

Stories of HOPE

Easter
2019



hopeministries

SERVING HOMELESS IOWANS SINCE 1915

..... A

Wonderful New Beginning

.....

*Leland's life was restored in
ways he never imagined.*



On Page 3: Read how your support has given Leland a reason to celebrate this Easter... and every day of the year.

hopeiowa.org

GETCONNECTED



Dear Friend,

A simple handshake... a clean shirt... a kind word.

Here at Hope Ministries, we know one small gesture can give a hurting person a glimpse of hope. For Leland, who shares his story on Page 3, it was a hot meal served by a kind volunteer on his first day in our shelter that made him feel he was loved.

Your generosity makes hope happen every day for people who are searching for safe shelter, struggling to feed their children, or burdened by challenges or hurts they can't overcome on their own. As they receive the help they need – including life skills classes, job readiness training, counseling and more – they often recall that initial glimmer of hope as their first step to positive life change.

During the Easter season, as we celebrate Christ's amazing gift of love that brought hope to all the world, I pray you'll continue your own gestures of generosity and compassion that so deeply bless those in our care.

By God's grace, and your support, so many like Leland are experiencing hope restored. Thank you for your prayers and partnership in this important work.

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen
President/CEO



President/CEO Leon Negen is grateful for the continued generosity of friends and partners as more men, women and children turn to our ministry for hope.



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

hopeiowa.org
Donate online.



Like us on Facebook.

Hopelowa channel



As part of the job readiness training your generosity provides, Heather is preparing for a practice interview that will help her secure employment when she leaves our Hope Center.

ONE COOL Thing

Helping our men and women in recovery secure stable employment starts with preparing them for job interviews. That's why we partner with the Evelyn K. Davis Center and Dress for Success to offer our recovery residents practice interviews. They dress just as they would for a real interview and after the practice session, they receive feedback from community human resources professionals, including what they did well and what steps they can take to improve even more.

Take an "I Had No Idea" tour at Hope Ministries and discover other cool things – happening every day – that your gifts make possible! Call (515) 265-7272 to schedule your visit today.

“A life that's more than I ever dreamed of...”



From despair to hope...

Four years ago, Leland made a decision that he says “changed everything.” But it wasn’t the choice he originally intended to make.

“I’d spent several days on the street. All I could think was, ‘Why am I still alive?’ I was out at a bridge, thinking about how I could end it all.”

Years of addiction and anxiety – stemming from loneliness and a troubled childhood – had taken their toll. But instead of an ending, that day at the bridge ushered in a new beginning.

“Something came over me,” he remembers. “It could only be God.” He found himself making his way to our men’s shelter. There he found safety and compassion, received a meal from a volunteer that “gave him his first glimpse of hope” and made the decision to enter our life recovery program.

In August 2016, Leland graduated from our program. But that wasn’t the end of his Hope Ministries journey.

...to another new beginning

“Ever since I graduated, I’ve become more sure of myself,” Leland says. “I feel like the Holy Spirit challenges me to step outside my box.”

Part of stepping outside his box is stepping up to a leadership role with our men’s alumni program. Leland was elected as president last fall. “I thought, ‘What qualifies me for this?’ but I knew that I cared – I cared about all the guys. And I realized that’s enough.”

The alumni program is an ongoing support system for our graduates. As Leland points out, it can be tough to leave Hope Ministries. “Honestly, a little depression can set in because suddenly you aren’t surrounded by people anymore. But the alumni program kept me connected.”

The men get together frequently – they have bowling nights and retreats – and they volunteer regularly, serving meals at our Hope Café and Door of Faith. They even have a bank account they contribute to, and when one member is struggling financially, they’re able to help out. “We’re a family that supports each other,” Leland says.

In addition to leading the alumni, Leland is now an ongoing Hope Ministries volunteer. He has a full-time job he enjoys – a position that started out as spot labor while he was in our program – and a church and friends he loves.

“I was so alone before. My life was nothing,” he says. “But now I’m just really grateful. I’m a quiet person by nature, but when I think about what this program has done for me, I want to shout it out.”

Your gifts and prayers this Easter season and all year long are helping people like Leland discover God’s love and a life they’ve never dreamed of. Thank you.

Help Us Spread Hope This Easter Season

We need helping hands this Easter as we deliver meals to people in need on **Saturday, April 20**. We'll deliver around 2,000 in-home meals to low-income, elderly and homebound individuals throughout the Des Moines area. Here's how you can help:

- **Volunteer Onsite:** Help us assemble and pack meals. The time commitment is 9:30 a.m. to noon. Onsite volunteers must be 13 or older.
- **Serve as a Meal Delivery Driver Team:** Deliver meals around the Des Moines area. We'll provide a list of addresses in the days leading up to the event, so you can create a route using your own GPS. The time commitment is 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for families with young children! You'll need a vehicle large enough to hold 25-40 paper sacks.

Get all the details and sign up at hopeiowa.org. Thank you for sharing hope this Easter season!



Pledge to Give Monthly in 2019...

Provide a week of meals and care for \$38.85



We're grateful for our **Hope Monthly Giving Partners** whose consistent gifts provide a predictable stream of revenue for our Christ-centered programs. If you're not already part of this essential group, we encourage you to join them!

Please consider your best monthly gift. Just \$38.85 provides one week of meals and care for one person. Imagine the impact of committing to this

thoughtful and beneficial gift every month – it will truly change lives!

To become a **Hope Monthly Giving Partner**, simply complete the back of the enclosed reply form, visit hopeiowa.org or call **(515) 265-7272**. God bless you for your dedication and compassion.

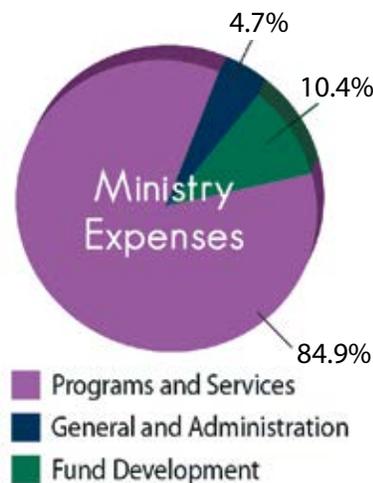
Your Helping Hands Bring Hope!

National Volunteer Week – April 7-13

Our awesome volunteers are vital to our ministry. This past year, 16,684 hours of service were donated by 1,836 individuals of all ages – 314 of whom were members of our **M25 Volunteer Network**. We're so grateful to all of them! We recognize with gratitude those who have served with us for 10 or more years:

Jim Burk	Andrew Moffitt
Myrna Eisenlauer	Kim Rasler
Sandra Gookin	Ana Runyon
Sheri Gustafson	Annette Rylan
Cheryl Hahn	Greg Simmons
James Hayes	Timothy Stacy
James Hayman	Shirley Sterk
Shirley Hunziker	Esther Vander Waal
Galen Kessler	John Witt
Marjorie Kessler	

Hope Ministries Far Exceeds Better Business Bureau Requirements for Good Stewardship!



Better Business Bureau standards for charity accountability:

- 65% or more to program expenses
- 35% or less on fundraising

View our 2017-2018 Annual Report in its entirety on our website, hopeiowa.org.