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Local Congregation to Build Storage Facility for Hope Center

Many hands -- and giving people -- make light work

Waukesha, WI – April 5, 2010 – Reflect back to the barn raising days of old when the whole community would pitch in to build a barn and it would be raised in no time at all. That's exactly the concept that will be leveraged to build the storage garage at Hope Center on April 18th at 12:30 p.m.

According to Ralph Zick, Executive Director at Hope Center, "We've been in need of a storage area for quite some time. 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 they set their sights on doing something about it. In June of 2009, with the help of 75 volunteers from the supporting congregation, the old storage came down. Plans for the new facility were completed in August by Lawson Rennie, a retired architect and member of St. John's, and ground was broken in September. Finally, in April of 2010 the walls will be raised and the storage will be put to good use.

This is not just any storage facility, according to Zick. 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 those in need, many of whom are just beginning to live on their own again after being displaced. The campaign had been unable to continue 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," said Zick.

Jeff Gubbins, St. John's 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 HUD grant provided additional funding for the project over and above what St. John's could contribute.

Hope Center, formerly Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County (CCWC), is a non-profit organization that has been serving the basic needs of financial assistance, food, clothing and child care in the Waukesha County for more than twenty years. In 2008, Hope Center provided over 30,000 direct units of service with its eight different programs and is continually the number one referral source from 211/First Call for Help. Hope Center is continually working to provide new and better solutions to handle the growing needs of the community.

For more information on Hope Center and how you can give or receive help, please call 262.549.8726 or visit their web site at www.hopecenterwi.org.

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