



HOPE CENTER

Spring 2010

Volume 1, Number 2

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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

‘WE CAN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!’

We need you! Your neighbors need you! There . . . we said it!

We can’t do it without you! We all know times are tough right now. Everyone it seems is struggling to make ends meet. But, imagine for a moment what it would be like if you lost your job, your unemployment benefits ran out, you could no longer afford to feed your children and you had nowhere to turn.

Sadly, that is a stark reality for an increasing number of people in Waukesha County.

Now imagine if there was one month in which every one of us living in Waukesha County would reach out and help our neighbors in need.

That’s exactly what Hope Center is asking you to do. We recently kicked off our annual appeal by asking for your help in raising \$25,000 by June 15.

You might wonder why we need so much . . . We’re glad you asked!

As you might guess, the

current state of the economy is taking its toll.

We’ve seen a dramatic increase in the number of people coming through our doors over the past year, many of them just children!

We’ve been serving the basic needs of financial assistance, food, clothing and child care right here in Waukesha County for more than 20 years. In 2009 alone, Hope Center provided over 38,000 direct units of service with its eight different programs and is continually the #1 referral source from 211/First Call for Help. We’re continually working to provide new and better solutions to handle the growing needs of our community.

Letters have gone out to many of you already asking for your help.

If you’ve already sent in a donation, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Your community thanks you! The people we serve thank you!

How to make a donation

Visit www.hopecenterwi.org, send your donation to Hope Center, 502 N. East Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186 or call 262-549-8726. As always, your contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!!!

If you haven’t made a donation yet, please find it within your heart to help those who really need you.

Your donation will make an immediate difference right here in Waukesha County and may even help people you know! Your community truly needs your help!

Please . . . We can’t do it without you!

Ambassador Club links HC with congregations

The Ambassador Club is the most vital link between the congregations and Hope Center.

All told, there are about 45 congregations with appointed ambassadors who attend quarterly meetings at Hope Center to receive news and volunteer opportunities.

Hope Center also asks for suggestions at these meetings,

There are ample opportunities for the attendees to share how such missions as “Undies Sunday”

and “Sock It To Poverty” have called them to action.

One ambassador made a suggestion that an ambassador page be added to Hope Center’s website and feature a blog.

Eric Andringa is going to be the new coordinator of the Ambassador Club.

He will use e-mail as a vehicle of communication with the ambassadors between quarterly meetings, as well as finding new ambassadors from other congregations.

Eric has many exciting ideas for making the Ambassador Club a vital link between congregations and Hope Center.

Feel free to e-mail him at eric.andringa@associatedbank.com for more information.

The next meeting of the Ambassador Club will be June 1 at 6:30 pm in the Hope Center dining room. We look forward to seeing you there.

*- Rev. Ted Romberg,
Board Vice President*

Welcome!

Now that the weather has turned our environment to shades of green and the warm sun has arrived, we are all moving forward as we enjoy the fruits of spring.



that Eric Andringa has accepted the role of chair for the Ambassador Club, which acts as communication liaison between the congregations and Hope Center. Eric is seeking anyone to join the group who would represent their congregation at quarterly meetings and present the needs and other information regarding the operation of Hope Center. Let him know your willingness to join the club by calling our office at 549-8726.

We are concluding the Emergency Drop-in Day Shelter, which has given the homeless a place to stay during the day, have a hot lunch, do some job hunting and seek housing opportunities. The guests have appreciated having a place to go to during the day. We are looking to continue providing some service as our resources will allow.

On April 18, we held a "wall raising" ceremony for the new

storage garage that is being built behind Hope Center by St. John's Lutheran-Brookfield. This facility will allow us to re-introduce a service program called Project Move. When completed, Hope Center will then be able to accept and provide used furniture and appliances in good condition, along with other household items, for those who have a need.

We have received funding for the project, in part, from Waukesha County through the use of Community Development Block Grant funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Our annual appeal is underway and if you can find a way to help us with a donation, it would be most appreciated. We thank you in advance for your support. Peace.

- Ralph Zick, Exec. Director

Good Samaritan fund helped many in need during 2009

The Social Ministry-Good Samaritan Fund was busy helping those in need during 2009.

The fund gave \$105,180 in rent assistance, transportation and hotel vouchers.

In the first two months of this year, the fund has been able to assist those with just rent challenges alone with \$18,505.

There have been more single fathers requesting financial assistance, with an increase in households with higher education.

- Karen O'Leary
Social Ministry Director

Local congregation building storage facility

Reflect back to the barn-raising days of old, when the whole community would pitch in, raise it and built it in no time at all. That's exactly the concept that was leveraged to build the storage garage at Hope Center.

"We've been in need of a storage area for quite some time," said Ralph Zick, executive director at Hope Center. "Our old storage facility was in bad shape. It wasn't big enough for our needs and it leaked, which caused a multitude of problems. So we had to do something else."

Members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Brookfield became aware of the need and set their sights on doing something about it.

With the help of 75 volunteers from the supporting congregation, the old storage building came down in June 2009.

The plans for the new facility were completed in August by Lawson Rennie, a retired architect and member of St. John's. Ground was broken on the new building in September. The storage walls were raised April 18, and the building will be put to good use.

This is not just any storage facility, Zick said. It will be a staging area for hope. It will allow Hope Center to restart their Project Move campaign, which provides donated furniture and household items to



Family and friends of St. John's Lutheran Church in Brookfield gathered April 18 to raise the first walls of the new storage facility.

those in need, many of whom are just beginning to live on their own again after being displaced.

The campaign had been unable to function for the past two years as a result of the lack of dry storage for the needed items.

"We're grateful that St. John's is helping us to reinstate Project Move," Zick said.

Jeff Gubbins, a member of St. John's and the coordinator for the project stated,

"We've helped communities in other countries and we felt it was important to do something for our local community as well.

"Hope Center's storage facility was an ideal project for us. We had the resources, the talent and the volunteers to make it happen."

A grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development provided additional funding for the project.

Benefits of volunteering flow both ways

On Tuesdays, Hope Center volunteers Carole Lewis, Sandy Clapper and Kathy Hoepfner staff the Clothing Shop.

A typical day at the Clothing Shop sees as many as 150 needy residents of Waukesha County - men, women and children - finding free, gently-used clothing and the helpful service and advice from the volunteer staff.

When asked why they volunteer, the answers this dedicated group provided varied.

Sandy had time on her hands after her children started high school, and she's glad she started "working" at the Clothing Shop last September. Helping others in need is a great reward, she said.

Carole has volunteered for almost two years and recounted a story to explain why she keeps coming back. Recently, a young man came in needing



Carole Lewis, Sandy Clapper and Kathy Hoepfner volunteer at the Clothing Shop at Hope Center.

suitable clothing for a job interview. She found him slacks, a matching sport coat, shoes and a shirt. The tie was a problem

as neither the young man nor the staff could tie a man's tie. Hope Center Executive Director Ralph Zick saved the day and

knotted the tie.

When the customer emerged from the fitting room in his new, complete outfit, Carole saw a transformation. He stood noticeably tall, moved more assuredly and radiated a rediscovered confidence, she recalled.

Kathy, the crew veteran with six years, recalls a recent Friday when a Latino family came in seeking clothing to wear to a wedding the next day.

The father found a suit, but his young son was not so lucky. Kathy, however, recalled seeing a boy's sport coat in the back, which she brought out. It fit the boy perfectly and Kathy still gets teary-eyed recalling the youngster's happiness.

Why volunteer? To touch the life of another or to be touched? Clearly, the Tuesday Clothing Shop crew gets plenty of both.

- Written by Marc Sale

Volunteers keep Hope Center humming

The Hope Center relies on its volunteers to pitch in and make the miracles happen.

Of course, anyone familiar with Hope Center knows of the volunteers who staff the Clothing Shop and sort and stock donated clothing.

Likewise, volunteers are vital to Outreach Meals program, cleaning tables and performing light maintenance.

Volunteers are needed to help with the work of the marketing and fundraising committees, including helping with special events such as the golf outing and a planned 5K walk.

Once the new storage facility is completed, help will be needed to pick up and deliver furniture and household items for Project Move families.

Make plans to join us for the 2nd annual Hope Center Golf Outing



Western Lakes Golf Club

Tuesday, July 20

11:30 a.m. shotgun start · Scramble format

\$90 per person now until July 10

Sponsorships available

Summer is fast approaching and you don't want to miss out on the fun ... so mark July 20 on your calendar for the 2nd annual Hope Center golf outing at Western Lakes Golf Course, W287 N1963 Oakton Road, Pewaukee.

The competition and excitement will be even bigger than last year! Last year's winning team is already offering challenges and talking smack! So get your foursome ready and sign up early.

The cost is \$90 per person from now until July 10th and \$100 between July 11th and July 20th. If you are interested in sponsoring a tee box, green or practice tee, contact me as early as possible.

If you have questions or would like sign up early, drop me an e-mail at thekendal-group@sbcglobal.net.

Ken Miller, Coordinator

Hope Center

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Non-Profit Org.

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Waukesha, WI.

Permit No. 144

REFLECTIONS FROM ROY

It's Always Sunny at Hope Center

We are well into the New Year, but our thoughts are still with the enthusiasm and energy that was displayed last November at the Hope Dinner & Auction and the achievements that were made possible by the prayers, service and donations the Hope Center family has blessed us with in the time that's followed.

Hope Center now has activities scheduled seven days a week. Our new logo, which is dominated by the image of the sun, is a great personification of what we do on our supporters' behalf. We bring a ray of hope to those who

come to our door seeking help and assurance that they are not alone or forgotten.

Whether it is the caring for their children while they work, averting a pending eviction, transportation to work, a warm safe haven during the day, clean and quality clothing for their family, a hot nutritious meal or just someone to listen and authentically care, the "sun" is always shining at Hope Center.

The challenges that we face this year will be greater than last year. Just as those who come to us are confident in their hope that we will be there, I am confident that our supporters will be there for them.

—Roy Cheesman, Director

Partnership works

Waukesha Memorial Hospital's Community Benefit Program and Hope Center have maintained a partnership for over 10 years in providing an outreach nurse to promote wellness and assist with at-risk populations with obtaining access to care in the community.

ProHealth Care does weekly blood pressure screenings at the Outreach Meals program and at the emergency shelter day program and provides a weekly newsletter about free health screenings and services. The mission of the Outreach Nurse is to maintain the health of the community by connecting those with health issues to the resources they need.

In 2009, over 400 clients were assisted in meeting their individual health needs.

- Nancy Sparacino, Outreach Nurse

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.***

Laurie Jendusa (our Administrative Assistant) successfully completed a course in Food Management and Safety. She received a certificate as a Certified Food Manager for Hope Center from the State of Wisconsin. Congratulations to Laurie for her work on behalf of Hope Center and clients we serve.