



8 South Farwell Street
P.O. Box 1127
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1127

Contact: Elizabeth Meyer
Day Phone: 715-552-5566
Email: elizabeth@hopegospelmission.org

Time: (1:45)

For Immediate Release

Local Non-Profit Raises Bar for Financial Excellence and Accountability in Western Wisconsin

EAU CLAIRE, Wis., June 20, 2006 – In a period filled with corporate scandals and non-profit mismanagement, with Enron, Tyco, and national non-profits making headlines for fraud and unethical business practices, a local non-profit organization is stepping out as a leader in responsible stewardship, financial integrity, and God-honoring practices.

Hope Gospel Mission, a local non-profit which serves the poor and homeless of western Wisconsin, announced today that they have received accreditation by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), an alliance of over 1,200 evangelical ministries throughout the United States that are committed to financial integrity and responsible stewardship.

“This accreditation demonstrates Hope Gospel Mission’s commitment to using donor dollars wisely,” stated Brent Hafele, Stewardship Director of Hope Gospel Mission. “Through accreditation by ECFA, we demonstrate our commitment to biblical excellence and accountability.”

As a member of ECFA, the organization is held to high standards and strict accountability with regards to finances and day-to-day management of the organization. Annual evaluations will take place by ECFA, resulting in a powerful collective testimony of accountability before God and man for the local organization.

-more-

“Financial mismanagement and fraud is not just localized to big business; non-profits have fallen short in the past too.” stated Hafele. “In the last six months, the Chronicle of Philanthropy has printed over 30 articles discussing fraud or scandals taking place in non-profit organizations. This accreditation is a breath of fresh-air and good news for this area. It demonstrates our commitment to truth and integrity in all aspects of our ministry.”

Hope Gospel Mission receives no government funding at any level, therefore individual support is the back-bone to its ministries.

“Hope Gospel Mission’s recent accreditation through ECFA is a strong statement of responsible stewardship,” stated Heidi Fisher, President of Chippewa Valley Fundraising Professionals. “Hope Gospel Mission benefits our community through service and mission and now serves as a model of financial transparency and accountability to other nonprofit organizations.”

For more information about Hope Gospel Mission or ECFA, contact Elizabeth Meyer at (715) 552-5566 or at elizabeth@hopegospelmission.org.

-end-

Hope Gospel Mission is a “RESCUE” Mission with the vision of transforming the lives of the poor and homeless. With shelters and rehabilitation programs designed for single men and women, an Education Center, Auto Sales Program, and the Midwest’s largest Bargain Center, HGM has emerged as a leader in the fight against hunger and homelessness in Western Wisconsin. HGM’s ultimate goal is to help the residents become productive members of society. HGM does not accept any government funding and relies on individuals, churches, businesses and grants to fund its programs and services.