

The Best Is Yet to Come FOR TOM

Tom was sober for ten years — one of the best times in his life. He had a family, a good job and a nice house near Madison. But when an important relationship broke up, everything else crumbled as well. He went back to his old ways: selling marijuana and dabbling in Oxycontin and other drugs. Then a friend offered him heroin.

“One day I was really depressed, so I got high on heroin. That’s when I really spiraled down,” Tom recalls. He went to work high, crashed a vehicle and lost his job and his home. He stayed with a friend in Eau Claire and switched from heroin to meth. Before long, Tom was in jail. It was the best thing that could have happened to him because that’s where he learned about Hope Gospel Mission.

“I turned in my application from jail,” Tom says. “All I had to do was show up when I was released, and I got in right away.” Tom had been to rehab before, and he immediately saw what makes Hope Gospel Mission’s program special. “God is always number one here!”

Tom says he had always believed in God and had prayed to Him as a child, but lost touch with Him over the years. Now, thanks to the Mission, he has a personal relationship with Christ and attends church regularly. “I always put God first. If I don’t, I know how I’m going to end up.”

In just a few months, Tom will graduate from the program and start working again. “I want to do better for myself,” he says. “The Mission is helping me do that.” Tom is already making plans for a new career in car sales, arranging visitation with his son and daughter in Madison and working on gaining custody of another son, born recently and abandoned by his mother.

Tom knows now that his ten years of sobriety were just a taste of what God has in store. “Lives change in a short amount of time at the Mission,” Tom says. “Even if someone doesn’t stay and complete the program, their life is already changed for the better.”



You helped us through 2020!

Last year, with your faithful support, Hope Gospel Mission provided:



38,658
Meals



11,821
Nights
of Shelter



31,183
Hours of
Employment
Training



24,869
Hours of
Education



\$45,154*
Worth of
Clothing Given

*Number represents Jan - Nov 2020

**EVERY MEAL, NIGHT OF SHELTER, CLOTHING ITEM AND
ACT OF KINDNESS MADE LIFE BETTER FOR SOMEONE WHO
REALLY NEEDED IT. NOW THEY WANT TO SAY ... THANK YOU!**



“I’m so grateful I was in a healthy environment with people who rallied around me and prayed with me. I wouldn’t be where I am now if it wasn’t for that.”
– Maya

“This is a really loving and understanding community. I would not be sober if not for the Mission. I would not be healthy emotionally, physically or spiritually. They’re constantly encouraging you, and for a recovering addict, that means everything.”
– Heather



“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. 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.”
– Kelly

Thank You for Making a Difference!

the hope

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January 2021

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New Beginnings • The Best Is Yet to Come for Tom • You Helped Us Through 2020!



Sandi Polzin
Executive Director

NEW *Beginnings*

Dear Friend,

While Hope Gospel Mission is a rescue mission, in many ways it feels more like a home.

We want all who come to the Mission to feel welcome and safe to open their hearts to God's love. Instead of fighting to survive, we want residents to shake off their burdens and learn to trust God for everything. He is fabulously generous. No one has to earn His love. God gives to all who ask, seek and knock on His door. He has a wonderful way of answering and making everything new.

We pray for everyone here to look deeply at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no greater love than to see the perfect Son of God giving Himself as payment for our sins. That is the love that heals wounded hearts. It makes everything new.

Some people might say we should tone down the Gospel message and just offer food, shelter and therapy. But there are already clinics that provide physical and mental healing. Hope Gospel Mission is a place where God heals the soul of a person, forever.

Thank you for making people feel at home and loved here. Your partnership makes all things new in this special place.

Sincerely,

Sandi Polzin
Executive Director
Hope Gospel Mission

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My rules and obey them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

~ Ezekiel 11:19-20, ESV

A special THANK YOU to Andersen Corporate Foundation and Wisconsin Counties Association Services for your generosity!

You are changing lives of people in desperate need.

JUST THE BEGINNING OF

a New Life for Rick!

For years, Rick felt like the black sheep of his family. He had become addicted to pain killers after having back surgery in high school. Later, he switched to heroin and had all kinds of problems with the law. Eventually, he became homeless.

"I felt ostracized," he says of those lost years, thinking at the time that others were to blame. Now he knows that was not true, but it took an overdose for Rick to realize how much his family still loved him.

For months, his mother had asked him to try Hope Gospel Mission. Rick finally agreed.

"There were a lot of rules at the Mission, a lot of structure," Rick recalls of his first days here. "It took a while to realize it was for my benefit. The first month was really hard." So hard, in fact, that Rick relapsed. "I messed up, and they gave me a second chance," he says. "I'd never felt like I wanted a second chance before."

Rick made the most of it, becoming "laser-focused" on the program. "I realized how much I had gained and how much I had to lose," he tells us.

However, the biggest reason for the change in Rick's life is faith. "I don't feel like I have to do everything myself. I can put my trust in Jesus." Rick tells us he has read most of the Bible since coming to the Mission. "My favorite person is Paul. If God can take someone who persecuted Christians and turn him into one of the biggest missionaries the church ever knew, He can do wonderful things with me, too!"

Rick has connected with a local church, which is "super-welcoming to people from the Mission. They're so thankful you're there, learning to have a relationship with God." Rick is interested in ministry, and hopes to help others who struggle with addiction. Career-wise, he plans to serve an apprenticeship as an electrician.

Being at the Mission has been "a wonderful experience" for Rick, especially hearing from his parents how much change they have seen in him. No longer feeling like the black sheep, Rick says,

"Everyone is a sinner, and we all fall short. But every week it gets better and better. This is just the beginning!"

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

~ Philippians 4:8, ESV



THANK YOU FOR MAKING

Spirits Bright in 2020!

Thank you for your generous part in making the holidays bright at the close of a dark and difficult year. You provided a warm and inviting place for men, women and children who had nowhere else to go.

Things were different, but still joyful at our Christmas dinner. We gave out delicious and filling to-go meals for everyone to enjoy.

As always, Christmas was a time of great joy at Hope Gospel Mission. Please accept our thanks for blessing our residents with your gifts and prayers during this very special season, and offering them the faithful love of Christ for the year ahead.

Thank You!



Many Gifts Were Given Throughout the Holiday Season 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