

## Ruth House & Bargain Center Tours



Hope Gospel Mission's

### Bargain Center Renewal Project

*Better Tools. More Effective Ministry.*

*By John Ailie, Stewardship Director*

With the launch of the Bargain Center Renewal Project we thought it would be helpful to show people what we were doing by giving tours. We typically do a walking tour of the Ruth House and then go behind the walls of the Bargain Center to show our tour guests the production area where we sort donated goods, train our residents, and how we recycle about a million pounds of goods a year. These tours have proved to be a real blessing to both those taking the tours and to us. Over and over again we have been thanked as people see and learn things about the Mission that amaze them. They say 'I didn't know you did all of this' and then "You need to tell people what you do here." This has been very eye-opening and gratifying to us and has shown us the importance of raising awareness of who we are and the many services we provide.

In the last nine months we have given tours to over 150 people. The tours have ranged from one person to the Leadership Eau Claire class of about 40 people. The Chippewa Valley Chiropractic Association scheduled their monthly meeting to have a tour and we served them lunch. The leadership team of the Alliance Church of Menomonie held one of their meetings with us where we gave them a tour and served them dinner. We normally include a discussion time as part of the tour where we get to know each other and answer questions.



▲  
*Bargain Center cashier Kelsey with the new display cases.*

◀  
*Ever wonder what happens with all the "stuff" we get? Come find out in a tour! Pictured here is a portion of the book sorting department.*



Let us know if you would like to schedule a tour for yourself or your business or organization. A typical tour takes 45 to 60 minutes and we give you a packet of information at the end to take with you. You may email John Ailie at [johna@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:johna@hopegospelmission.org) or phone 715-552-5566 to schedule your free tour. We can also show you our Men's Shelter, Solomon Learning Center, and Building Hope locations if you are interested in learning about other HGM ministry areas. ♦

## From the Executive Director

My name is Sandi Polzin and I am the newly appointed Executive Director for Hope Gospel Mission. I am married to my husband of 29 years, John, and we have two grown sons, and a five year old daughter whom we adopted after the Haiti earthquake of 2010. My passion is people! I love to serve God's people where he places me. The Lord called me to the Mission in 2009 to serve in the Human Resource and Public Relations Departments. I have come to know so much about Hope Gospel Mission and my passion for those I work with, around, and for, grows deeper and deeper with each passing day. I have so much more to learn and experience here. It is so exciting.

My history in getting to this time and place comes with years of experience in owning my businesses and starting a non-profit for children in 1995. My husband and I owned and operated a Christian child care center and preschool for 15 years. We currently own Down to Earth Garden Center and Landscaping on the south side of Eau Claire. It has a café, store, décor, plants, and a landscaping division. It was created to allow people to shop for their outdoor needs, yes, but also with the Lord in mind, to allow people to stop and take a deep breath and relax in God's beautiful creation when they stroll inside and out. It also hosts church groups, book clubs, bus tours, business meetings, and many occasions when folks want to take a step back in time.

I answered God's call to become the Executive Director of Hope Gospel Mission in April of this current year. After having the opportunity to become more ingrained into the lives and the businesses in

►  
**Sandi Polzin,**  
*Executive Director.*



and around the Chippewa Valley, it has seemed like a beautiful fit as I continue to serve. Working in a ministry whose main focus is helping those who feel hopeless is such a blessing to me. I desire to show them hope in Jesus Christ as I lead in this capacity.

As part of the Lord's work through us for the "common good," he empowers us to be his witnesses. If one would be a teacher, how would they impact their students? If a coach, what sort of influence would they have on their team? If a business person, how does one interact towards customers and co-workers? Do we answer God's call according to God's plan or do we create our own agenda and our own standards to fit in like everyone else? How does each of us reach out in our ministries to the neighbors and churches around us?

God may have called us to be exactly where we are. But it is vital that we grasp that he didn't call us there so we could settle in and live out our life in comfort and superficial peace. His purposes are not random. Since we still are alive on this planet, it is because he has something for us to do. He placed us here on earth for purposes that he orchestrated long before we were born. (Eph. 2:8-10) May you believe

*Continued on next page.*

### Thank you!

*Thank you to the following for your support:*

- Mel and Leann Breed, for helping with the Bargain Center Renewal Project,
- L.E. Phillips Family Foundation, for helping with the Bargain Center Renewal Project,
- Rutledge Foundation,
- Citizens Community Federal,
- US Bancorp,
- Leadership Eau Claire, for volunteering at the Bargain Center,
- Bargain Center customers, for donations that helped us get new floor tiles,
- Dr. Kevin Schultz of Hallie Chiropractic, for

chiropractic care for our residents,

- Dr. Tony Butchert and the staff at Lifetime Dental Care, for dental care for our residents,
- L.E. Phillips Library staff, for personal hygiene items for our residents (see photo),
- ECASD for donation of food to our shelters and materials to Building Hope,
- To all the people who donate food to our shelters,
- To all the people who donate goods to the Bargain Center, Building Hope, and Auto Program. May God bless you for your generosity.





*Continued from page 2*

that you exist not for your own pleasure but to help people know the love of Jesus and to come fully alive in him.

I pray that he will shape my life in the place he has me for his glory and his purpose. Our deepest desire is that we, here at Hope Gospel Mission, long to nurture and guide the residents and people he brings here into becoming all the Lord intended them to be.

Our team of Department Heads is a strong, enthusiastic group and you have and will hear more about each of them as we grow and develop in the coming months. One newly expanded position has been filled by Chris Hedlund, veteran Department Head for Hope Gospel Mission. I want to formally welcome Chris into his new position as Program Director. He was appointed in April to this position. Chris plays a critical role in creating a learning and nurturing environment for the residents that come through our doors. He is also the Director of the Solomon Learning Center and has been educating the residents for several years now. He has recently opened up several classes to the public and is a great resource for learning in the Chippewa Valley. He can be reached at

chris@hopegospelmission.org. We are so pleased with Chris' amazing work in assisting the residents as they transition into a new beginning here at Hope Gospel Mission. Chris has a special gift in guiding the residents towards becoming the people the Lord intended them to be.

It is also very relevant for me to take time to thank Dan Adams for his years of service to HGM and our community as our Program Director, Chaplain, and a Resident Manager. Dan was instru-

mental in getting the program up and running and sharing the love of Christ as he ministered to the residents. He is no longer with HGM and we will miss him in many ways. Hope Gospel Mission would like to commend Dan for all he has accomplished during his time with us.

I look forward to meeting many of you through the next weeks, months, and coming years as we partner in making an intentional difference in the lives the Lord has called us to help. My deepest thanks for all you do for Hope Gospel Mission whether it be by prayer, by volunteering, by financial giving and more. I can be reached by email at sandi@hopegospelmission.org or by phone at 715-839-9498 ext. 112.

Humbled to serve,

*Sandi C. Polzin*



▲ **Mark Donnelly, President & Founder, presents Dan Adams a plaque in recognition of his many years of service with the Mission.**

## Items We Need

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

- ☐ Athletic socks (RH)
- ☐ Pillows (RH)
- ☐ Q-tips (RH)
- ☐ Body wash (RH)
- ☐ Shampoo, conditioner (RH)
- ☐ Day planners (RH)
- ☐ Extra-strength Tylenol (RH)
- ☐ Pill organizers (RH)
- ☐ Umbrellas (RH)
- ☐ Ibuprofen (RH & MS)
- ☐ Coffee (RH & MS)
- ☐ Phone cards (RH & MS)
- ☐ Postage stamps (MS & RH)
- ☐ Double-edged razors (MS)
- ☐ Underwear, small (MS)
- ☐ Undershirts, small (MS)

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

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10, NIV)*

## Adopt a Day

We now have openings for individuals, small groups, families, and workplace groups to "adopt" a few hours of service one day every month (or three months). Make a difference as part of our volunteer team today!

For more information email Kyle at kyle@hopegospelmission.org or ask for him when you call 715-839-9498.

## Meet the (New) Staff



### Dan Gintz

#### **Resident Manager**

*Most people might recognize Dan from the Bargain Center, where he has been the “go-to” guy for vouchers and furniture questions for many years. However, Dan has recently been asked to become a Resident*

*Manager at the Men’s Shelter. We thought you’d like to know more about this wonderful man, so we asked him a few questions about himself. The following are some of his answers.*

I am 56 years old, single, with three adult children (Two are married and live in Arizona). I live in Chippewa Falls with my 13 year-old chocolate lab named “Dexter”. I’m a huge Brewer and Packer fan; I’ve also skied 20 Birkies and ran 5 marathons. I attend Crossroads Church in Chippewa Falls and have been a Christian since I was a teenager. I love the Lord and strive to share my faith with any and all.

I’ve worked at Hope Gospel Bargain Center for over 5 years. In that time I’ve driven the truck and worked in intake, but the majority of the time I’ve headed up the furniture dept. I’ve helped keep things moving along by dealing with customer issues, building maintenance, staffing assignments and just all around “bumps in the road”. While I’ll dearly miss my current daily interactions at the Bargain Center, I won’t miss the heavy lifting!

My co-workers are top-notch. From Richard (my boss), to Ron Wedlund (sales floor), to my buddy George, the cashiers, department leads (Pat, Barb, George again, Lonnie, Mary, Kathy etc.), volunteers (Bonnie, Scott, Bob and Jan), and don’t forget the bean-counters, (Rick, Gordy and Rita).

Also, seeing the residents grow in their faith and self-confidence has been fun to watch. Relationships are #1!

At the Bargain Center, we start each day with devotions/prayer and the prayer request box at the Bargain Center is active and regularly used. I have the privilege of seeing the results of these petitions and the growth that happens in the spiritual lives of those doing the praying.

It is amazing how God provides for those who please him with their efforts. I have witnessed, time after time, where a need arises at the Bargain Center and out of “nowhere” the need is provided for. It could be

a very specific, rare item, (i.e. 6” halogen light bulb for a fixture, a large 3-sided mirror for use near the dressing rooms), or it may be a need fulfilled (such as a dentist, doctor, or chiropractor offering their services).

I’m blessed by this opportunity to build closer relationships with the people (residents) I’ve come to know and care for in the Renewed Hope program – as well as those yet to be led to HGM.



### Kyle Skipton

#### **Volunteer Coordinator**

*As we work to improve our services to our residents and other people in need, we’ve made a few exciting staff changes in the last months. One of these involves the Volunteer Coordinator position, which*

*for the last two years has been held by Justin Vajko. Kyle Skipton, profiled below, will be taking over these important duties, giving Justin the opportunity to concentrate on his position as Stewardship Assistant.*

I was born and raised in Bettendorf, Iowa. I became a Christian in July of 2003. My world shifted from being self-oriented to Christ-oriented. I abandoned my plans to pursue an empty career path and decided to attend a Bible college. I ended up graduating with a bachelors degree in Intercultural Studies as well as Biblical Studies and Theology from Crossroads College in Rochester, Minnesota. After college I met a girl from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin whom I married on June 2, 2012.

From the time my relationship with Jesus began, serving others has always been a passion of mine. I have served in multiple urban locations across the United States, as well as in orphanages and AIDS clinics throughout eastern Africa. Each experience has taught me the importance of staying focused on God and creating relationships that will last an eternity. These adventures are only just the beginning as God has now brought me to Hope Gospel Mission where I am excited to serve those in need in western Wisconsin.

I am excited about the future and I am very much looking forward to serving alongside you with Hope Gospel Mission!

*Contact Kyle by email at [kyle@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:kyle@hopegospelmission.org) or by asking for him when you call 715-839-9498.*

# From Anger to Joy: Alex's Story

During high school, my parents were very supportive and always told me to do my best and to graduate. I was very lazy with getting my homework done in school. I was always disrespectful toward my parents because they wanted me to do good. For some reason, I didn't think I needed help. I came very close to not graduating. Luckily, I slid by and was able to graduate. After high school, I was still stubborn and arrogant. My temper was very short. My parents had to watch carefully what they said around me because they didn't know when I would "blow up." I moved out and started going to technical college (CVTC). I became involved with alcohol pretty heavily and ended up dropping out about 2 months into school. I then moved several times into and out of my parents house. During this time, my addiction to alcohol grew and grew. I also started an addiction to a few drugs. Alcohol, marijuana, heroine, and pills were my weaknesses. Mostly alcohol and marijuana. I was in several relationships with girls after I dropped out of college, and lived with several

of them also. During this whole time, I was jumping from job to job and soon found myself not being able to get a job. The last relationship I was in wasn't good at all. I moved into her parent's house and looked for work. Being drunk and high all the time wasn't helping me find a job. Neither was my previous job record. My mother came to the mission and got some information including a handbook. She knew I needed help very badly and that I wasn't going to start succeeding soon. She came to the place I was staying at and relayed the information about HGM to me. I got very upset at her for trying to "tell me what to do with my life" again. I "blew up" and threw the booklet at her and started screaming and swearing and left. She was very hurt. So was my dad and my sister. (I forgot to mention that I wasn't the best "big brother" to my now 18 year-old sister during this time.) So there I was, mad at my parents, getting drunk, high, having sex, and trying to get my mind off of things. A short time passed and I broke up with that girl. I called my mom and dad crying and told them that I needed a ride home and that I needed to stay with them for a couple nights until I figured out what to do. I thought very hard about my life that night. I knew that I was in very deep trouble and that I needed to find away out fast! The next day I made the decision to quit my addictions and go to HGM.

When I first got to the front door of the house, the sticker that says "there is hope for all who enter" really caught my eye. It made me feel so comforted. I knew that this was the place. My interview was with Jeff. My first impression of Jeff was great! I knew he had a very big heart for people like me and that he really cared.

Since I've been here, I've seen myself come a long way! I have improved my temper tremendously and have also improved my everyday life and language. All the people here at HGM have an AMAZING love for us residents. These last 6 months have flew by! There were many days that were hard for me and I found myself tempted countless times. This is the first time since before high school that I've been truly happy! My relationship with my parents has never been better! I have an outstanding relationship with my little sister Melissa now also!

Not only struggles with family have gotten better. I took a class named Developing An Ideal Work Ethic. This class helped me tremendously to become a better employee. I see work totally different now and am very proud.

I also took the class Interpersonal Skills. This class also had a huge effect on me. It has helped me greatly with work, my temper, anger, frustration, language, etc.

The character first booklets in school have helped me grow into a better man also. I can't begin to explain how amazed I am at how far I have come here at HGM.

*Please continue to pray for Alex and all of the residents in our Renewed Hope Program as they experience the joys and difficulties of life-change and overcoming their pasts. ♦*

## 25% OFF any one item.

Good for...



### Hope Bargain Center

2511 Moholt Dr, Eau Claire • 715-839-9498  
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### Building Hope

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This coupon must be presented to the cashier for the discount. Cannot be combined with other coupons or discounts. Does not apply to appliances at Building Hope. One coupon per person. Expires 10/1/12.

NL Summer 2012





## Double the impact of your gift in July!

We still have Matching Gift funds available to be claimed. This means that every donation you give before the end of July will be matched, **dollar for dollar**. Simply use the included remit form to indicate if you would like your gift matched, or donate securely on our website at [www.hopegospelmission.org](http://www.hopegospelmission.org). This incredible opportunity only exists until the end of July. Double the impact of your gift today!

## Join us for a Community BBQ in August

Heritage Assisted Living of Eau Claire will be hosting a Community Barbecue on **Thursday August 23** in the evening. There will be door prizes, free food, and the opportunity to bring clothes or non-perishable food items to donate to Hope Gospel Mission. More information will be available on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hopegospelmission](http://www.facebook.com/hopegospelmission) and our website as the time gets closer. Don't miss this wonderful and fun opportunity to help Hope Gospel Mission stock up on food and clothing in preparation for the busy Fall and Winter seasons.

## Annual Banquet of Hope

Monday September 17  
from 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
at The Florian Gardens  
in Eau Claire.

Join us for a free meal and an informative, inspiring program. We will be sharing about the last year at the Mission and what God has done in the lives of the homeless and poor we have been able to help. We will also share exciting plans for the future. Please RSVP by calling us at 715-552-5566 or email Sharon at [sharonk@hopegospelmission.org](mailto:sharonk@hopegospelmission.org).



**Like us on Facebook!**

[facebook.com/hopegospelmission](https://facebook.com/hopegospelmission)

## In Honor & 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.

**Gregory John Bredlau,**

*Dennis Bredlau*

**Wilfred G. Burlingame (2),**

*LaVonne Burlingame*

**Bernie Campbell, First Supply LLC**

**Jim Coleman,**

*Wayne & Erma Coleman*

**Donald D. Doughty,**

*Edwin & Donna Bauer*

**Wanita Doughty Anderson,**

*Edwin & Donna Bauer*

**Elizabeth's Dad,**

*Don & Elizabeth Demaree*

**God's unconditional Love,**

**Marriage & Family &**

**Forgiveness, Greg Gilbertson**

**William E. Hitzemann, Sr.,**

*Katrina Clary*

**Jesus Christ, Julie & Peter Lea**

**Grandmother Blance (Frenette)**

*Lea, Julie & Peter Lea*

**Leola & Earl (Mom & Dad),**

*Allan & Lynda Hajdasz*

**My father in law, Grandparents, &**

**Brother, Gary & Kathi Bauer**

**Lea Rae Pastorello (2),**

*Samuel Pastorello*

**Ray Reinecke (father),**

*Carol Reinecke*

**Jack H. Robinson,**

*David & Brenda Robinson*

**Clemens Roter, Rosemarie Roter**

**Charles Smith,**

*Glenn & Janice Bratberg*

**De Wayne Solie, Ruth Solie**

**Bill St. Aubin, Gloria Budik**

**Terri, Diane, & Joanne,**

*Vernon & Ruth Hanson*

**Craig Tuttle, Judith Ann Kistner**

**Jerry W, Don & Elizabeth Demaree**

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