

YOUR GIFTS & COMPASSION GIVE

# HOPE

2023 IMPACT REPORT

SERVING  
HOMELESS  
IOWANS  
SINCE 1915



## *A Firm Foundation*

*Thanks to you, Jericka, Jon and so many others have a firm foundation for their future. You've helped us provide meals, shelter and hope. Thank you!*

## **INSIDE:**

- **A Look Back at 2023**
- **Jericka's and Jon's Stories**
- **Annual Financial Update**

hopeiowa.org



# THANK YOU

Dear Friend,

A few months ago, we had some celebrating going on at Hope Ministries when the cement truck rolled up to the site of our future 100-bed center for women and children and the foundation was poured for its new residential wing.

Construction has been under way for a year now—and we still have months to go—but seeing the foundation begin to take shape felt like a milestone. And it was also a poignant visual reminder of what we're all about here at Hope Ministries: Helping men, women and children build firm foundations for their future. It's what you help us do through your financial gifts, your volunteering, your donated food and supplies, your prayers.

Building firm foundations starts with meeting the essential, daily needs of the individuals and families who come to us for warm meals and safe refuge. It continues through life skills classes, substance abuse counseling and job readiness training. And as we break the cycles of homelessness, hunger, abuse and addiction, we continually point people to God's life-changing love and to the purpose He has for them.

I say this often and I mean it every time: We truly could not do this without you! As you read Jericka's and Jon's stories in the coming pages, as you catch up on all the good work your generosity and support has made possible in the past year, I hope you're uplifted by the knowledge that you've made both a practical and powerful difference for our hurting neighbors.

And as 2024 unfolds, please know how grateful all of us are for your partnership in our mission of rescue, recovery and restoration. Thank you for helping us give hope and change lives.

Your partner in ministry,

Leon Negen  
CEO



**Jennifer Canelos, *Chair***  
Dir. of Marketing, South Story Bank

**Jason Brown**  
Dir. of Advisor Success, Foster Group

**Leah Owensby**  
Administration, Owensby Brothers  
Construction

**Alan Gross, *Vice-Chair***  
CEO, Iowa State Bank, Retired

**Ray Lorenz**  
President, Lorenz and Jones,  
Retired

**Janan Smith**  
Community Health Development,  
Retired

**Michael Miesen, *Treasurer***  
Chief Financial Officer, Bratney  
Companies

**Andy Moffitt**  
Vice President of Real Estate Dev., Ryan  
Companies

**Valerie Snyder Rivera**  
Vice President, Sales Operations,  
Wellmark BCBS

**Kim Smith, *Secretary***  
Owner, K.L. Smith, P.C.

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**



## Our Mission

To rescue those who are homeless, hungry, abused or addicted, providing opportunities for hope, recovery and restoration through the love of Jesus Christ.

## Ministry Centers

### Bethel Mission

Providing shelter, food, daily essentials and case management support for homeless men.

### Door of Faith

Providing long-term life recovery for men, including life skills classes, job readiness training, substance abuse counseling, educational opportunities and more.

### Hope Center for Women and Children

Providing safe refuge, warm meals and life recovery programming for single women and mothers with children.

### Hope Café

Serving free breakfast, lunch and dinner 365 days a year to community members and our shelter/life recovery residents.

### Hope Ministries Thrift

Providing reasonably priced new and used clothing, furniture and household items—as well as job readiness training to our life recovery residents—at two locations.

### Hope Ministries Drop-in Center

Serving our neighbors by meeting immediate needs such as housing/job application assistance, referrals to community resources and other practical assistance.

### Hope Ministries Steve Lankford Campus

The site of our future 100-bed center for women and children, under construction now. Expected completion is fall 2024.



## Construction Update

We've got walls! Construction has been under way at our Hope Ministries Steve Lankford Campus, the site of our future 100-bed center for women and children, for a year now and it's been so exciting to see the progress.

Over the fall months, the construction crew made major

headway as the foundation for the new residential wing was poured, walls went up, and the roof and windows were installed.

Meanwhile, renovation has continued inside (and outside) the existing building on the property, too. While the new wing will include bedrooms, bathrooms and living spaces for both short-term and long-term guests, the existing building will include classrooms, offices, the kitchen and dining hall, auditorium and other spaces.

We expect to open our new center later this fall. You can stay up to date with our progress at [hopeiowa.org/construction](https://hopeiowa.org/construction).



# A Firm Foundation ...and a future filled with hope!

When Jericka first came to Hope Ministries in 2019, she was in stage 4 kidney failure. She was using a walker, had recently been living in a nursing home, and she'd been told she had the liver function of a 65-year-old who had been drinking for decades.

She was only 28.

"I was lost, broken, stuck in addiction," she remembers. "I felt like a failure."

Jericka's health issues all stemmed back to an alcohol addiction that began when she was only 15. She started drinking after her mom passed away . . . and just didn't stop. "Drinking made everything go away, all the pain," she says. "It was a way to numb the feelings and try to cope with life. But it led me into disaster."

Jericka says one drink was enough to send her spiraling, but finding her way out of the spiral has been a long and winding journey. Looking back, she admits she wasn't fully committed to her recovery when she first walked through our doors, and ended up leaving our program early—twice. "I didn't want to take accountability for my actions," she says.

But that changed in March 2022 when she once again found herself falling back into addiction and making choices she knew deep down weren't good for her. It was a Hope Ministries graduate who reached out to Jericka and convinced her to make a hard, humbling decision.

"It was difficult to come back to Hope Center. I had a lot of pride at first. But I'm taking this seriously now. This is not a game, it's my life."

*"I'm grateful for people who believe in recovery, that even when someone has made mistakes, they can change. With God, all things are possible."*  
—JERICKA

And now, nearly two years later, Jericka says she's a new person, inside and out. For one thing, she's seen drastic improvement in her physical health.

But it's her spiritual and emotional health that have had the biggest impact on her sobriety—and her whole life. While at Hope Center, she has done the hard work of pursuing a new way of living. "I've been figuring out what life looks like without addiction and learning who I am in Christ."

As of this month, Jericka is one year and ten months sober! She's enrolled in college classes and is pursuing a degree in Human Services. She also has a part-time job. She's earned her driver's license and bought a car, is active in her church and she's looking forward to graduating from our program soon and transitioning into independent living.

She's found new purpose, too: "I want to help others the way I've been helped. I know what it's like to go through addiction. I know what it's like to be without. I know what it's like to feel abandoned and to need someone to say, 'I've got you. I believe in you.'"

"I can still see a little bit of shame when I look at myself," she adds, "but the more I focus on the Lord, the more I see freedom. I keep praying for more of Him, less of me."

*"This place saved my life."*



Last spring, Jon, 55, was living down in Texas—in a tent by railroad tracks. He'd lost everything due to his addiction. In his words, he was "in a deep, dark place."

He describes homelessness as "loneliness . . . a huge amount of loneliness. You're always alone at night in the dark, thinking about bad things that could happen."

But there came a point where he'd had enough. "I got on my knees one night in the woods and just gave it all up to God. I said, 'What should I do? I've wrecked everything. I've got nothing.'"

Jon's desperate prayers and his desire to change led him to Hope Ministries. Just days after he arrived at our men's shelter, a tornado ripped through the area where he'd been living in Texas, destroying the very spot where his tent had been located. Jon says if he hadn't known before it was God who led him to Hope Ministries, he certainly did then.

"It was humbling and a little surreal to walk through the doors. But I knew I would get sober here. I knew I'd be held accountable," he says.

Jon's addiction to alcohol stems back to his teenage years. He had loving parents and a good childhood. But he had a lot of exposure to drinking, and by the time he was a young adult, it was a regular part of his life.

"I joined the Army, but alcohol messed with that. That's just been the story of my life. I've lost every single job I ever had due to my addiction. I've lost relationships."

But that's Jon's old life! He's now been at Hope Ministries for about nine months and he's thriving in his new life. He's thankful for a roof over his head, three meals a day and friendships with other men in life recovery. "You build relationships here that are unbreakable," he says.

Jon is hoping and praying for restored relationships with loved ones back in Texas, and he's looking forward to one day working in ministry. More than anything, he's depending on God for each and every step.

"I have surrendered to God. That's the only way to maintain my sobriety," he says. "This place saved my life—not just this building, but the people in it who show their love. I have a feeling of commitment and completeness now."



*Some of our men's mentors gathered for a great breakfast and time of fellowship last fall.*

If you're interested in becoming a men's mentor, the first step is to register for one of our upcoming Hope 101 volunteer orientations.

[Learn more at hopeiowa.org.](https://hopeiowa.org)

## Growth of our Men's Mentoring Program

In 2019, our men's program staff had a vision of seeing our life recovery participants be discipled by mature men from area churches. We started with four mentors. Now we're up to 18!

"The goal is for men to learn from someone who is a little further along in their faith," says Case Management Supervisor Bart Logan. "It's important for our residents to have supportive relationships with someone other than our staff. It's a different environment for them to be able to share what's going in their lives."

Our mentors are trained and come from a variety of church and work backgrounds. Many are retired, but some are younger—including the mentor Jon currently meets with. "It's funny because I'm twenty-eight years his senior," Jon says. "But it's really been going great. He's also been in recovery, too. So he understands me."

The main goal, Bart says, is the relationship. "That's really what it's all about—developing a bond, a good relationship. Some of our mentors continue meeting with their mentees even after the men graduate."



## Giving voice to our guests . . . *new quarterly surveys*

We want guests at our three residential centers—Bethel Mission, Door of Faith and Hope Center for Women and Children—to not only have all their daily needs met, but to also feel well cared for inside our walls. Hospitality is important to us, as is the safety and comfort of our residents.

So in 2023, we started conducting quarterly resident surveys, giving those staying with us the opportunity to anonymously provide feedback about their experiences. The questions cover everything from the safety of our facilities to the approachability of our staff to whether the resident feels their needs and goals are being met.

We've been thrilled to see positive results from these surveys! At all three facilities, we've seen scores ranging from 8.5 to 10 (on a scale of 1-10) in every area. Participants can also add comments to their surveys, including things they'd like to see changed or added—such as providing more fresh fruit at the Door of Faith or having a campfire at Hope Center.

"We value every individual who walks through our doors—and that includes taking their experiences, feedback and suggestions into account," says CEO Leon Negen. "I've been gratified to see these survey results so far, and I know moving forward, they'll help us be even more in tune with the needs of the individuals we serve."



## Rising meal numbers all year long

In 2023, we saw significant and ongoing increases in the number of individuals coming to us for free breakfast, lunch and dinner each day. Rising costs of daily living plus a shortage of affordable housing are contributing to the greater need in Central Iowa.

Our increased numbers are a positive sign that people in our community know there's a place they can go when they're struggling to make ends meet. Free meals serve as a form of homelessness prevention, helping people save money on groceries and redirect limited funds to rent, utilities and other bills. For those who are already homeless, free meals mean one less thing to worry about as they're job or apartment searching or focusing on their recovery.

Our meals program would not be possible without your financial support and food donations. We're so thankful to everyone who has helped us continue to meet the need, including volunteers who give their time to help serve meals. Thank you!

# Financial Update

JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023\*

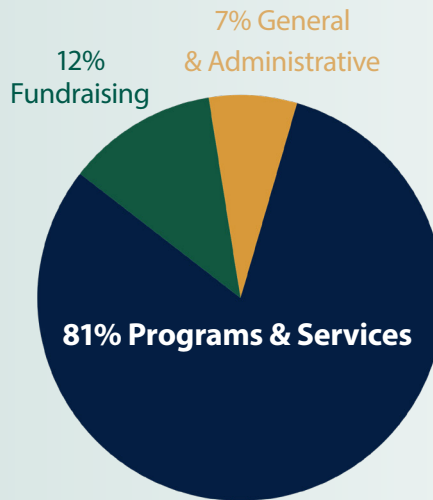
## How Your Support is Used

### ASSETS

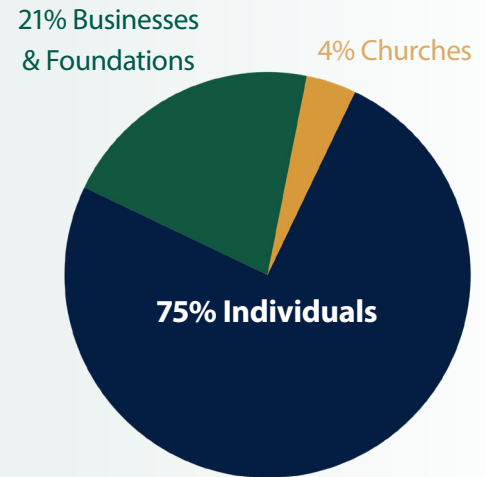
Current Assets	\$ 10,638,812
Fixed Assets (net)	\$ 12,622,687
Other Assets	\$ 11,482,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,744,211</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	\$ 3,856,626
Net Assets	\$ 30,887,585
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,744,211</b>



## Where Our Cash Revenue Comes



\*Audit by Denman & Company, LLP



Your  
Impact  
in Fiscal Year 2023



171,969  
meals



912  
volunteers



65,975 nights  
of shelter



10,099  
volunteer hours



369 people in  
life recovery

## How You Can Help

**Give** Your gifts provide warm meals, safe refuge and life-changing recovery programs for men, women and children. Every dollar helps build firm foundations for Central Iowans in need.

**Pray** Your prayers mean so much to all of us at Hope Ministries! We invite you to download our 31-Day Prayer Calendar at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org) and join us in lifting up daily the hurting individuals and families we serve.

**Volunteer** Join our network of volunteers who serve on a regular basis around our ministry centers! The first step is to attend a *Hope 101* volunteer orientation. Learn more at [hopeiowa.org](http://hopeiowa.org).



# Team Hope Needs YOU!



*Team Hope* is a group of 500+ monthly givers who are making life change possible for thousands of homeless, hungry, abused or addicted people. Monthly giving helps us as we plan our budget and steward our resources effectively. Plus, it's convenient for you when you set up an automatic recurring gift!

**Consider covering the cost of a day of care!** It costs Hope Ministries \$49.24 to provide a day of care to one person. This includes a safe place to spend the day and sleep at night, all meals, shower and hygiene supplies, case management support, and access to resources for individual needs—such as laundry, bus tokens/passes, clothing, school supplies, computer access, coordination with mental/physical healthcare providers and much more.

**Could you give \$49.24 each month to provide a day of care?** To join *Team Hope* at any giving level, please visit [hopeiowa.org/teamhope](http://hopeiowa.org/teamhope), use the enclosed reply card or call us at (515) 265-7272. Thank you!

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