

# Stories of HOPE

March-April  
2018



hopeministries

SERVING HOMELESS IOWANS SINCE 1915

“I HAVE  
**HOPE**  
FOR THE **FUTURE.**”

*Melissa's life has been  
restored by God's grace.*

Because of you, there  
is help and hope for  
people like Melissa – at  
Easter and always.

Read her heartwarming  
story on Page 3.

[hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org)

# GETCONNECTED



President/CEO Leon Negen is grateful for the support of ministry friends and partners who bring Easter hope to men, women and children who are struggling, every day of year.

Dear Friend,

It's terrible to feel like you're out of opportunities in life.

And that's often why those who come to Hope Ministries are frustrated, disheartened... and frightened. All other options are gone. There's no one and nowhere to turn to for help.

They come here with heavy hearts... and often without hope that a new life is possible.

Praise God for the good news of Easter – that a new life is possible through Jesus!

**It's an Easter message of hope that we share all year long: Because He lives, we're never out of chances to begin again.**

Christ loves us through second, third and all the extra chances we need. Your support helps share that grace-filled approach with those who are homeless, hungry, abused or addicted: Loving them where they're at so they feel safe. Giving them grace so they feel valued. Restoring their dignity so they can hold their heads high.

That's what new life in Christ looks like at Hope Ministries!

Thank you for creating a refuge of help and hope this Easter and beyond for individuals like Melissa (read her story on Page 3).

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen  
President/CEO



## Our Ministry Centers

Bethel Mission

Door of Faith

Hope Center for Women and Children

Hope Café

ENCORE Thrift Stores

P.O. Box 862  
Des Moines, IA 50304-0862

[info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org)

[hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org)  
Donate online.



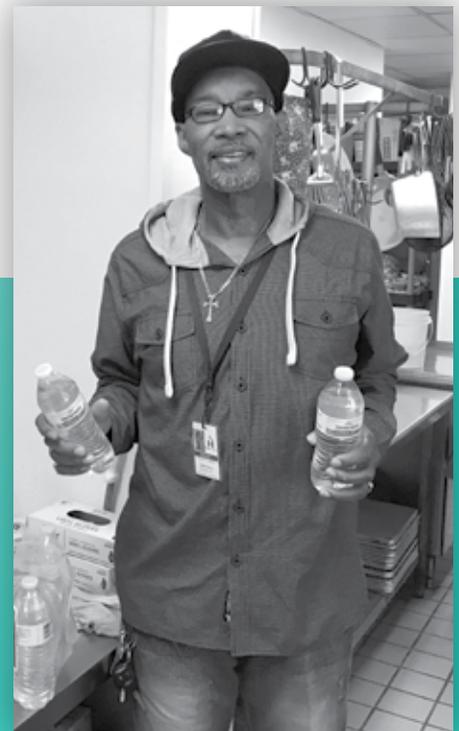
Like us on Facebook.

Hopelowa channel

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## ONE COOL Thing

It takes a lot of food – and beverages, too – to serve 450+ meals each day at our Hope Café. When staples run low, it's tempting to worry. But time and time again, God has displayed his faithfulness – sometimes in miraculous ways! Food Services Supervisor Louis Dawson remembers a time when our supply of water bottles was depleted. We use donated water bottles in sack lunches for the working individuals staying in our shelter, and in our street outreach. Louis prayed and considered using his food budget to buy more... but before he could, a truck pulled up from Hy-Vee with a huge donation that included 800 water bottles! It's blessings like this that remind us of God's constant provision.



"The fact of the matter is, cool things, miraculous things, happen so often here at Hope Café that we now deem them commonplace. What a blessing those water bottles were!"

– Chef Louis

We're gearing up for a special Easter celebration! As we prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection, we'll be updating our website with ways you can help make a difference for men, women and children in need this Easter. Watch our website, Facebook page and monthly emails for more information.

# “ BEFORE I CAME TO HOPE MINISTRIES, I WAS HOMELESS, HOPELESS AND BROKEN BEYOND BELIEF. ”



Eight months pregnant and completely alone, Melissa arrived at our doors with little hope for her future, feeling trapped in destructive cycles that had long controlled her life. “Despite being pregnant, I could not stop drinking,” she says. “Alcohol ruled my world.”

Taking her first drink at age 14, Melissa battled her addiction throughout her young life... and alcohol always seemed to win. **“I lost everything because of my addiction... my career, my house, my car, my marriage,”** she says. **“I felt like I was dying inside.”**

Devastated with loss and loneliness, Melissa attempted suicide. “My life had spiraled out of control faster than I could deal with it,” she says. “But little did I know God was with me the whole time.” By His grace, she arrived at our Hope Center for Women and Children. Shortly after, she delivered a healthy baby girl.

During her time in our care, Melissa has bonded with loving staff members who have helped her learn to trust again and realize she’s not alone. Through our recovery program, Melissa embraced the love of the Lord and rededicated her life to Him! **“The Lord has opened many doors for me, and I believe He has many more mercies to show me,”** she says.

Celebrating 16 months of her new, sober life, Melissa has been making preparations to ensure a bright future for herself and her daughter, whom she considers “a miracle.” Melissa recently purchased a car and recertified her radiology license. She has graduated from our program and transitioned into her own apartment!

Because of your support, **Melissa, and other**

**women like her, find help and hope when they walk through the doors of Hope Ministries – at Easter and always.** “It’s been an amazing journey and Hope Ministries has helped me get back on my feet.”

*“I have hope for the future that I’ll provide for my family and live a healthy life. I want to remember that God is in the midst of everything.”*

# An Evening for Hope

You're invited to **An Evening for Hope**... our signature event to raise funds for our life-changing programs and services. Don't miss out on our captivating speaker and violin virtuoso Roddy Chong!

*Thursday, July 19 • 6 p.m.*  
*Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines*

Become a table host or purchase single tickets by visiting [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org) or calling (515) 265-7272. Visit our website for more details.



## With Gratitude for Our Compassionate Volunteers

### *National Volunteer Week, April 15 – 21*

The "hope" found at Hope Ministries often begins with our volunteers, the talented and dedicated individuals who add critical dimensions to our outreach. From serving meals to making beds to teaching classes... 17,617 hours of service were donated this

past year by 2,345 volunteers. 356 of these volunteers are members of our **M25 Volunteer Network** and serve on a regular basis. While these numbers alone are amazing, the outpouring of compassion they represent simply can't be measured.

National Volunteer Week gives nationwide attention to the power of volunteerism and we want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to these partners who so faithfully turn their love for others into action. Thank you!



## Directing Your Bequests

The following language is recommended when including Hope Ministries in your will:

*"I, [Name], of [City, State Zip], give, devise and bequeath the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to Hope Ministries, tax ID #42-1512992, [and/or amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."*

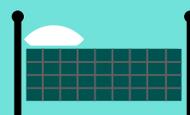
For more information about our estate and legacy planning service, contact David Burrier at (515) 265-7272, ext. 1003, or [dburrier@hopeiowa.org](mailto:dburrier@hopeiowa.org).

**To become a regular volunteer at Hope Ministries, we require an orientation called Hope 101. This program takes place one Saturday each month from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at our Bethel Mission men's emergency shelter. Registration is required. Sign up now on our website to become a volunteer!**

# You Did It!

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JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017



Nights of shelter XX,XXX



Meals served XX,XXX