spirituality
- Vocational

### In 2023, with your faithful support, Hope Gospel Mission provided:



\*Numbers represent January 2023 through November 2023

To find out more  
**TAKE A  
TOUR**

You are encouraged and welcome to take a tour of the Mission and see your generosity in action!