

# Stories of HOPE

May-June  
2018



hopeministries

SERVING HOMELESS IOWANS SINCE 1915

“THE LOVE THEY  
SHOWED ME WHEN  
I WALKED THROUGH  
THE DOORS  
WAS EVERYTHING  
I NEEDED.”

Homeless, addicted and drowning in despair, Dakota found hope that his life could be restored thanks to God's love, the guidance of godly mentors and your kind generosity.

Read his story on Page 3.

# GETCONNECTED



Dear Friend,

As our name implies, Hope Ministries is made up of programs and services that instill hope in people who are hurting by empowering them to overcome hardships... repair vital relationships... and gain skills that allow them to become the men and women God intended them to be. But hope doesn't happen without people who bring these vital outreaches to life.

We have two special ways you can help us give hope and change lives in the coming weeks. You'll read about both of them on Page 4 – our May Matching Challenge and our upcoming fundraising banquet, **An Evening for Hope**. I hope one or both of these will pique your interest. You can find more details at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org).

As we continue to bring hope to Central Iowa, I take comfort in knowing friends like you are beside us. We're so grateful for the countless donors, volunteers, business and church partners, and others whose gifts of time, prayer and financial support make our ministry possible.

God bless you for your dedication to our mission and those we serve.

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen  
President/CEO



## ONE COOL Thing

Among the many sweet things she has done for Hope Ministries over the years, Olivia Kennedy, along with her mom, Deanna, recently collected an abundant supply of protein bars for our **Hope on the Streets** outreach team to distribute to individuals and families who are homeless and hungry. Not only did she meet a specific need for our ministry, she also encouraged friends, neighbors and classmates to join the effort, raising awareness of our work and mission in the process. We're truly thankful for Olivia's ongoing and loving partnership!

*You can help too!*

### Our Hope on the Streets Donation Needs

Consider holding a donation drive for bottled water, protein bars and clean, new socks for our **Hope on the Streets** outreach team to distribute to homeless individuals and families. Please deliver your items to Bethel Mission (1310 6th Avenue in Des Moines), Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



#### 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

# A NEW PASSION FOR LIFE

“I NEVER WANTED TO STRIVE TO BE ANYTHING... AND NOW I STRIVE TO DO THINGS FOR GOD FIRST, THEN OTHERS AND THEN MYSELF.”



Dakota had a great childhood. But when he became a teenage father, he was forced to grow up much faster than other people his age. He tried to do the right thing – he found jobs that allowed him to support his young family. But life wasn't easy, and when his kids' mom eventually left him, he was lost.

**“I just kind of wandered the earth, not knowing what to do or how to do it,”** he says. He turned to alcohol and drugs to ease his loneliness, but it only worsened his despair. At times he was homeless, living in a shelter he built in the woods. Often he even considered taking his own life. After surviving the winter in the elements, he believed there must be a reason he was still alive. **“I've been throwing my life away,”** he thought. **“Something's got to change.”**

Now a resident in our life recovery program, Dakota has a newfound hope for his future. Our practical classes, on topics such as health and wellness, money management and resume writing, combined with our work readiness training, are preparing him for a stable adult life. He's an active member of a local church and is rebuilding his relationship with his children through phone calls and visits. **“I make a conscious effort to be a part of their lives,”** he explains.

And Dakota feels especially blessed to be among “good Christian people” who model the kind of person he wants to be. He believes their example combined with his growing relationship with God has given his life new meaning and direction.

**“It has shown me a passion I never had,”** he says. **“I want to help people find the Lord, and I know He instilled that in me.”**



*We're so grateful for your generosity and prayers, which allow individuals like Dakota to overcome their challenges and build stable and meaningful lives. God bless you for your gift today and your continued support.*

# An Evening for Hope

Please join us for **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 • 6:30 p.m.*

*Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines*

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



## 1 + YOU = TWO

Help Meet Our \$90,000 Matching Challenge!



A generous group of supporters has contributed \$90,000 to Hope Ministries and challenged other ministry friends to match it by May 31. That means your gift today will provide twice as much food and shelter for people who are homeless... bring two times the hope to the men, women and children in our care... and offer faith-based programs for even more individuals seeking transformation and change.

**YOUR GIFT TODAY...**

**\$50**

**\$100**

**\$150**

**HAS TWICE THE IMPACT!**

**\$100**

**\$200**

**\$300**

**DEADLINE TO GIVE: MAY 31**

## Where Do I Start? By David L. Burrier, Director of Estate and Legacy Planning

I have rarely, if ever, encountered any individual or couple who has crossed all their "t's" and dotted all their "i's" when it comes to their estate and legacy planning. Only 44 percent of Americans report they have an up-to-date will that describes how they would like their lifetime of accumulated assets distributed after their death.

Why is that? Is it procrastination? Not knowing what to do or how to do it... where to go or who to see? Or is it apathy like the rare situation I encountered many years ago when someone said to me, "It's not my problem"? It's all of the above actually.

I believe most people desire peace of mind knowing they have been good stewards of their resources, leaving an orderly distribution plan to their family and worthy causes. Yet 56 percent of Americans still don't have a plan?

The answer for many if not most people is simply this: *They don't know where to start.*

We encourage you to check out Hope Ministries' new estate and legacy planning pages at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org), where you will discover helpful information and resources to get you on the path toward peace of mind. We think you will find it to be a good place to start.

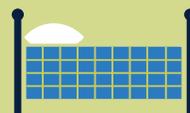
For more information about our estate and legacy planning service, contact me at (515) 265-7272, ext. 1003, or [dburrier@hopeiowa.org](mailto:dburrier@hopeiowa.org).



## You Did It!

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**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018**



**Nights of shelter 10,896**



**Meals served 27,400**