

the hope

Hope Gospel Mission's Newsletter

November 2010

www.hopegospelmission.org

Solomon Learning Center

Our expanded learning center opened for classes for our residents the first week of August. The new facility gives us more space so we can help more people in need of education and job skills. These services are very important in a tough job market. Our classes and caring staff equip our students by teaching them what basic skills and attitudes employers want in an employee.



Ribbon cutting, August 2010

Roughly 20% of our new residents do not have a high school diploma and 90% would not pass a basic academic skills assessment. A typical new arrival tends to have a 5th grade level in reading and math, not because they aren't smart, but because time, trouble and lack of resources have taken these skills away. Upon entering the Renewed Hope Program, each resident is given an individualized plan based on their own strengths and weaknesses.

The Solomon Learning Center is a resource that the residents depend on throughout all four phases in the Renewed Hope Program, and even includes paid training through an on-

the-job internship. At the conclusion of their program, residents leave with money in a savings account, a job, and usually debt free. We are currently working on getting state approval to offer post high school courses in 2011 to the general public.

The courses we will offer include these work readiness courses: job applications and resumes, interviewing skills, and conflict resolution. Self development courses include personal finances and computer skills. There will be leadership classes for those who want to become a leader as well as current leaders who want to hone their skills (see page three for a list of classes we plan to offer). The Solomon Learning Center is committed to addressing the root issues of homelessness, joblessness, and addictions so that people can overcome barriers to employment and be successful members of society.



Education Director Chris Hedlund

There are people interested in these classes who can't afford the tuition. If you are interested in providing a scholarship to help offset tuition for these individuals as they learn how to become the best employees they can be, please indicate 'scholarship' on your donation. If you or someone you know are interested in any of our services, contact us at (715) 514-4291 or visit our website at www.solomonlearningcenter.org.



Residents studying in the computer lab



Thanksgiving Banquet

From Noon to 2:00pm on Thanksgiving Day at the Men's Shelter, downtown Eau Claire.

There are many who are alone this holiday season. Help us make this a joyful holiday for them. We are inviting anyone who does not have a family close by to join our Thanksgiving gathering. If you are interested in being a volunteer, donating food or helping defray the cost of this event, email us at questions@hopegospelmission.org or call us at (715) 552-5566.

From the President and Founder: *Mark Donnelly*

As another Thanksgiving approaches I am reminded how blessed by God we still are as a nation. Even in the midst of a tough economy we have so much to be thankful for! This abundance has allowed us to be a blessing to those less fortunate than us. That is part of our Christian heritage which we celebrate at Thanksgiving. Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." Yet the very Christian heritage that has blessed not only us but the rest of the world is continually being attacked and eroded by those trying to make America a secular nation. When God is removed from our government, so are His blessings as well. It is no wonder that we have a broken economy, out of control spending, debt and huge social problems. When God removes His hand of blessing it doesn't take long for the government to take the place of God. That is why we see a continuing move toward socialism in America.

Instead of relying on God and His Word to address our problems, we look to government to solve them. That is why many in America want the government to take care of them from the cradle to the grave. Let me give you some reasons why this is bad: First, it puts government in the place of God which is idolatry. Second, it requires government to do something that God didn't create it to do. God ordained government primarily to protect us from evil doers and to facilitate good (Rom.13:1-7). Our founding fathers understood this and therefore set up a very limited federal government. Third, socialism hinders Christian charity by oppressive taxes to pay for all the social programs. It also creates an entitlement mentality. What is received is no longer viewed as acts of charity bestowed by a loving God through well meaning individuals but as a right which is forced to be paid by excessive taxes on

the productive members of society. Now we all have less money to give.

Christians, from the beginnings of Christianity, have been at the forefront of alleviating poverty, sickness and suffering. They established orphanages, hospitals, nursing homes, mental institutions, schools for the deaf and blind, rescue missions and many more. Why? Because it is a right owed these hurting people by the government? No, because it is our Christian responsibility to show mercy to them, because God is a merciful God and He has commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He owes us nothing as sinful human beings, but chooses to be merciful to us so we will turn back to Him. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance (Rom.2:4).



Mark Donnelly

Fourth, individuals, churches and organizations have historically been able to do a more effective job in showing Christian charity than the government. Why? Because they know the need in their local communities and how to alleviate it better than some distant government bureaucrat. That is why out of all the hundreds of billions of tax dollars that have been spent by our government on fighting poverty over the past 50 years we have seen little results! These are all compelling reasons against socialism in America. It is also the reason why Hope Gospel Mission does not take any money from the government.

In the midst of these trying times we appreciate our donors' faithful support as we follow God's command to show mercy to the poor and homeless. We also need to continue to look to God for our help and not the government! May you and your loved ones have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Meet the Staff: *Jen Strohbusch*

Jen is our Resident Manager Supervisor at the Ruth House. She grew up in Eau Claire and is a graduate of UW Stout. She loves spending time with her new niece and nephew. Her life is quite busy as she serves as Children's Ministry Director at The Bridge church. Jen loves to mentor women and leads a college age women's Bible study during the week.

At the Ruth House she works directly with the residents, "living life" with them, mentoring and guiding them through the everyday life experiences they face. Jen says, "I love that the heart behind the mission is that each person that comes into contact with HGM encounters the saving grace of Jesus Christ. I also love that HGM is a place for true life change, by addressing the core issues of homelessness. I'm blessed to be a part of someone's journey from darkness to light. HGM's motto is: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. I love teaching the residents how to fish...and seeing Jesus work in their lives to dramatically change their lives. HGM provides hope, one of my favorite words of all time, to all who enter the doors; and I'm daily thankful that I get to be used by Jesus to bring that hope."



Stretch your mind

and develop your employment & leadership skills
with the following classes at Solomon Learning Center.

KEY:

Date Class Starts / Tuition + Materials (such as books) = Total

● Group Discounts Available

Applications and Resumes

Jan. 6, 2011 / \$89.00 + \$19.00 = **\$108.00**

Prepare applications and resumes that get you noticed. Understand from an employers standpoint what the employer wants to see and doesn't want to see, and why!

Interviewing Skills

Feb. 3, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = **\$148.00**

Identify your red flags and get rid of them. Learn how to sell yourself in a market where there are too many applicants and unemployment is high.

Overcoming Barriers to Employment

Mar. 3, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = **\$148.00**

Felons and people with poor work history can get jobs too. This class helps a person understand why employers are concerned about barriers so that they can design a plan for addressing those concerns and get the job.

Developing an Ideal Work Ethic

Apr. 14, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = **\$148.00**

Many employees think they have a good work ethic, but they don't know what the word 'ethic' means. They describe their work ethic with subjective terms that represent their opinion, not the employer's. Learn how employers describe an ideal work ethic. If you are trying to be the best employee you can be, this class will help separate you from the crowd.

Interpersonal Skills / Conflict Resolution

May 19, 2011 / \$99.00 + \$49.00 = **\$148.00**

Exploring the differences between personalities helps us understand ourselves and others in a different way. Have you ever worked with someone who is annoying? After taking this class, you may not think they are annoying any longer. If you are trying to be the best employee you can be, this class will help separate you from the crowd.

Financial Peace University

Jan. 9, 2011 / \$0 + \$100.00 = **\$100.00**

Learn how to get out of debt and stay out of debt with Dave Ramsey's money management program, as promoted in his daily radio show and books.

Intro to Computers

Jan. 4, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$0 = **\$19.00**

Basic introduction to computers using Windows 7.

Intro to Keyboarding

Jan. 25, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$9.00 = **\$28.00**

This intro class briefly introduces the keyboard and the basics of keyboarding.

Intro to Microsoft Word

Feb. 15, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$9.00 = **\$28.00**

A new user's orientation to Microsoft Word. You'll be able to use all the standard features of this program.

Intro to Microsoft Excel

Mar. 8, 2011 / \$19.00 + \$9.00 = **\$28.00**

A new user's orientation to Microsoft Excel. You'll be able to use all the standard features of this program.

Seven Laws of the Learner (Ideal for teachers) ●

Apr. 5, 2011 / \$399.00 + \$0 = **\$399.00**

What makes the best teachers the best? Find out how you can get the attention of your students and keep them captivated and fascinated with whatever you need to teach them. This class is ideal for teachers, Sunday school teachers, and pastors (especially youth pastors).

Leadership GOLD (John Maxwell's Program) ●

Jan. 18, 2011 / \$498.00 + \$0 = **\$498.00**

John Maxwell, one of the leading leadership trainers in the nation, took 40 years of leadership experience and packaged it into this program so you could benefit from the wisdom that he has gained. These sessions are perfect for anyone who wants to be a better leader, or mentor leaders who follow them.

Lead Like Jesus (Ideal for any Christian Leader) ●

Feb. 22, 2011 / \$299.00 + \$0 = **\$299.00**

Jesus gives us a multitude of leadership advice in the Bible. This class explores what a leader looks like from a Christian perspective. This class is ideal for pastors, lay leaders, Sunday school teachers, Christian businesspeople, or anyone who wants to be a Christian leader.

For more information on classes offered
and for online registration please visit

www.solomonlearningcenter.org

Or call (715) 514-4291



Christmas Banquet

From 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Saturday December 18th at the Men's Shelter, downtown Eau Claire.

We invite you to join us for our annual Christmas dinner. We especially invite those who do not have family close by to join our family for a good meal and a warm atmosphere as we remember the birth of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you are interested in being a volunteer for this event, contact us at [\(715\) 552-5566](tel:7155525566) or email us at questions@hopegospelmission.org.

Annual Banquet of Hope

Our annual banquet was held at The Florian Gardens on September 28th. Pastor Kevin Schippers was the emcee. The highlight of the banquet was the testimonies from several people who have been helped by Hope Gospel Mission. Testimonies included both a former and a current resident of the Ruth House as well as a Renewed Hope Program graduate who lived in the Men's Shelter. Chris Hedlund gave a very informative presentation

on the new Solomon Learning Center and Craig Pedersen showed a new video presentation of the Bargain Center. We thank the many businesses and individuals who were sponsors of the banquet and the guests, volunteers, and staff who made for an enjoyable evening together.



Phase Promotion & Recognition Ceremony

October 24th was a special day at the Mission as seven residents were recognized for their achievements and progress in the Renewed Hope Program. Three residents received a promotion as they completed one of their four phases and advanced to the next phase in the two year program. Six individuals were awarded certificates for completing the Right Start—Right Step course. The course is a 12 step, biblically based, drug and alcohol recovery program. A meal was served as part of the ceremony that was attended by family, friends, volunteers, and staff. We congratulate each resident for their accomplishments and thank God and the many people who make these programs and services available to those we serve.



Elice receiving certificate of promotion



Six men were recognized for completing the Right Start - Right Step class

Annual Banquet of Hope 2010 Sponsors

- Allserv Carpet Cleaning & More
- Ava Anderson (Kitty Mitchell)
- AutoCare Center (Denis Hansen)
- Badgerland Printing
- Birch Street AutoCare (Jason Helland)
- Cedarcreek Community Church
- Century21 (Mike Tainter)
- Charter Bank of Eau Claire
- Chippewa Valley Grain & Processing
- Crusts Unlimited
- Curtis1000 (Ross Kooiker)
- Erbert & Gerbert's
- Express Employment Professionals
- F.J. Schilling, Inc
- Fleet Feet
- The Florian Gardens
- Grace Baptist Church
- Hagen Decorators
- Hartung Appraisal Company
- Huebsch
- Jeff Heughins
- Kivlin Eye Clinic
- Larson Allen, LLP
- Peters Real Estate
- Randy's Family Restaurant
- ShredAway
- SourceCut Industries Inc.
- Verna Gunderson & Cora Shiffer
- Walmart

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*