

## Ordinary Hands, Extraordinary Hearts

By Justin Vajko, Volunteer Coordinator

*Embedded in the larger story of redemption is a principle we must not miss: God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the lives of others.* – Paul David Tripp

Every day, lives are quietly being changed through the work of Hope Gospel Mission volunteers – average men and women who just want to make an impact in their community. It's amazing to see the difference that a few helping hands make in just a couple of hours at our Bargain Center, or the difference it makes to our

guys and gals when someone cooks a meal for them and talks with them.

As April is National Volunteer Month, I and other Hope Gospel Mission staff want to take this opportunity to thank every single person who has been an instrument in helping us change lives. We are proud of all of the men, women, families, groups, and others who have made Hope Gospel Mission what it is today. It's with grateful hearts that we say "thank you!"

As the Mission grows  
*(Continued on page 3)*

## Residents Leaving Homelessness Behind

We want to heartfully congratulate three of our residents for achieving major milestones in the Renewed Hope Program.

Congrats to Steve whose milestones include achieving his GED, getting his driver's license, getting many healthcare needs met, repairing relationships with his Mom and Dad, and completing Phase 1 of the Renewed Hope Program. Keep it up Steve!

Congrats to Alex for completing Phase 1 of the Renewed Hope Program. Alex says that his milestones include an improved temper and language, and that he has been happy for the first time since Middle School! He has also appreciated and learned much from classes on work ethic and interpersonal skills at the Solomon Learning Center. Keep up the good work Alex!

Finally, we want to give one big congrats to Elice, who graduated from the Renewed Hope Program on March 24, 2012. When looking back on the last three years, Elice says that the biggest milestone for her was *(Continued on page 4)*

## Free Easter dinner

*Christ is  
risen*

*Celebrate  
with us!*



We invite you to share a meal with us at our Easter Dinner on Saturday **April 7 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm** at our Men's Shelter at 8 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire (Downtown across from the library).

If you need a ride, would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please call **715-552-5566** or email [questions@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:questions@hopegospelmission.org).



◀ Steve got a guitar carrying case from his family during his promotion ceremony.



▶ Alex, now in Phase 2 of the Renewed Hope Program and working at Building Hope.

## From the President & Founder

HGM is happy to announce that we have a new Executive Director! Her name is Sandi Polzin. Sandi started working for HGM in March of 2009 and has been our Human Resource and Public Relations Director for the past two years. Before that she had many years of experience in running her own businesses. Sandi and her family currently own Down to Earth Garden Center and Café in Eau Claire. Down to Earth is a rustic store that provides a place for the public to sip and stroll, eat, shop for beautiful plants and take a deep breath from the busyness of life.

Sandi also has a heart for missions and the poor and needy, not only in our community but in the world at large. Sandi and her husband, John, believe in answering the call when it comes to those in need. Sandi and John adopted one child from the country of Haiti and answered the call of adopting three more homeless children and await their arrival in two to three years.

Sandi has been married to John for 29 years. They have two grown children and their adopted daughter Mazie who came home to her forever family two weeks after the devastating Haiti earthquake of

▶  
**Mark Donnelly, President  
of the Board & Hope  
Gospel Mission Founder.**



2010. Sandi has the unique ability to take care of hearts while also taking care of business. She can be tough but tender. It is her heart's desire to serve God by serving others, especially those who are hurting. It has been a blessing to see her work with and encourage our staff for the past 3 years. She also has a humble spirit and a willingness to carry out the board's directives. We look forward to working with her in the new role of Executive Director. Please pray for Sandi as she starts her new journey.

Sandi can be reached by email at [sandi@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:sandi@hopegospelmission.org). ♦



▲  
**The Polzin Family.**  
You can read more about Sandi in our April 2011 newsletter.

<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>ADOPT A DAY!</b></p>	<p>We now have openings for individuals, small groups, families, and workplace groups to "adopt" a few hours of service one day every month, six months or year at our Bargain</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Center. Be a part of our volunteer team today!</p> <p>For more information email Kyle at <a href="mailto:kyle@hopegospelmission.org">kyle@hopegospelmission.org</a> or call Justin at 715-552-5566 # 103.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
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*And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."*

Mark 16:5-7 (ESV)

### Thank you!

Thank you to the following for your support:

- Charter Bank
- Culver's (Brackett & Golf Rd.)
- Edina Realty
- Lighthouse Baptist Church
- Presto Foundation
- Walmart Chippewa Falls
- Word of Life Bible Church
- US Bank
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Thanks to the employees and management of **Citizens Community Federal** for the donation of food and the cash donation.

## Ordinary Hands (cont'd from page 1)

and improves its services to those in need, we are growing in our need for volunteer help. Do you have a background in retail, warehousing, construction, or just love to organize? Do you like to cook for small groups? If the answer is “yes”, then you also can be an important part of our volunteer team! Our biggest areas of need include our Bargain Center, Building Hope, cooking at the Men’s Shelter, and cooking at the Ruth House. We have many other opportunities as well. Visit [www.hopegospelmission.org](http://www.hopegospelmission.org) or call Justin at 715-552-5566 extension 103 for details. ♦

## Meet a Volunteer: Kathie

*“I grew up in sunny California and raised three sons in the Midwest.*

*As a stay-at-home mom I did a lot of volunteer work. That was a long time ago.*

*Six years ago I had a medical calamity and my children in Eau Claire brought me here from St. Louis to be near family.*

*I think I need volunteering, especially in the Lord’s work. Hope Gospel is a special place with good purpose and fine people. I began doing basic computer entry in December 2011, proving that anyone can help.” –Kathie SF*

Thanks for your great help Kathie! We appreciate your great attitude and accurate work.



▲ **Kathie helps us with data entry at our main office, making sure we have accurate donor records.**

## Meet the Staff: Gordy Wall

I was born and raised in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I attended Milwaukee School of Engineering, receiving degrees in Industrial Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. I also attended UW La Crosse, taking courses in bookkeeping, accounting and business law.

I moved to Eau Claire in 1973 to become a partner in Guardian Alarm Co. Inc. I became sole owner in 1982 and sold it to PerMar Security in 1992. I spent three years working as a business consultant before acquiring Money Managers of Eau Claire in November of 1995. Money Managers provides credit counseling services, small business consulting and income tax preparation. In 2000, I became a partner in Generations Day Homes Inc and in 2003 formed Generations Care Systems Inc, providing 24/7 care to elderly people with different forms of dementia. That business was sold in 2008.

Throughout life I have been involved with church wherever I have lived. I am currently a member at Eau Claire Wesleyan Church. I have been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire for 25 years. I have served on the Chippewa Valley Council of the Boy Scouts, served as a Cub master in two packs and as Quarter Master for Troop 88 and Explorer Post 896. I am currently the President of the Board of The Paul Bunyan Logging Camp Museum. I am a strong believer in giving back to the community that provides a living to you.

Sheila and I were married in 2007 – second marriages for both of us. Together we have 6 children. I have 2 sons, both are Eagle Scouts. Ben, Assistant Manager of Advance Auto, lives in Eau Claire and is married to Erin. They have a son Jackson who is 2 ½. Adam lives in Hampton, *(Cont'd on next page)*



### Scrip cards: an easy way to support the Solomon Learning Center

Scrip is a fundraising tool that comes in gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don't have to buy anything they don't need. Customers contribute to the ministry of Hope Gospel Mission's Solomon Learning Center by making regular household purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, >

toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with scrip. Ask our scrip coordinator Natasha Wilkens for the latest participating retailer list to order cards. Then put your shopping dollars to work for our organization! Participating retailers include Walmart, Applebee's, Texas Roadhouse, Subway, Panera, Gap, JCPenney, iTunes, and many more. Retailers we always have available include: Kwik Trip, Gordy's, and Mega Foods.

To order, call Natasha at 715-514-4291 or email her at [natasha@solomonlearningcenter.org](mailto:natasha@solomonlearningcenter.org).



▲ Gordy and Sheila

(Cont'd) Virginia, is in the Navy, and is married to Jennifer. My wife Sheila has 2 daughters and a son. Amy lives in Madison, working as a transcriber for the deaf and enabling them to use the phone. Stephanie lives in California and works in sales. Her son Guy is a full time student at UWEC studying music education and working for Action City. We have a foster daughter, Danielle, who just graduated from high school and is working at temporary jobs while she is deciding what to do in life.

I joined the Mission staff in September of 2009, after being approached by one of the leadership team members for a referral of someone that might be interested in doing some bookkeeping for the Mission. Before applying for the position, I spent several hours in prayerful thought. Was I right for the Mission? Was the Mission right for me? I had spent 42 years as the employer, not the employee. I was now looking at accepting a job doing what I had always paid someone else to do. I wanted to be sure that I could have a good impact on the Mission and that I could help the Mission achieve its goals. I needed to know that the Mission's goals were parallel with my own life goals of helping other people grow and achieve more.

I must say that working at Hope Gospel Mission has exceeded my expectations. The entire staff works as a team and is focused on the purpose of the Mission. In the bookkeeping office we interact with everyone associated with the Mission at one time or another. At the Mission we provide HOPE to our residents using a Christ-centered curriculum. I enjoy watching the residents as they evolve in the renewal process here at the Mission. I also notice that serving the residents helps the staff grow as well. ♦

### Leaving Homelessness Behind (cont'd from page 1)

when she put her faith and trust in Jesus Christ, which began her process of being free from sin and a broken past. She says that "you can't find yourself until you find yourself in Christ." At her graduation ceremony, Elice shared Psalm 40:1-5, which has meant a lot to her. Other milestones for her include developing a good work ethic, finding a great job at Xcel Energy, and learning to be herself around everyone. We will miss seeing your smiling face around here Elice! We wish you God's grace and peace as you enter this exciting new phase of your life. ♦

► **Top:** Elice with Lois, our Foodservice Manager. **Below:** Every Renewed Hope Program graduate receives a car. Here Elice stands next to her Pontiac Grand Prix.



### Culver's Easter Lunch

**Culver's Restaurant will be hosting a free Easter Day lunch on Easter Sunday, April 8 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at its Golf Road location by Oakwood Mall in Eau Claire. The meal is free and attendees are encouraged to make a \$5.00 donation, with all proceeds going to Hope Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army.**

### Items We Need

MS: Men's Shelter. RH: Ruth House.

- Day planners (RH)
- Pot holders (RH)
- Phone cards (RH & MS)
- Dish cloths (RH)
- Umbrellas (RH)

All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off at our Men's Shelter at 8 South Farwell Street in Eau Claire.

### Wow!

We want to give a big thanks to Gateway Church of Eau Claire for providing our residents with shampoo, stamps, razors, pillows and more from our "Items We Need" list, bringing our current list down to only 5 items!



# 25% OFF any one item.

Good for...



### Hope Bargain Center

2511 Moholt Dr, Eau Claire • 715-839-9498  
facebook.com/hopebargaincenter

### Building Hope

2108 Western Ave, Eau Claire • 715-838-2084  
facebook.com/buildinghopeeauclair

This coupon must be presented to the cashier for the discount. Cannot be combined with other coupons or discounts. One coupon per person. Expires July 1, 2012.

NL APRIL 2012



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facebook.com/hopegospelmission

I look great on your fridge!



## Yes, we can take that!

715-839-9498 • facebook.com/hopebargaincenter

- Worn, torn, or dirty clothing, rags, or cloth (chemical and mold-free);
- Broken toasters and any other non-working small appliances;
- Books in any condition (chemical and mold-free);
- Any and all metals;
- Christmas lights in any condition;
- Car batteries;
- Damaged pots and pans;
- Clothes hangers.



Hope Gospel Mission's

## Bargain Center Renewal Project

Better Tools. More Effective Ministry.

Here's an update on the progress being made in our Bargain Center Renewal Project:

- The flooring is being completed.
- New department signage is complete.
- Windows have been added to the production area for more light and a better work environment for our staff, residents, and volunteers.
- Job training areas and retail store areas have been newly painted.
- Energy-efficient lighting has been installed throughout the entire store.
- More to come! Grab a brochure at our project info rack when in the store.



▲  
New flooring tiles and department signs were installed in March.

All of these changes (and ones to come) are being made so that we can better serve our customers and residents, provide a better environment for our staff and volunteers to conduct training, and process the hundreds of tons of donations we receive every year. ♦

## Those who help us throughout the year

Charter Communications  
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic  
CVEMA  
Delong Middle School  
Down to Earth  
Eau Claire Area School  
District Grounds & Facilities Management  
EBY Brown  
Erbert & Gerbert's  
Fall Creek Dental  
Family Christian Stores  
Feed My People Food Bank  
Festival Foods  
Fleur Maureen  
Gateway Chiropractic Center  
Gordy's  
Hallie Chiropractic  
Health4life Chiropractic  
Healthview Eye Care Center  
Hubbell Eye Clinic  
Huebsch  
Indianhead Foodservice  
Distributors

Kallenbachs  
Kwik Trip Stores  
Lifetime Dental Care  
L&M Mail Service  
Mega Foods  
Menomonie Street Dental  
North Star Fire Systems  
Olive Garden  
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates  
Peters Real Estate  
Prompt Action Pest Control  
Red Lobster  
Saint Francis Food Pantry  
Sam's Club  
Scheels All Sport  
Thomas & Marlene Kerestes  
Queen of the Castle Magazine  
WEAU  
WHEM - 91.3  
Wisconsin Christian News  
WQOW  
WWIB - 103.7  
And many others!

## Hope Gospel Mission Receives Ministry of the Year Award

We are pleased to announce that we were recently recognized by Wisconsin Christian News as their Ministry of the Year. We accept this award with joy and

humility, understanding that we are stewards of these resources by the grace of our Great God. We also ask that you would continue to lift up the Mission in prayer so that



we may “run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12, ESV)

## In Honor Of / In Memory Of

We thank the following individuals for their financial support of the Mission in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. Persons being honored or memorialized are in bold text.

**Kathleen Armstrong**, Douglas & Kathleen Armstrong  
**Mark Barna**, John & Dolores Ducommun  
**My brothers Michael & Walter Barr**, James & Charlotte Barr  
**Sally Bautch**, Sherry M. Pabst  
**Rudy Bautch**, Sherry M. Pabst  
**David**, Lee Ann Beck  
**Dolores Bowe**, Gerald or Diane Bowe  
**Gregory John Bredlau (2)**, Dennis Bredlau  
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**Robert C. Budik**, Gloria Budik  
**Katie & Elizabeth Burger**, Patrice Gjerner  
**Wilfred G. Burlingame**, LaVonne Burlingame  
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**Barrt Cate**, Dick Ihlenfeld  
**Paul Christian & Mike Krieger**, Daniel & Deb Christian  
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**Fern DeMoe**, Norma Herstad  
**Jean Dugan**, Mike & Sara Dugan  
**Arthur & Ruth Evenson**, Lois Minnich  
**Anthony L. Fransway**, Annette & Stephen Williams  
**Jean Freagon**, Duane or Audrey Freagon  
**Friends & Family Who Passed Away in 2010**, Dennis & Karen Wagner

**Raymond Geissler**, Mike & Sara Dugan  
**Samuel Gerke**, Mr. or Mrs. Howard Hanson  
**Ross Gjerner**, Patrice Gjerner  
**Lynn Green**, Raymond Nawrocki  
**Gordy Gudmanson**, Alice Gudmanson  
**Mrs. Billy Hagan**, Matthew Wiggins  
**Mildred Herd**, Mike & Sara Dugan  
**Hope Gospel Mission**, Paul & Bonnie Jack  
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**James Jenkins**, Sharalyn Jenkins  
**Jesus Christ**, Lon Rose  
**Jesus Christ our Wonderful Savior**, Allan & Lynda Hajdasz  
**William & Paula LaBelle**, Patrice Gjerner  
**Virginia Larson**, Gary & Virginia Larson  
**Arlo Little (3)**, Gertrude Little  
**Arlo Little**, Rodney & Sandra Gibbs  
**Richard Mahoney**, Jim & Beverly Page  
**Jenson Merriam**, Brian Merriam  
**Elaine Mikesell**, Jim & Beverly Page  
**All Military**, Raymond Nawrocki  
**Pinky Miller**, Jim & Beverly Page  
**Gordon G. Miller**, Richard & Marilyn Cunic  
**Gordon G. Miller**, Michael & Sharon Berg  
**Gordon G. Miller**, Jon & Julie Holzinger  
**Gordon G. Miller**, Betsy Larson  
**Gordon G. Miller**, Terrence Solberg  
**Gordon G. Miller**, David & Rebecca Steagall  
**Mom & Dads', Mr. & Mrs. Vern Larson**  
**My Dad**, Mark & Jodi Ferstenou  
**My Parents**, Patrice Gjerner

**My son**, David or Roxanne Cieszynski  
**My Family**, Patrice Gjerner  
**Andrew Nawrocki (3)**, Raymond Nawrocki  
**Marie Nick**, Nancy Epsaro  
**Pearl Norris**, William Norris  
**Joseph & Mabel Olson**, Jacob & Betty Vitek  
**Sherman J. Olson**, Jacob & Betty Vitek  
**Karen J. Olson**, Jacob & Betty Vitek  
**James O'Neill, Jr.**, James B. O'Neill  
**Our family**, Susan Hartzell  
**Mom & Dad Pardun**, Rev. Donald & Marge Pardun  
**Margaret Prill**, Carol Gustum  
**Clemens Roter**, Rosemarie Roter  
**Lyle & Dorothy Sage**, William & Susan Jakusz  
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**Brad Smith**, Swanhild Rasmussen  
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**Duane K. Winkler**, Dick Ihlenfeld

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**Office & Men's Shelter**  
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 Eau Claire, WI 54702  
 (715) 552-5566

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**Solomon Learning Ctr**  
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