

# Stories of HOPE

SUMMER 2023

SERVING  
HOMELESS  
IOWANS  
SINCE 1915



## The Start of Something New

*"I always thought there was something I could do to make everything better in my life, and that's all I was searching for. But really, the work has been done. Being thankful for what Jesus has done on the cross is what has brought me back to life. I'm not the same person I was."*

## INSIDE:

- A Note from Leon
- David's Inspiring Story
- Meet Our New President

hopeiowa.org





CEO Leon Negen and our whole Hope Ministries family are grateful for your support! Thanks to you, this is a SUMMER OF HOPE.



#### Our Ministry Centers

Bethel Mission

Door of Faith

Hope Center for  
Women and Children

Hope Café

Hope Ministries Thrift

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

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[hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org)  
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# GET CONNECTED

Dear Friend,

*The Start of Something New*—what a fitting theme for this newsletter and for the season we find ourselves in here at Hope Ministries! For one thing, this month we're embarking on a new fiscal year. David's story on page 3 also encompasses "the start of something new" as he receives the guidance he needs to move forward in his life. I'm inspired by David's determination and faith!

And here's another exciting new beginning: Hope Ministries has a new president! I'm delighted to introduce you to Cole Lindholm, who stepped into the role of president on July 1. You may recognize Cole's name as he's been a part of Hope Ministries for 23 years and brings a wealth of experience to his new position. You can read more about Cole on page 4.

It's been my joy to serve as the president/CEO of this ministry since 1994. It's incredible to look back on all that's happened since then, all the ways God has guided our work. As we look forward to all that's ahead of us, including a season of great growth, I, along with our board of directors, felt the time was right to expand the function of Hope Ministries president into a separate role . . . and I believe Cole has been prepared and positioned for "such a time as this."

I will continue to serve as Hope Ministries CEO, working closely with our board as we set the vision for the future of this ministry.

As we step into this new fiscal year, into *the start of something new*, we do so with the same steadfast mission we've had since 1915—to give hope and change lives. I'm so thankful to ministry partners—*like you!*—who continue to support our work of rescue, recovery and restoration. With deep sincerity, thank you.

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen  
CEO



It seems like every day something new is happening at the site of our future 100-bed center for women and children! Renovation of the existing portion of the building has been in full swing since the beginning of the year, but as soon as the weather started warming up this spring, construction began outside, as well. The foundation and walls for our new residential wings are already coming along! As a reminder, you can follow along with the progress at [hopeiowa.org/construction](http://hopeiowa.org/construction).



*The new residential wing at our future campus is beginning to take shape!*

As our services for women and children grow, we need passionate women to come alongside Hope Ministries with your time, talents and treasure! We're assembling an interest list of women who'd like to stay in the loop about how we're growing and future opportunities.

If you're feeling called or even simply curious, please visit  
[hopeiowa.org/empowering-women](http://hopeiowa.org/empowering-women) to sign up for periodic updates.



# Finding my way to *a new life*

It was a 150-year-old book—*The New Life* by Andrew Murray—that initially inspired David to change his life. And he found it, of all places, in a dumpster behind a thrift store. He'd been looking for clothing.

First, he read the preface. Later, he read the whole book. "That's when I knew—I needed to change," he says.

David had spent last winter hunkered down in his tent in a homeless camp. It was his third year of homelessness. Before that, he lived in the car repair shop that had been passed down from his grandfather to his father to him. He lost the shop when drugs and alcohol got the better of him, a painful divorce and family estrangement having upended his life several years earlier.

But after reading that old book, he knew he couldn't keep going on the same way he had. So on his 43rd birthday, he turned himself in to the police to face an outstanding charge and served time in jail. Not long after his release, he found himself at our Bethel Mission men's shelter.

"After I'd been here a couple weeks, I laid down one night and thought, 'Man, I'd totally forgotten how great it is just to lay down on a really comfortable bed, in a comfortable environment, surrounded by friends who care about me,'" he remembers.

"Bethel Mission is different than anywhere else," he adds. "They didn't even know me and they loved me."

At first, David didn't plan to stay long. But then, one night he poked his head into one of our chapel services. Curious, he began attending chapel regularly and soon realized he was tired of attempting to fix his life on his own. "I've tried this my way. But now I'm starting something new," he says.

"God has the power to heal us. I can't put into words what He's done in me. I'm happier every day and excited for life again." —DAVID

Since David joined our Christ-centered life recovery program, he's found a band of brothers who are walking alongside him, offering friendship and accountability every step of the way. "It's like all of us became a team—like when we were in sports back in high school, only now we're playing against homelessness."

David has jumped into classes, counseling and his newfound faith with determination. "There's always been something missing, but I've found the missing piece. I've learned that Jesus loves us. He'll always love us."

David still grieves his estrangement from his family and hopes and prays for future reconciliation. But for now, he's focused on healing mentally and emotionally and breaking old cycles. "An important part of the process is owning your recovery. No one else can do it for you."

Case Manager Mike Scott says he can already see changes in David. "I've been encouraged by both the work that God is doing in David's life and his testimony. David's faith has grown noticeably and he often expresses hope for his future," Mike says. "It's been a privilege to work with him. I'm looking forward to watching his progress as God continues to work in his life."

When he looks to the future, David sees himself settled in a church home and finding ways to serve others. Meanwhile, he's reading *The New Life* . . . for a third time!

Your support has helped David make a new start. *Thank you for giving hope this summer!*



# Meet Our New President: *Cole Lindholm*

*On July 1, Cole Lindholm stepped into the role of Hope Ministries president, under the direction of CEO Leon Negen. Previously, the responsibilities of president and CEO were combined into one position, but as our ministry is in a season of tremendous growth, Leon and our board of directors decided the time was right to expand the function of president into a separate role.*

Cole was only 26 when he started working at the Door of Faith mission in downtown Des Moines. On his first day, before he'd even entered the building, he was met with a woman dragging an intoxicated man. She thrust the man against the building and told Cole to "deal with" him. Quite the introduction to his new job as program director.

And it was a job he hadn't even originally pursued! "I was young, and I thought I was going a different direction in my career. But God got ahold of my heart and it turned out He had a plan and a purpose that was better than anything I could've imagined."

In the 23 years since then, Cole has been a part of some of our biggest milestones, including the merger of Door of Faith and Bethel Mission that formed Hope Ministries. At that time, Cole became director of men's ministry, developing and implementing our long-term life recovery program that's still in place today.

Later, Cole pursued his MBA at Drake University and in 2010 transitioned into the role of director of HR and community outreach operations. In the past 13 years, he has developed our HR department, overseen the expansion of our thrift ministry and more recently, fine-tuned our approach to community outreach.

"The culture here is something different," Cole says, reflecting on what's kept him at Hope Ministries for so long. "Everyone here really cares. The work we're doing has purpose in today's world and eternally—and that's amazing to be a part of."

And now, Cole is moving into the role of president right as we're in the midst of another season of growth! "We have excellent staff members who are passionate about serving, generous donors, and very capable and engaged volunteers," he says. "I want to inspire people to live out their God-given abilities and to find God's purpose for their lives through encouragement, accountability and training."



## Double Your Impact During Our *Matching Challenge*

Right now, thanks to contributions from a group of generous partners, your giving has double the impact! These wonderful partners are donating a total of \$100,000 . . . and if your donations match their challenge, we'll have raised \$200,000 to provide:

- **Warm meals** for those who are hungry
- **Safe shelter** for individuals and families with nowhere else to go
- **Compassionate substance abuse counseling**, job readiness training, life skills classes and so much more!

Don't miss this opportunity to double your impact, especially at such a crucial time when so many are struggling and turning to us for help.

Give at [hopeiowa.org/match](https://hopeiowa.org/match) or by using the enclosed reply card.

## *Summer Six*

Summer Six is a list of the top items we need all summer long to help our homeless guests—around 200 each night!—stay clean and comfortable. We would greatly appreciate donations!

Donations may be dropped off at our Hope Ministries Thrift stores (4640 Merle Hay Road and 500 E. Army Post Road). Donation hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thank you!

Men's deodorant  
Men's hand cream  
White washcloths  
White bath towels  
Toilet paper  
HE laundry detergent