

# Stories of HOPE

November-December  
2017



hopeministries

SERVING HOMELESS IOWANS SINCE 1915

## Wonders of His LOVE

Your compassionate generosity and faithful prayers allow the wonders of God's love to come alive in the hearts of homeless and hurting men, women and children every day of the year. This newsletter describes how you can help them celebrate the greatest wonder of all – the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and the hope He brings to their lives.

*Food and shelter that  
relieve essential needs*



*Practical education that  
leads to stable employment*

*Faith-based recovery  
that restores  
life's meaning*



*God's grace that  
instills hope for a  
new beginning*

# GETCONNECTED



President/CEO Leon Negen leads our ministry in providing our homeless guests with life essentials and transforming guidance that exemplify the wonders of God's love.



## 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

Dear Friend,

After months – even years – of homelessness, hunger, abuse and addiction, “love” is something those who turn to Hope Ministries may not have felt or recognized for a very long time. But once inside our doors, they experience the wonders of God’s love in many ways.

For those fresh off the streets, love may be as simple as a safe bed and a hot meal. Guests burdened by destructive behaviors may feel His love through compassionate counseling and guidance that offer a pathway to sobriety. Those who are fearful of the future may describe the classroom instruction and job training they receive as love in its most practical form.

Yet one of the greatest wonders of His love are friends like you, who give generously to ease the burdens of men, women and children you don’t even know. We are so grateful for your partnership.

This issue of *Stories of Hope* describes many opportunities to demonstrate God’s love to “the least of these” during the holiday season. I hope you’ll join us once again by sharing your time, talents, gifts and prayers. Thank you for your kindness.

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen  
President/CEO

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

—John 3:16 (KJV)



Last Christmas, students from **North Polk** – Noah Wille, Brita Ossian, Kenna Sparks and all of Mrs. Baack’s seminar – collected much-needed items for Hope Ministries and dropped them off on Christmas Eve. Their donations included canned goods; soap, toothpaste and toilet paper; and socks, hats and gloves. They raised money for many of the items by creating and selling Christmas ornaments. And on certain days of the week, teachers allowed students to donate \$1 and \$2 to come to school dressed in their jeans or pajamas. And finally, a donation box was placed in their school to collect winter wear and other items of clothing.

It was a huge and amazing donation from an awesome group of students. Hope Ministries is truly grateful for their kind hearts and giving spirits!



**We encourage your school, congregation or civic organization to find unique ways to help meet the needs of our homeless guests this holiday season. To learn how your group can get involved, call (515) 265-7272 or visit [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org).**

# By God's Grace

Tabatha's parents battled addiction and got divorced when she was 9, leaving her and her siblings in their father's care. Despite his struggle with substance abuse, he did everything he could to provide for them. "My dad was a very loving man," Tabatha recalls.

Over the next few years, she and her father grew very close. But when he remarried, Tabatha's feelings changed. **"I wanted to be number one in his life, so I rebelled,"** she explains.

At age 15, following in her parents' footsteps, she began abusing drugs. Her addiction was at its worst when she became

a mother herself. After losing custody of her baby boy, she sought treatment, but her sobriety didn't last. She was using again when she became pregnant with her second son, who was taken from her too. Then the shelter where she was living asked her to leave.

Trapped in a cycle of despair and heartbreak, she called Hope Ministries. "I was just looking for a place to stay," she says. We welcomed her with open arms, but she wasn't ready to embrace our faith-based outreach. God's love was something she just couldn't comprehend.

*"Four months ago I thought I had lost my son for good. Before Hope Ministries, I felt completely alone and without hope. Now, with Hope Ministries beside me every step of the way, I have a relationship with Jesus Christ. My son has been returned only by God's grace. I thank Hope Ministries for helping my family and me feel loved, supported and wanted."*

*– Tabatha*



# ice...

***"It didn't make any sense to me... a father protects and provides,"*** she says. "The Lord wasn't going to allow the things that happened to me to happen if He was this Almighty Father." But the godly compassion she felt from our staff and volunteers convinced her of His grace... so when she returned to Hope Ministries a second time, she decided to stay.

***"I needed to break this cycle for my two little boys," she says. "In order to do that, I had to be right with the Lord. I had to get to know Him."***

Today, in the Christ-centered environment your faithful support provides, she is studying the Bible and learning to be a responsible mother. "I know now that in order to love my children, I have to love myself, and the Lord has led me to do that," she says.

***"Why do these people love me?  
Why are they so eager to  
see me successful?"***

We recently rejoiced with Tabatha when ***her youngest son was returned to her here at Hope Ministries.*** She also has a great relationship with her oldest son and hopes to one day have both kids home with her.

Tabatha is grateful for the dedication and discipleship of those in our ministry who have empowered her to change her life. "They are truly servants of the Lord," she says. And she hopes to one day follow in their footsteps, working at Hope Ministries or as a counselor for children who are victims of domestic violence and addiction. In the meantime, her words of hope serve as a testament to the wonders of God's love for all those in our care...

***"I'm not saying it's been easy, because it hasn't. God is healing me in my addictions and other broken areas of my life. If I surrender to Him, it's going to be okay."***

*Your gift today will allow us to provide a special holiday for individuals and families like Tabatha and her son and to share God's life-changing love all year. Thank you for being generous.*



## Ways to Help at the Holidays



### Mission: Christmas

"Adopt" a man, woman or child 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. The gifts will be given to the hurting people in our care to let them know they're loved.

### HUGS for Our Homeless Guests

Hold a drive for **Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks** (HUGS) to warm the bodies and spirits of those who are homeless on the streets and the guests in our shelters. We especially need new underwear of all sizes and white tube socks for men.

Contact us at **(515) 265-7272** or **info@hopeiowa.org** for details and delivery instructions.





## National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week • November 11 - 19

Observed annually, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week brings attention to the plight of people who are struggling and offers ways to ease their burdens. Together with Hope Ministries, here's how you can take part:

- **Provide and serve a meal:** Your family, church group or coworkers can sign up to "adopt" a meal during this important week of caring.
- **Request a speaker:** We'd be happy to send a speaker to provide a presentation or "lunch and learn" at your office, church or civic service club meeting. Our representative can share helpful information about hunger and homelessness in Central Iowa as well as inspiring stories of change.

Contact us at [info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org) or (515) 265-7272 for all the details.

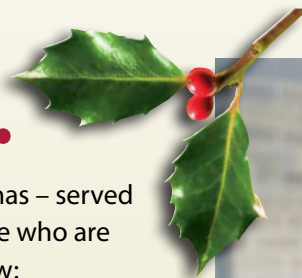
Join Hope Ministries, **Hy-Vee** and **KCCI 8 Des Moines** to provide food, shelter and life-changing programs at the holidays and all through the year. It only takes \$1.85 to provide one meal and care! From Thanksgiving through Christmas, here's how you can help **Scan Away Hunger**:

"I'm so thankful to Hope Ministries for providing healthy, delicious meals for my daughter and me. Just another one of the many blessings that Hope has been to us."  
- Stephanie

- Shop at **Hy-Vee** and tell your cashier you'd like to **Scan Away Hunger** to have your donation added right to your grocery bill.
- Get your church involved! Contact us for a **Scan Away Hunger** Digital Kit with opportunities for your church to help spread the word.
- **Scan Away Hunger** online at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org).

These are needed most

## • Help with Holiday Meals •



We'll provide more than 5,000 meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas – served on-site to our residents and Central Iowa guests and delivered to those who are elderly or homebound. You can help by donating the food items below:

- Ready-to-serve dinner rolls
- Cookies (packaged two per baggie)
- Ground meat/beef, pork loin, bacon, ham
- Milk, cheese, eggs, butter
- Large #10 cans of green beans or mixed vegetables
- Condiments
- Salad dressing (e.g. ranch, French, Italian)

Please drop off your donated foods at our Bethel Mission ministry center at 1310 6th Avenue in Des Moines on Wednesday, November 22, for our Thanksgiving dinner, and on Saturday, December 23, for our Christmas dinner. Delivery hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring along your family for a tour of our men's emergency shelter!



# Share the Wonders of His LOVE

..... through Year-End Giving

By Kathy Coady, Director of Development and Community Relations

As a privately funded and Christ-centered ministry, donations from friends like you have sustained us for more than 100 years. This is a critical time for our ministry as we've budgeted to raise just over \$1.5 million – a significant portion of our annual operating budget – in November and December. We will be so grateful for your continued generosity, and we ask you to prayerfully consider these options for year-end giving:

- **Unrestricted financial gifts** allow us to be good stewards of our resources by using funds where they're needed most. You can give with a check or credit card through the mail, online at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org) or by phone.
- You can choose to help us maintain a steady income all year by becoming a **Hope Monthly Giving Partner**.
- Please inquire if **matching funds** are available through your employer. This opportunity can double your support of our ministry.

These are just a few ways you can bring life essentials, transforming guidance and many other examples of God's love to people who are homeless and hurting, at the holidays and all through the year.

For more information on year-end giving opportunities, please contact me at **(515) 265-7272, ext. 1017**, or [kcoady@hopeiowa.org](mailto:kcoady@hopeiowa.org).



Director of Development Kathy Coady (right) visits with Kathy Bruxvoort, a Hope Ministries supporter and M25 volunteer, who serves as an office assistant at our Hope Center for Women and Children. She was also a table host at *An Evening for Hope* this year.

## How to Receive a Year-End Donation Statement

To be the best possible stewards of your gifts, we send year-end statements only to those who request them by calling **(515) 265-7272** or emailing [info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org). If you've requested a statement in the past, you will automatically receive one in January. If you would like your statement via email, please send a request to [info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org).

## Spread the Good News

By David L. Burrier,  
Director of Estate and Legacy Planning

More than half of the people who leave charitable gifts in their wills fail to notify the organization(s) they plan to benefit. This leaves the charity at risk of not receiving the gift you intended. If you have listed Hope Ministries in your estate and legacy plan through your will, beneficiary, trust or other means, please spread the good news by letting us know. We are happy to honor your wishes regarding anonymity.

You can direct your legacy gift to our **general operating fund** or to our **endowment fund**, or split your bequest between the two funds in writing by requesting our **Statement of Intent** form on the enclosed reply coupon.

If you have not included Hope Ministries in your current will but intend to, we encourage you to provide the following wording to your attorney or other professional advisors.

*"I, [State Your Full Name], of [City, State, Zip], give, devise and bequeath [indicate the amount or percentage of the estate or description of the property] to Hope Ministries in Des Moines, Iowa, tax ID #42-1512992 for its unrestricted use."*

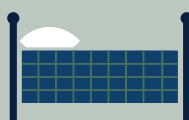
Remembering Hope Ministries in your will or estate plan will perpetuate your support and help us continue our outreach to homeless and hungry men, women and children beyond your lifetime. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information on how to include Hope Ministries in your estate plan, please contact me at **(515) 265-7272, ext. 1002**, or [dburrier@hopeiowa.org](mailto:dburrier@hopeiowa.org).

# You Did It!

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JANUARY – JULY 2017



Nights of shelter 33,154



Meals served 94,709