

Stories of  
**HOPE**

September-October  
2018



hopeministries

SERVING HOMELESS IOWANS SINCE 1915

*Before going to prison, Bob's life had unraveled.*

“ A SERIES OF  
BAD CHOICES  
THAT LED TO MORE  
BAD CHOICES.”

Today, Bob is on a path to a new beginning – and his heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who are making his journey possible.

*You'll be moved by his story on  
Page 3.*

# GETCONNECTED



Dear Friend,

The harvest season offers a special opportunity for me to reflect on the countless blessings Hope Ministries experiences every day of the year.

I'm grateful for the truly life-changing programs and services our ministry offers to those who are homeless... for the volunteers who serve so faithfully alongside our staff... and for friends like you who step forward time and again with your financial support.

From nutritious food and warm beds to compassionate guidance and practical education, your generosity lays the financial foundation for our Christ-centered outreach. Sharing the love of God is at the center of all we do, and we know true and permanent life change is only possible when men and women have invited Him into their lives.

Together, ***we have the amazing opportunity to accompany individuals who are homeless and hurting – whom God loves deeply – on their journeys to restoration.*** To me, this is the greatest blessing of all.

With a heart of thanksgiving, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talents, gifts and prayers to uplift those who are longing for hope.

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

## ONE COOL Thing

More than 300 guests attended ***An Evening for Hope*** on July 19, raising more than \$104,000 to fund our life-changing programs and services.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for our table hosts, for emcee Brooke Bouma from WHO Channel 13 and for everyone who attended and shared their gifts. We extend a special note of appreciation to these generous partners:



Platinum Sponsor:



Silver Sponsors: Iowa Farm Bureau Foundation / Farm Bureau Financial Services; Charles Gabus Ford

Bronze Sponsors: QuikTrip; BKD CPAs and Advisors; Casey's General Stores

“ I LOVE  
THIS PROGRAM...  
THIS IS  
WHAT I NEED.”



**A**fter Bob was honorably discharged from the military, he returned to the States, only to find himself in what now seemed to be a foreign country. He and his wife, whom he met while overseas, struggled to adjust to their new surroundings and their marriage ended. As he sought solace and acceptance, he fell in with the wrong crowd and adopted their destructive behaviors.

*“Drugs are something you take, thinking it will help with your current lifestyle,” he explains. “But soon it becomes your lifestyle.”*

***“Now I'm  
happy,  
healthy  
and full of  
hope.”***

As his addiction escalated, he began experiencing health problems, but he couldn't stop using. He was actually grateful when he was sent to prison and forced to leave his habit behind. But as his release date approached, he was frightened. ***“I knew that without any help, I was doomed to go back to the lifestyle of craziness,”*** he explains.

When his correctional counselor introduced him to a representative from Hope Ministries, he made the decision to join our Christ-centered life recovery program. “And with every class and every day, I knew more and more this is where I needed to be,” he says.



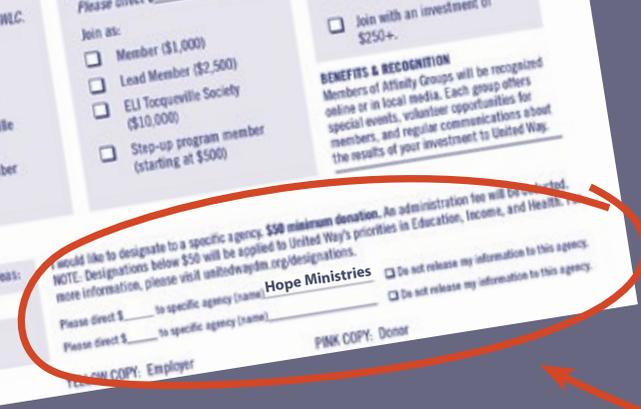
Bob shares that while in the past he has hidden from God, in our care he sees the Lord everywhere: “In the courses, in the fellowship, in the structure and in the positive environment.” Our all-encompassing curriculum is renewing his mind, his soul and his spirit. ***“It's a life recovery program in all aspects,”*** he says, ***“and it's key to my relationship with Christ.”***

After graduation, Bob plans to get his own place and remain active in a church family. Drawing on his experience in the military, he would also like to find employment within the Veterans Administration.

“Hope Ministries has changed my life path,” he says, with a grateful heart for friends like you who are making his journey possible. ***“Now I'm happy. I'm excited. I know things are going to be great. Hope Ministries is aptly named: HOPE Ministries!”***



***Your gifts and prayers empower people like Bob to overcome their challenges and rebuild their lives. Thank you for your giving and ongoing support.***



# Write Us In

During your company's United Way fall campaign, you can direct your contributions to Hope Ministries by simply writing "Hope Ministries" as your designated charity. While our ministry is not a United Way member, United Way will honor your designation. Your contribution will provide food, shelter, Christian guidance and long-term life recovery programs for homeless and struggling men, women and families. **Thank you for writing us in!**

## Please Help at

# the Holidays

This holiday season, we need your help to provide gifts to more than 200 men, women and children in our care. We'll also serve and deliver 3,000 meals on Thanksgiving – and thousands again on Christmas – to hungry people throughout Des Moines. Here's how you can take part:

**Lend a hand** – Volunteer for our many Thanksgiving and Christmas activities. Registration for **M25 volunteers** begins Monday, September 17 and for the general public on October 1. Sign up online at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org).

**Mission: Christmas** – "Adopt" a child or adult in need and fill a bag with hygiene items, devotional books, toys and other gifts from a list we provide. Then deliver the bags to Hope Ministries.

**Host a Donation Drive** – Encourage your workplace, church or civic group to donate much-needed winter wear items, including hats, gloves, socks and women's slippers.

Contact us at **(515) 265-7272** or [info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org) for details about these and other ways to show your compassion this holiday season!



## With Grateful Hearts...

As you give thanks for your blessings this Thanksgiving, those in our care will be giving thanks too – for you and for the gifts of comfort, compassion and life-changing opportunity you so generously provide for them.

### This Thanksgiving Season Alone ...



**465+**  
Hot Meals  
Each Day



**200+**  
Safe Beds  
Each Night



**Hundreds**  
of Lives Encouraged  
Through Our Street Outreach

Please continue your heartfelt support with a gift today. Because of your compassion, the men, women and families in our care can overcome their challenges and embrace a new beginning.