

Helping Hands Gospel Mission

God's Refuge and Renewal.



PO BOX 1352 WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-1352 • 715-451-5262 SPRING 2014



Hearts for the Homeless Banquet

Thanks to all who attended our first banquet February 14th. We were able to raise over \$5,000. We'd like to thank our sponsors of the event:

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Registration at Hearts for the Homeless banquet Feb. 14 @ The Ridges



Thanks to *Cakes by Heidi* for these beautiful cakes which were auction off.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As our work and ministry grows, HHGM is in need of volunteers to allow us to help those less fortunate than we are. Please consider the following positions and contact us if you are interested.

Board Members – The board meets a minimum of quarterly and its primary focus is overseeing the vision of the organization, finances, including fundraising, and policy setting.

Committee Members – Committees exist primarily to run fundraising events. Currently we have the "Hearts for the Homeless" annual banquet in February and the "Box City" event which will be redefined in 2014.

Prayer partners – HHGM is faith-based and is looking to organize a "prayer chain" which would allow for notification of immediate needs of individuals. Other daily needs of HHGM would also be on the list. Since this "chain" will be run off emails, internet access is required. Churches and organizations may sign up for this as well as individuals.

Finances – HHGM is supported solely by individual and faith-based support. In a perfect world HHGM would have a *treasurer* who not only maintains financial reports for the board, but would handle the day to day bookkeeping efforts. We currently use QuickBooks for non-profits.

Public Relations – This includes several areas:
Newsletter – We would like a regular (quarterly) piece to email out as well as post on our web site.

Social Media – right now HHGM has a Facebook account but could use someone who regularly monitors/posts things to keep us in people's minds.

Web-site – HHGM needs someone to update the information on it on a regular basis. The site is hosted for free and runs through WordPress.

Thank you's – All our donors receive a written receipt for their generosity. We would like to find someone who is comfortable making phone calls to these donors thanking them for their support, explain what we do with their money, and offer to pray for any needs they may have...similar to the Salvation Army.

Success Story—"Patience"

Let's call her "Patience" because after all, that's what she is a good example of. It was May when she first called. We helped her for a couple of weeks in a motel until her disability check arrived. She had lost her apartment when the lease expired and her money was gone for that month. She was confused and surrendered her Section 8 Housing. The new month arrived, and she decided she liked the motel and its owner, so stayed longer (on her tab.) Eventually she reached a date when the motel was previously booked, so she had to leave.

Every month she called HHGM for help but didn't want to take any of the advice we offered her. Working with the other agencies, we came up with a plan...but she wasn't interested. She liked her freedom and she had done fine on her own for years now. She'd been offered a safe place to sleep in her car by the Police Department, but she was going to do it her way and only stayed one night. She showed up at a church, suicidal one day. Thankfully they called us, but when we sent the police, she once again fell through the cracks of the system, and was not allowed the intervention she needed.

By early fall she was tired of staying with friends or sleeping in her car, and called yet again. This time she was willing to accept our advice and support. We miraculously found her a furnished apartment within her price range...available immediately! We spent a couple of weeks driving her around taking care of bills, address change, etc. When someone is under the stress of homelessness, has pushed the envelope so far that family and friends don't know how to help any longer, if they don't have mental health issues before this, they certainly have some after. Her

willingness to comply was a total reversal. She began making good choices. She was on her way and safe after five months.

Two months later I received a text message. Could I come over...she didn't have minutes, but needed to talk. I was surprised at who I found. Her physical appearance had changed with the stress gone from her life. She'd reconnected with family who was now helping her, and feeling badly they couldn't at the time. She'd found lost friends, and was getting together with one of them once or twice a week for prayer. That day she told me she had breast cancer, but not to worry since she was certain the lumpectomy would be successful. She wanted me to know that she was doing fine, and to thank me for being there through her "stubbornness." We prayed before I left.

I heard from her landlord a couple months later. The landlord feels she's a model tenant and is happy to have her.

There are times I wish I could stay in the lives of those we help, but often I'm a memory of a time they'd rather forget. That doesn't mean they are dropped from the prayer list or forgotten. Sometimes, though, their stories even need to be shared. And hers is a great example of "waiting" until they are ready for true help.

After writing this story I heard again from Patience. She never needed the surgery...either the doctor had been wrong in the diagnosis or God had healed her. She didn't know or care. She is finally ready to connect with a church family as things in her life got rocky again. She is doing ok financially, so homeless is not an issue for her now.



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