

Christmas is Coming!

Every Christmas, more people come through our doors. This year may bring even more need.



It's no secret that 2020 has been an extraordinary year. Through tough times, you kept funds coming and no one here went hungry. You have been faithful, and we are grateful. We remained open to welcome all men, women and children God sent to us, and many came to find peace with Him. And now it is time for Christmas.

Our joyful Christmas celebrations are fast approaching! We will celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ with delicious food and wonderful company. It truly is a happy time for residents.

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.

You bring smiles to the faces and hope to the hearts of every person we serve this holiday season.

**Thank you for making a difference.
God bless you!**



Harvest of Hope

Virtual Event

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's 19th Annual Harvest of Hope Fall Fundraiser

If you missed the event, it is now available for viewing at www.HarvestOfHopeEvent.org

Your support provides positive life change in our Community.

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the hope

HOPE
GOSPEL MISSION
Lives Rescued. Rebuilt. Renewed.
December 2020

Merry Christmas!
You Bring Joy to Many

PO Box 1127, Eau Claire, WI 54702 | 715-552-5566 | HopeGospelMission.org

Treasure in Heaven • Kelly Overcomes Her Childhood Addiction • Christmas is Coming!





Sandi Polzin
Executive Director

TREASURE

in Heaven

Dear Friend,

I heard of a man who drove a large luxury car into a poor neighborhood. He pulled the car over to stop next to two young boys playing in the street.

The man got out of the car and opened the trunk. Then he pulled a new bicycle out and wheeled it over to one of the boys. With a big smile on his face, he said, "Merry Christmas," as he gave the startled boy the bicycle.

The other boy standing there said, "Wow! I wish I could..." but he was interrupted by another man standing nearby watching the scene. "I know what you are going to say," he said. "You are going to say you wished you had a bike like that."

"No," the boy said quietly. "I was going to say I wish I could give someone a bike like that."

At a young age, the boy knew the joy of giving. Jesus taught it was even greater than the joy of receiving. "It is better to give than receive." Acts 20:35

You receive little reward now from the men, women and children you help here at Hope Gospel Mission. They will not thank you personally, most of the time. And, you may not see the joy they bring to their families who welcome them back and celebrate their recovery. They will go on from here to help others, but you won't see much of that.

You won't know half of the good you have brought to others. But God will.

Please know that God sees every blessing you provide, and He will reward you at the right time.

You are serving those who cannot pay you back. There is great joy in that.

Merry Christmas,

Sandi Polzin
Executive Director
Hope Gospel Mission

"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

~ Luke 14:13-14

A special THANK YOU to Green Bay Packers Foundation, Make It Better Foundation and Nordson Corporation Foundation for your generosity!

You are changing lives of people in desperate need.

Kelly Overcomes Her Childhood Addiction

"When I was 11 years old, I ended up getting an infection in my ankle, and I had to have 9 surgeries on it. I remember going home with bottles of hydrocodone and all these different meds. I remember taking so much of them when I was hurting. When I didn't need them anymore, I was addicted before I even knew what that meant," Kelly shared.

Now, at the age of 19, Kelly remembers a sweet, loving, fun childhood with her mama and her older brother. "I have the most loving family. It is just remarkable how they have continued to love me. I wouldn't be alive without them."

But her childhood addiction was strong and quickly took over her life. When she was 16, Kelly entered her first detox. "For a 16-year-old, parents should have to worry about holding their kid after they had their first heartbreak or something, not hold their kid and see the track marks on their arms."

They recommended long-term treatment based on Kelly's long list of disorders and addictions. "Ever since then it just got worse

and worse and worse and worse. And when I thought it couldn't get any worse, it still did."

Kelly went to jail on her first felony charge right after turning 18. She struggled to stay sober, but when she got a new caseworker, things began to turn around. Her caseworker Chris worked hard to hold her accountable. She eventually passed her sobriety test and was able to move into Hope Gospel Mission.

"I had never known the Lord. God started revealing to me things in my life that happened that proved He is the one God. That's not a question for me anymore. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and without that, I don't think sobriety would even be an option for me," Kelly said.

Kelly's record time for sobriety used to be 90 days ... now she is over 6 months sober. She has a bright future ahead of her. She is fearlessly seeking the Lord and waiting to see what He has in store for her. She is still so young, but cannot wait to continue to grow with her Savior and serve Him forever.

If you were to meet Kelly on the street and tell her about your love for Hope Gospel Mission, she would joyfully scream and perhaps want a hug. She is one of your biggest fans. "There's just a pit of joy in my stomach and a lump of love in my throat that makes me so speechless. Words cannot even explain ... I'm so blessed. Thank you."

Thank you for offering a new start to this young woman. You are changing lives for the Lord.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

– Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

