

# SEASONS OF LIFE

APRIL 2025

## Homes at Hope Street

**I'm not a gardener—in fact, I've only kept one plant alive successfully (there's a cool story behind that plant).**

However, I do understand a pretty basic plant principle — sometimes they outgrow their current environment and benefit from transplanting in order to continue growing and experiencing new flourishing. As The Greenhouse for People, Hope Street has long dreamed of continuing to partner with people through transplant housing beyond 26th and Capitol. Recently, that dream became reality when Sisters of the Divine Savior donated a beautiful home for that very purpose. Members will rent this home, further equipping them for life beyond Homes at Hope Street, empowering them to establish a positive rental history and continuing to step into healthy rhythms in this new season of life.

"I've never had a whole house before." Those were the words of a current member at Hope Street when she saw this home for the first time. Walking through the house, her eyes lit up—talking about possibilities, asking questions, and pointing out the cute rabbit in the fenced in backyard. She cried while reflecting on the possibility of her family being the first to move into Hope Street's new transplant home. "I'm just happy. All the changes I've made in my life." Looking at the little green plants currently coming up at the new house — her family comes to mind. Homes at Hope Street has been home to them for nearly 2 years — growing into a place for the continuation of incredible choices she has been making in her life over several years. Healing, sobriety, healthy boundaries, peace. That was the real joy of that moment — not the house, but the choices she's made in her life that have led to flourishing.

**- JAMIE CHAPMAN:  
HOMES DIRECTOR**



**WATCH THE VIDEO:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15AwN4ia6G/>

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## Shechem at Hope Street

Shechem brought Hope Street a greater ability to collaborate with other community organizations, sharing resources, trying new things, and opening each other up to new possibilities. We've held resource fairs, community events, and have had regular classes and programming thanks to other community organizations.

Cream Skills became an especially valuable partnership for us because of the focus on basketball. Under the leadership of Nigel Harvey, Cream Skills focuses on building character, developing life skills, fostering entrepreneurship, and preventing violence — through basketball. THE way to reach our Shechem members is basketball. So when we heard their mission and Nigel's story, we wanted them here.

Nigel began coming to Shechem once a week to spend time with the teens. He sets aside the first half hour for a life skills chat, gathering kids around in the gym, and then using the last hour to play ball. Nigel has this way of making his program feel special and a way of making each participant feel special and involved. He outfits the kids in

jerseys, brings his whistle and refs the games, making the kids look and feel legitimate, important. Even during the learning portion, the kids respect him and look forward to him coming. Now, he comes and works with our young men in the gym too.

This summer we have a team, the "Shechem Kings" in Cream Skills' summer league. Shechem kids will get to play against other kids in the city and obtain mentorship. Just like the pros, the league has owners, general managers, a lottery, draft and special events like an All-Star Game and Skills Competition. Our kids will get another opportunity to feel special and worthy.

**- KENDALL SCHOENIKE:  
SHECHEM DIRECTOR**



## Making an Impact on Social Media!

We've all heard the statement "facts tell, stories sell". And while we aren't necessarily "selling" anything here at Hope Street, we want people to be bought into our mission.

Stories are what draw people in, what keeps them coming back, and what inspires action.

Most of us have a story to share about Hope Street. But many of us haven't shared it yet. Social media is such an easy way to share those stories. If you haven't yet, I would encourage you to start sharing there. Write a post about your time volunteering, share a photo of an event you attended, repost one of our posts and share your perspective (tag us so your friends can find us!).

Sometimes, Social Media can seem silly and insignificant. I get that. But it has tremendous potential to reach thousands of people we would never otherwise. Your story has power.

If 100 people decide to take the challenge of sharing your Hope Street story on Facebook, and each of you has 50 friends, 5,000 people will hear about us. Many for the first time. Let's say half of those people decide to check us out. Out of those 2,500 people, half of them start following us. Maybe half of those people will join our email list, start praying, giving, or start serving. 1,250 new people are added to our community. From one Facebook post.

Thanks for sharing your story and supporting Hope Street in this way!

- **HANNAH CARPENTER: FUND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**

## In this Season, Life at Hope Street

**LAUREN: In this season of life, Hope Street is filled with hope.**

As the cold days, long nights, and dreary weather fade away, you can feel the energy shift at Hope Street. Winter oftentimes can bring sadness and loneliness, with people cooped up inside cold homes with little sunlight. Many kids sprint to Shechem just to escape the cold or go straight home to avoid the chilly walk or bus ride. But as spring arrives and plants begin to bloom, something shifts in the air. Kids laugh and walk with friends to Shechem, and gather on the rooftop to soak up the warmth of the sun. Familiar faces return after a long absence with a big smile on their face to reunite with friends. Sunshine truly works wonders on our wellbeing, doesn't it? I'm filled with hope for the new energy, fresh faces, and meaningful connections that this season will bring to Hope Street.

**HANNAH D: In this season of life Hope Street looks like... a mystery.**

People often ask "what is this place?" when they walk in to deliver mail, bring a potential new member to an interview or stumble upon it by walking by. They are asking for an objective answer but over the last several years I hear an underlying deeper question. And I still don't

fully know and may never know how to answer that question as I experience the mystery of this place myself.

I know God Hope Street remains a mystery, inviting us to continue to engage with wherever we find ourselves with an active and living God as active and living beings in a place that cultivates every part of the growth process, including death. In this season of life, Hope Street looks like a mystery.

**MICHELLE: In this season of life Hope Street looks like.... sustaining.**

Life is no easy task. There are constant ups and downs, twists and turns and we are continually pulled between rest and growth — often to the point of exhaustion. But, important in all seasons...is finding sustainability. When someone steps into the Greenhouse for People, we desire to leave a lasting impact... we can't come on too strong, we also can't hold back...we must enter each story with intentionality to be here "for the long run". In this season, we are working hard to find healthy rhythms that feel sustainable. It can be felt in the conversations with members about work - life balance, the hard discussions over implementing rules that keep people safe at Shechem, the importance of leaning into and relying on volunteers, dreaming into the new transplant home, the training of staff to build healthy work habits, I could go on and on. Leaning into the support of our heavenly Father, we are striving towards finding the mental and physical strength to last not just now, but in each season that lies ahead.

# Engaging



While I was putting donations away I came across a grocery bag with a few items: a small travel size box of tissue, hotel shampoo and a single roll of toilet paper in a ziplock bag. Before my heart was grateful it judged, “really a single roll of toilet paper.” The thought nagged at me. On my drive home I felt the Lord say, “What if that was a sacrifice to give? What if that was their widow’s

mite?” In scripture there is a story of a widow who gave the last of what she had as an offering. The single roll of TP hangs in my office as a reminder to be grateful for every minute or hour volunteered and every item donated.

Engaging looks different for each person. It could be spending the afternoon at Shechem being an extra set of hands, cooking a meal for Family Dinner at Homes, bringing your child on early release to clean, baking treats, click and ship from your home to meet tangible needs on our wishlist or regularly praying. There is no right or wrong way to engage with Hope Street and its members. Maybe you don’t have to give the last of what you have as an offering to Hope Street, maybe you can engage out of an abundance of time, talents or treasure. But either way we can not be the Greenhouse for People on 26th and Capitol without you.

**- KATEE HOLCOMB:  
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**

# of churches engaged (financially or volunteer): **18 CHURCHES**

# of volunteer hours it takes per month to “run” Hope Street:



**250+ HOURS**



**65+ PEOPLE**

# of recent transplant: **8** over the last 8 months

# of Shechem members: **1,947**

# of social media followers: (past 3 months)



**FOLLOWERS: 2467  
VIEWS: 93K+**



**FOLLOWERS: 995  
VIEWS: 93K+**

# of people who lived at Homes last year (2024): **49 ADULTS** and **28 KIDS** (this includes people already living here at the beginning of the year-and those who moved in/moved out-and stayed more than a day or two-within 2024).

# of people who attended our 25th Anniversary celebration: **737 PEOPLE** between our daytime and evening celebrations!

Amount made at this year’s Women’s Luncheon for the Baby Acorn Fund!



# Sustain Campaign

**“Sometimes it feels like life in Milwaukee isn’t getting better, but when I walk through Hope Street’s doors I’m reminded that growth is possible.”**

I recently got to hear one of our former member’s reflections on living at Homes, and now volunteering at Shechem. I was struck by how proud of Hope Street he is, but also by his desire to pour back into it because of all that he has previously received. It’s a common theme. People experience something beautiful, relationships are formed, healing takes place — and people can’t help but want to do their part to make sure others get to experience the same. Over the last decade Hope Street has

experienced tremendous growth and transformation. It has been an amazing thing to see and be a part of. In this season, we want to take intentional steps to ensure our space remains a faithful and loving place people can count on for decades to come.

Our Sustain Campaign launches in June at our Hike for Hope. This campaign will empower Hope Street to remain faithful to our mission and maintain the work we have always done, and hope to continue into the future. It’s our way of being fiscally responsible, so that more of the gifts you invest in our community can go directly to impacting the people who show up. The Hike for Hope is a family (fur babies too) friendly event. We would love to fill Nashotah Park with Hope Street supporters, as we celebrate a season of doing our part to make sure His people have a safe and loving place to grow.

**ASHLEY THOMAS: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

# HIKE FOR HOPE 2025

June 14th | 8am - 12pm | Nashotah Park



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAIN CAMPAIGN**

**Interested in other ways to get involved?**

**REACH OUT TO**  
info@hopestreetministry.org



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