

Stories of HOPE

EASTER 2022

SERVING
HOMELESS
IOWANS
SINCE 1915



The Hope That Changes Everything

After years of homelessness and a life-threatening overdose, Tiffany was done. She wanted a new life, and she was willing to do whatever it took to find it. Inside, her uplifting story of hope and perseverance.

INSIDE:

- A Note from Leon
- Tiffany's Inspiring Story
- Easter Meal Outreach

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President/CEO Leon Negen is grateful for your support this Easter season as we meet the needs of hurting Central Iowans and point them to the love and hope of Christ.



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P.O. Box 862
Des Moines, IA 50304-0862

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Hopelowa channel

Dear Friend,

There's a line I love from Tiffany's story on page 3. She's talking about her blossoming faith, her journey from knowing about God to truly knowing Christ, and she says, "it changed everything." Isn't that the truth? It's what we celebrate every year during the Easter season. The love, the sacrifice and the resurrection of Jesus Christ . . . *who changes everything*.

Thanks to your partnership, Hope Ministries is able to help individuals and families discover the One who can change lives every day. With your help, as we serve warm meals and provide safe refuge, our desire is to be the hands and feet of Jesus. To help homeless and hurting people feel seen and valued. To empower them to take their next steps in life as they depend on a Heavenly Father who will never leave their side.

One of the great joys of my life is getting to share this Christ-centered mission with you! I hope you feel uplifted when you read Tiffany's story, and if you're interested in getting involved even more, you'll find several opportunities throughout the pages of this newsletter—including our upcoming Easter Meal Outreach on Saturday, April 8 (page 4).

Thank you so much for helping us care for men, women and children in need of hope. Your support is a blessing this Easter season and all year round.

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen
President/CEO



It's pretty exciting to drive past our new Hope Ministries Steve Lankford Campus at 3800 E. Douglas in Des Moines these days! What started out as a hope-filled vision several years ago is becoming a reality as construction is under way on our future 100-bed center for women and children.

Currently, we're in the first stages of the renovation of the existing building. Construction of the new residential wing will begin after the ground thaws. Want to follow along with the construction progress? We plan to keep our website and Facebook page updated with photos along the way. Bookmark hopeiowa.org/construction to follow along and/or make sure to follow us on Facebook!



At our current Hope Center for Women and Children, we have a couple great volunteer opportunities. We're looking for small groups to host Family Fun Night on the first Friday of the month and provide childcare on the second Saturday of each month.

If you're interested or would like more details, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Trevor Schmitt, at (515) 265-7272 or tschmitt@hopeiowa.org.



The first day of the *rest of my life*

Tiffany had struggled for years. From abusive relationships to living in her car to eventually trying to survive in a tent in the woods—a situation that turned dangerous when her tent was vandalized.

“I was lost. Running from my pain and trauma just led me to more pain and trauma,” she remembers. “I’d turned to drugs to cope and survive. It was just a downward spiral. It wasn’t a life I wanted to live anymore.”

Eventually, she decided the best way to escape her drug addiction and past hurts was to go somewhere new and start fresh. So she moved to Chicago. But it didn’t take long for her old life to catch up to her . . . and nearly destroy her. An accidental, life-threatening overdose landed her in the hospital.

“I realized that my life wasn’t going to be any different just because I’d relocated,” she says, looking back. “It was only going to get worse with the choices I was making. Something had to be different.”

In the summer of 2021, Tiffany found Hope Ministries through a Google search and decided to return to Iowa.

“I was nervous,” she recalls of her first day at our Hope Center for Women and Children. “But there was a lovely staff member who saw how nervous I was and she prayed for my nerves to be still and for me to trust in the Lord. It helped me so much.”

“It was definitely the first day of the rest of my life,” she adds, “and I knew it.”

That first day led into weeks and months that filled Tiffany with a hope she’d once thought was impossible. In classes, counseling and recovery, she dug deep. “I have

“I went from thinking I knew who God was to truly knowing who Christ is. It changed everything.”

—TIFFANY

perseverance,” she says. “Even in hard situations, I’ll find the good of it and I’ll fight until the good comes to light.”

The good has come to light in Tiffany’s life in so many ways! She’s just a few months away from her two-year sobriety anniversary. She’s excited to be a part of a church family and has reunited with her adult children. She has a full-time job where she was recently promoted to manager and is saving up for her own place. She’s active in a volleyball league and finds time to enjoy her other hobbies, too—frisbee, swimming, Bible studies and walking.

In other words, she’s found the hope and new life she longed for . . . as well as a new dream of someday working at Hope Ministries. “I want to be a part of something that’s so much bigger than me and that was such a blessing in my life.”

But for now, she’s simply grateful for the miracles God has worked in her life . . . and for everyone who made it possible.

“If I could talk to the donors of Hope Ministries, I would say thank you. Your generosity helps so many. I can’t even fathom how much it makes a difference. Without you, there wouldn’t be a second chance, an opportunity to make my life better. Thank you.”

Tiffany’s life changed thanks to your financial and prayer support. Thank you!

Share Easter Hope

Saturday, April 8

On the Saturday before Easter, we'll deliver around 1,800 in-home meals to low-income, elderly and homebound individuals throughout the Des Moines area. Plus, we'll serve a special meal at our Hope Cafe. Here's how you can help:

- **Volunteer Onsite** (9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.): Help us assemble, pack and serve Easter meals. Onsite volunteers must be 13 or older.
- **Serve as a Meal Delivery Driver Team** (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.): Deliver meals around the Des Moines area. This is a great opportunity for families with young children! You'll need a vehicle large enough to hold 15-20 paper sacks.

Get all the details and sign up to help at hopeiowa.org!



Celebrating our Volunteers

By Trevor Schmitt, Community Involvement & Volunteer Coordinator

National Volunteer Week is April 16-22 . . . which means it's time to celebrate you, our incredible volunteers!

I've been serving as the volunteer coordinator for about six months now. As I've been meeting our faithful M25 volunteers and working with groups from churches and businesses, I've been struck by how compassionate and service-oriented our volunteers are.

Recently, I heard from one of our volunteers, Mark, who is a men's mentor at our Door of Faith life recovery center:

"I simply love bringing the hope, love and peace of Jesus to men who are hungry to live life surrendered to God. God is taking me deeper in His Word as I prepare each week. Not only are they growing in their faith, but so am I!"

As we celebrate you this month, we're also celebrating the work God is doing in and through you. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

P.S. If you'd ever like to reach out to me with prayer requests, questions about your role or other feedback, please know my inbox is always open—tschmitt@hopeiowa.org.

A Family Bond

There's a special bond we share with our family. A similar relationship can grow with the organizations we believe in. When you resonate deeply with the mission of a charity, their mission becomes yours too.

Some people who share the mission of Hope Ministries have chosen to include a gift in their will. These individuals:

- **Create impact.** There may be tax savings and benefits associated with your gift, but even more, your investment ensures people's lives will be changed for good.
- **Build a legacy.** When you leave a charitable gift in your will, you create a legacy beyond your lifetime.

For more on leaving your legacy, contact Fred Hollister at (515) 265-7272. Go to christianwill.org/hopeministries to bless your family with a God-honoring will.



Give a Meal—Give Hope!

One of the simplest ways to give hope this Easter is by providing a warm meal to someone in need. It may seem small—but a hearty meal in a safe, friendly environment reminds a hurting person that they're not alone.

It costs Hope Ministries just \$2.02 to give a meal and care to a hungry individual. Please consider donating using the enclosed meal ticket and reply card or by visiting hopeiowa.org. Thank you!