



Winter 2011

HOPE CENTER

Volume 1, Number 4



A Taste of Hope

Saturday
June 18

Watch for more details

Hope Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction Draws Record Crowd, Proceeds

Your generosity sometimes blows my mind!

In a year where many non-profits have struggled, your all-volunteer HOPE Dinner & Auction Committee dug in and said, "We are going to buck the trend. We know our supporters and they know Hope Center's clients' needs."

And with that, we set our goals high and then we did everything we could to achieve those goals. The 12th annual HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction turned out to be a night of milestones thanks to the graciousness of the Waukesha County community.

- Our gifts from corporate sponsors increased after a couple of years of decline. Thank you to all of our sponsors both stated and anonymous.
- Our donations for silent auction items were abundant. The committee was truly amazed by the number of gifts and the

quality of the gifts. We are blessed.

- And YOU – our guests – all 452 of you – showed up big time. YOU were the difference. An increase of over 25 percent in guests who attended the event made all of the difference in the world as you not only attended – you gave from the bottom of your hearts. Even the folks who could not attend the dinner sent in generous donations to help continue our works at Hope Center.

We do this because we want to do our piece in working toward God's will. And as long as there are people who are hungry, people in need of clothing, rent assistance, nursing advice, etc., then there is a need for Hope Center and our major fundraiser of the year – the HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction.

Thank you to the Country Springs Hotel for their generosity in keeping our meal

costs as low as possible and also for donating the dessert each year.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, congregations, silent auction and live auction contributors.

Thank you to auctioneer Todd Scheel and Shelley Berthalf from Exciting Events.

Thank you one and all. We made and exceeded our goal for the 2010 HOPE Thanksgiving Dinner and Auction by seven percent. (\$75,000 gross versus a goal of \$70,000).

And unless the need goes away soon, we look forward to seeing you again on November 17, 2011 to continue our mission to do God's will and satisfy the needs of those in our community who are less fortunate than the rest of us.

Peace and warmth to you and yours,

—Joe Finn

Volunteer HOPE
committee Chairperson

Thank You to:

Greater Milwaukee Foundation –
Basic Needs Fund:
Faye McBeath Foundation
Ceres Foundation

Waukesha County
Community Foundation:
Eric & Lynn Delzer
Charitable Foundation

Ruehlow Foundation

Park Bank Foundation

Roundy's Foundation

Community Development
Block Grant – (3) Grants

Catholic Community Foundation

Clare Peters Charitable Trust

Schwab Charitable Trust

Windhover Foundation

Tee Up For Hope

Monday, July 18
Western Lakes Golf Course
Pewaukee

To register your foursome, contact Laurie Jendusa
ljendusa@hopecenterwi.org

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Ralph Zick
rzick@hopecenterwi.org

Food - Drinks - Raffles - Silent Auction - Awards
\$100 per person

Welcome!

Now that we have survived the snowstorm that closed down many businesses and stopped public transit, all is back to normal.

Those who live outside were cared for through temporary shelters.

Hope Center also closed for the first time in two years, a feat we strive to avoid due to the needs of the clients we serve.

As stated in the past, our community has responded well to the appeals for help, whether it is for sleeping bags to those who live outside, or food for those who come to us for a meal or two, or most recently for help in assisting the many who suffered a loss of their home and possessions from the tragic fire in Waukesha that left (29) family units without their own place.

Hope Center was able to help those who needed clothes or a meal. Most left their apartment with only the clothes on their backs. Project Move helped them with furnishings to start a new place, including bed-



ding and household items. Some contributions were also received so that those who needed some financial assistance to obtain a new apartment or room

could get started in returning to normal lives.

Thank you to all of you who in some way have helped out the fire victims, homeless and many other people in need in our community. This has been a stressful time for so many in our area.

Please take the time to read the rest of the newsletter to see what Hope Center is involved with and go to our website www.hopecenterwi.org to see our current needs.

You can also donate, if you like, through our website or send a contribution directly to our office.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Hope Center.

Peace,

Ralph Zick,
Exec. Director

Partnering with Hope

The concept of *Partnering with Hope* cannot help but make someone interested and curious.

This concept is front and center in the Ambassador plans for 2011. The Ambassadors developed a plan that focuses on *Partnering with Hope* in 2011.

The plan is simple in nature with a few key premises. We can all make a difference in the lives of people in need in Waukesha County.

We, the Ambassadors of Hope, can help by developing simple plans that get people involved and active in the manner that best works for them. A simple plan that focuses on short-term needs and long-term results will provide benefits.

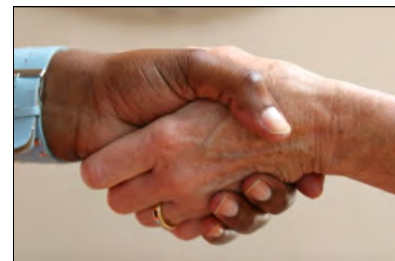
We need everyone. The more people who participate, the more people in need we can touch and help.

Partnering with Hope in 2011

Partnering with Hope in 2011 has four key programs that can be run quarterly by congregations.

Congregations are encouraged to sponsor all four programs, but are welcome to pick and choose if they feel the need. The most important part is that we all do what we can to help and participate.

In The Bag Sunday: Congregation members bring clothing for Hope Center clients in bags to church. Fill



the church narthex for those in need!

Sock it to Poverty: Each congregation uses socks to fill with coins (and dollars) to gather funds to help support Hope Center efforts in our community.

Undies Sunday: Few people know that one of the greatest clothing needs for Hope Center clients is underwear.

Bundle Up Sunday: Warm coats, hats, mittens, gloves and other items are collected for those in need.

Each event comes complete with an instructional program to help congregations launch and conduct each event.

As of mid-January, we have 16 congregations that have committed to all or part of *Partnering with Hope in 2011*. We are deeply thankful for their sponsorship. We would love to have every congregation in Waukesha County join us in *Partnering with Hope in 2011*!

To learn more about
Message of Hope and Partnering
with Hope, please contact
Eric Andringa at 414 278 1845
or e mail
eric.andringa@associatedbank.com

Make This Year's Resolution to Support Hope Center

Happy New Year and welcome to 2011. As we usher in the new year, let us not forget all of the blessings and accomplishments of 2010.

This year, please let us take a few minutes to think about ourselves, our families, our co-workers, neighbors and all those individuals we come in contact with every day. How did they see 2010?

For many of us, we have felt the financial effects of 2010. We may be struggling to keep up with bills, pay for the necessities of life and still be able to live comfortably. You may know someone who has lost their job, fallen behind on bills and may even have lost their home.

The current economic situation, health care, violence, wars and all of the other daily things in our world have changed how we look at ourselves and those around us.

Last year, we have seen so many good works and things that have made us joyful, but we also see how others live day to day without the basic necessities. We see it in our own community.

Do we step back and ask how we can help the individuals who live right here in our own community? Have we taken the time out of our busy schedules to donate money or your time to help others? This year, make a commitment to yourself to help out our community and the individuals who live here.

As we start 2011, Hope Center has continued to make a difference in our community. We continue to see an increase in the number of families and children we feed. Our clothing shop continues to increase the number of individuals who need clothing for their families.

Project Move has grown and we can reach out to more people to help them with furniture and other household items. Our services, staff, volunteers and supporters reach out to individuals every day, no matter how big or small, their service makes a difference.

We cannot do this without your support and donations. This year, we need your support more than ever.

Donations of supplies, furniture, clothing, household items, your time and money will assure Hope Center continue its service in our community. Consider what you can do to help and make that a resolution for 2011.

Thank you.

— Leslie A. Kleba,
Board President
Hope Center

Making a Difference to Those in the Community

A middle-aged woman came in to Hope Center today. She is homeless and shared how hard it has been for her to live outside for the last few weeks (the local shelters are full).

She has finally gotten low income housing and with a security deposit of \$208.00 from the Good Samaritan Fund, she can move in tonight and will have a warm place of her own!

Thank God for the Good Samaritan Fund, which made this possible for her. Through our Clothes Closet, we were able to supply her with everything she needed to be comfortable in her new place; blankets, a pillow, pots and pans, etc.

A woman on Social Security needed some help paying her rent as she had to take \$60.00 out of her rent money to pay her processing fee for Badger Care Plus health insurance. With the help of the Good Samaritan Fund, she will be able to stay in her apartment and have health insurance.

I helped a gentleman with \$350.00. He is homeless, staying at the Salvation Army Shelter, has a disability and hasn't been able to work, but now has been rehabilitated to the point where

he has found a job. The man will be receiving housing assistance, and has found an apartment. The Good Samaritan Fund has enabled him to make this transition into independent living and a productive lifestyle.

A young woman with a newborn baby and two sons, ages 8 and 4 years, had been left by her husband when he wanted a girlfriend and freedom.

He was receiving Social Security while she wasn't working, and when he left, she was left without anything.

Her rent was due and if she couldn't pay, she would be evicted.

She and her husband had just come out of a shelter in May and she didn't want to go back.

One of her sons started receiving SSI in December, and she started receiving W2 in December.

With the gift of \$550 to pay for her rent, she and her kids were able to stay in their apartment and their lives could go on as normal.

The grateful woman said "the best way I can show you my thanks is to keep moving forward and continue to be a good parent and just do what I have to do. You have made that possible.

Project Move Update

Since mid-June 2010, the Project Move Program has received 658 furniture items and delivered furniture to 331 clients. Right now, we have approximately 100 families waiting and hoping for furniture items. We have 17 groups of Project Movers (volunteers who pick up and deliver furniture) and are in need of more.

Most of the time we receive calls from people who need to have their furniture picked up right away in order to donate it to Hope Center. Unfortunately, that is not usually possible.

Today our schedule for a pick up would be out about three to four weeks.

Therefore, since we are unable to pick up these furniture items within a week or two weeks (that are really needed) we lose the items. Clients like Maritza are sleeping on the floor because they don't have a bed. She's No. 30 on the waiting list, and if we only pick up 2 beds a month,



she'll be sleeping on the floor for months to come.

Can you help us provide these needed items to Maritza and her family? We could use 4 teams of between 2 to 4 volunteers to **commit** to pick up furniture once a month every month. This would be on-call based on what is made available to us. The commitment would take a 2- to 3-hour period during the week from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. or 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. or any time during the day. We have a truck to use for the pickups and deliveries.

All the paperwork and route assignments are ready to go and available in the garage on the day of the move.

Can you help!

Please contact Griselle Cruz at geruz@hopecenterwi.org or 262 549 8726 if you are able to commit to this opportunity.

Hope Center Program Activity Report

(2010)

Clothing Shop

37,255 client visits came to our Clothing Shop to receive clothing, new socks, & new underwear. This represents 5,506 individuals.

Drop - In Shelter

Served 376 individuals. They made 4,557 visits to the day shelter. 4,299 lunches served to our guests.

Meal Program

18,030 dinners provided. 8,765 meals provided to adults. 1,049 children served dinner. 905 individuals were served.

Project Move

436 clients received household items. 331 deliveries of furniture were made to clients.

Social Ministry

3,879 clients were seen - some

were helped while others were referred to other agencies. (This is a 14% increase over last year.)

A Hand To Hold Child Care

We cared for children a total of 25,913 hours.

Outreach Nurse

451 clients were seen by our outreach nurse.

Volunteer Hours

Many individuals have donated their time serving a total of 23,913 hours. (This is an increase of 70% over last year.)

Donations

Received 658 furniture items. (Project Move re-started in mid-June.) 364,166 clothing & household items received for Clothing Shop \$127,247 value of food items has also been donated for meals.

Do you want to receive our newsletter via e mail?

To sign up, just send an e mail with the subject "Hope Center news" to info@hopecenterwi.org.

Agreement: Your e mail address will not be shared with third parties.

Hope Center

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REFLECTIONS FROM ROY

Changes at Hope Center have been dramatic

This time of year is always challenging for me. It's like being on a cusp. I am actively engaged in the New Year's activities, yet last year's memories are still fresh in my mind.

From this point of reflection, I looked back over the last two years' activities here at Hope Center. This is the duration of time I have been serving here. The changes have been dramatic. Some examples are:

- Clothing Shop visits increased by almost 300% to over 37,000
- Meals served increased by 160 percent to over 22,000
- Project Move served over 300 families in 5.5 months.

When the above is taken in the context that expenses (including salaries) are in essence the same as 2008 levels, the question is begged "How is this possible?"

Well here is how it is:

- Volunteer hours increased by 240 percent to 24,000
- In-kind-donations of clothing increased

by 55 percent in 2010 alone (364,000 items)

- In-Kind-Donations of food were valued at \$127,000.00.

I cannot help but recall the section of Matthew's Gospel where a multitude of people had gathered to hear Jesus speak words of hope to them. It was late in the day and in the country. The disciples came to Jesus and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus responded, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat," and he proceeded to produce enough food for all of them from a basket with just a couple of fish and loaves of bread in it.

His continued supply of bounty through all of you makes Hope Center possible. The prayers, the hours, the food and clothing, and the financial support from all of you are just as awesome as the over abundant supply of fish and bread were that evening over two centuries ago.

Thank you and God bless you,

—Roy Cheesman, Director

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Eric Larson, Ken Miller,
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Executive Director

Ralph Zick

Assistant to Executive Director

Roy Cheesman

Who We Are

Hope Center is a ministry committed to serving people in need in Waukesha County

Contact Us

www.hopecenterwi.org
info@hopecenterwi.org