

Stories of HOPE

SPRING 2020

SERVING
HOMELESS
IOWANS
SINCE 1915



“More than I imagined”

Tragedy in his childhood led Nick into an addiction that would span twenty years and cost him everything. But God worked a miracle of restoration in his life!

INSIDE:

- A Note from Leon
- Nick's Powerful Story
- Shelter Renovation Update

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Dear Friend,

As I write this letter, our world at-large is facing unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, it's likely even more changes will have come our way.

That's why I'm so grateful to serve a Heavenly Father who *doesn't* change. At Hope Ministries, we are depending on God's faithful and loving guidance to lead us as we safely and responsibly serve men, women and children in need every day.

I'm also grateful for you and your partnership that helps feed, clothe and shelter individuals and families desperate for help. You are much-needed and much-appreciated—especially in these most recent months and as we move into the future. As we meet the most critical needs of vulnerable people *today*, we're helping them prepare for *tomorrow*. And we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for your gifts and ongoing compassion. . . and for taking a few moments to read this newsletter. I hope you enjoy meeting one of the men you've impacted on page 3. You are helping us change lives!

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen
President/CEO

President/CEO Leon Negen and all of us at Hope Ministries are grateful for your gifts and prayers that help give brighter tomorrows to those struggling today.



hopeministries
Giving hope. Changing lives.

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.



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CONSTRUCTION *corner*

Construction has been under way for several months now at our Bethel Mission men's shelter, and every day brings us closer to completion. We currently serve around 1,000 men annually at our shelter, but by the end of this renovation, we'll be able to serve an additional 250 men each year!

The most exciting progress lately is the renovation of the main dorm, which is on the second floor of the shelter. It used to hold 80 beds, but now there's room for 110 beds. With that major piece of the project complete, the construction crew has now shifted to working on relocating and updating our restroom and shower facilities.



We welcome your donations! With summer nearly upon us, one of our biggest practical needs at our Bethel Mission shelter is travel-size deodorant for men. Donations may be dropped off at our ENCORE Thrift Stores during business hours.

FOREVER CHANGED

Forever Grateful



At age 35, Nick found himself living on a concrete slab outside of a school. Everything he owned was in a laundry basket. “I was a 96-pound methamphetamine addict. I was completely broken, completely shattered, completely without hope.”

Nick’s heartbreaking struggles began when his mom was diagnosed with HIV. He was only 14, and she passed away within a year. Due to misconceptions surrounding HIV at the time, his friends pushed him away and he ended up part of a different crowd—a crowd of poor influences.

“I spiraled out of control. I dropped out of school in 9th grade. I went from marijuana and alcohol to cocaine and methamphetamines.” Eventually he lost everything to his addiction. “It was to the point where I found myself sitting in a Chinese restaurant on Christmas alone because I had no one and nothing left in my life.”

Until he learned about Hope Ministries. Nick’s defining moment happened two weeks after he arrived at our shelter. During chapel, he heard Psalm 55:22: “*Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.*”

“I thought, ‘All this stuff I’ve been carrying around with me—the junk, the abandonment issues, the resentment, the sin—I don’t have to carry it with me anymore. I floated up to my bunk that night and had the greatest night of sleep I’ve had in my life to this day.’”

Nick dove in to our life recovery program wholeheartedly. He completed classes and substance abuse counseling,

“I learned so much here. I dove into the Word and into the classes. What happens here—it’s the real deal.”

—NICK

grew in his faith and even received his high school equivalency diploma. Eventually Nick began his employment search. During one job interview, he was interviewed by a woman named Amanda . . . and today she’s his wife!

“I look at the story of Job in the Bible—he had everything and it was all taken away then given back tenfold. That’s my life to a T. God has blessed me and given me more in five years since this program than I ever had in 35 years of life before. I’m married to a wonderful woman. I have a college degree. I went from homeless to homeowner.”

And he has a job he loves . . . *right here at Hope Ministries.* After completing our program, Nick went on to attend college and receive his degree in Human Services. He even interned at our men’s shelter as part of his education. When a shelter case manager position opened at our Bethel Mission last fall, he jumped at the opportunity to help men the same way he’d been helped.

“My job as a case manager is to do exactly what our mission statement says—give opportunities for hope . . . the same opportunities that were given to me.”

**Watch Nick’s full testimony video on our “Hopelowa” YouTube channel!
Thank you for helping us give brighter tomorrows to so many others like him!**

HOMELESS IOWANS NEED YOUR HELP THIS SUMMER

We say it often: **Homelessness has no season.** Many people are surprised to hear our shelter and life recovery centers are frequently just as full during the summer months as in the winter. **That's why the need for your support remains great in these coming months, especially in light of the uncertainty we've all faced recently.**

Please consider supporting our life-changing programs and services with a gift this summer. **To make a secure online gift, visit hopeiowa.org/donatenow.** You can also send a gift in the mail using the enclosed reply form.

**Thank you for helping us give hope and change lives . . .
this summer and all year round.**



*How can we pray
for you?*

Did you know there's a spot on our website where you can share your prayer requests with us? Our staff prays daily! We invite you to share your requests with us. You may remain anonymous or share your first name only.

While you're on our prayer page, you'll also see a downloadable 31-Day Prayer Calendar with prayer requests for every day of the month!

Submit your requests and download our 31-Day Prayer Calendar at hopeiowa.org/pray.

Celebrating An Evening for Hope

Thank you to everyone who attended *An Evening for Hope* earlier this year. We had a blast with comedian John Branyan and there were few dry eyes in the room during our graduate testimony. Thank you, especially, to our table hosts and our corporate sponsors, including:

Gold Sponsors—**Community State Bank, Foster Group** and one anonymous donor

Silver Sponsor—**Gabus Automotive Group**

Bronze Sponsor—**Casey's General Store**

ARE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS ON THE SAME PAGE?

We talk to many donors about the importance of creating an up-to-date will. Not only does this ensure your estate plans will be carried out to your wishes, it also helps maintain peace and unity among your adult children and other family members. And it communicates that in your family, you value:

- **Peace.** Your family will appreciate that you planned ahead, creating peace before there was even a chance for conflict.
- **Communication.** A messy estate makes the loss of a loved one even more difficult. So it's vital to communicate your wishes (and love for your family) while you are still alive.
- **Generosity.** By including a gift in your will to a ministry like Hope Ministries, you will set a powerful example of living your values.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "How to Get Your Family on the Same Page" by contacting Fred Hollister at (515) 265-7272 ext. 1003 or fhollister@hopeiowa.org - or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/hopeministries.

Want to stay in the loop about future Hope Ministries happenings? Be sure you're signed up to receive our periodic emails by including your email address on the enclosed reply form or signing up at hopeiowa.org.