

SEASONS OF LIFE

NOVEMBER 2025

26 Years on 26th Street

I find deep comfort in the fact that nothing throws God off. He's not surprised by anything, and therefore can reign over any and every situation. This is comforting to me, because no matter how much time has passed - there are days that stop me in my tracks. Days that feel heavy, and if I linger for too long - hopeless. Moments that break my heart, and decision making that leaves me feeling weary. Is this working? Are we doing the right thing? Is someone else more qualified? Doubt can quickly become the unwanted passenger dictating my every move. Teary eyed I remind myself that a soft heart continues to break - it continues to lean in, to trust, to love. Hope Street has been around for twice as long as I have on 26th and Capitol. That makes 26 years. Twenty-six years of saying yes to providing a safe place for men, women and children to grow and flourish - first through our housing, and now through our community center too.

Most days are not flashy or even monumental. Yet, it is the consistent and mundane practices that provide the safe landing for people looking for stability and support. We work effortlessly at remembering names. Create space for stories to be heard, and relentlessly meet people right where they are at. We walk with, as we journey towards where people want to be.

Recently I sat in on a prayer meeting, and I was reminded of how disruptive addiction can be. Yes, the substance itself - but when people make the decision to stop, they aren't just no longer using. They have to make an adjustment - one that includes the people, places and things they have become accustomed to. Daily rhythms have to dramatically change. The morning sips, the afternoon liquor run, the special gatherings - those become "addictions" in and of themselves. **At Hope Street we maintain a culture that offers community.** One where it is safe to admit the struggle, and yet possible to begin to implement new habits and rhythms. Together we remind one another what is most true about ourselves, and about our situations. It is possible to live life differently, and it takes one intentional step at a time.

God knows what we need. From the organization, to our physical spaces, to each human being that reflects His image. God also provides. The beauty in that part of the story is seeing who He does that through - people like you, who say yes to bringing His kingdom to earth. We have been doing our part for 26 years. The story is still being written. There's still a lot more work to be done - will you join us?

-ASHLEY THOMAS,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





Shechem - A Refuge for Kids

Growing up, as young as I can remember, I went to my community's high school's basketball and football games. At halftime at the basketball game, I'd stand up on wrestling mats, hoping to gain some height and high five the team as they headed to and from the locker room. To me, there was nobody cooler. During the games themselves, I'd run haphazardly around the school or the stadium with my friends. There was safety. There was community. There was this sense that I was a part of something.

For me, the schools were the gathering place. And while I eventually tired of school itself, the space I never grew tired of. A pride associated with it. My brothers were there before me, my parents went there and my parents' parents. In Milwaukee, I feel an ache for kids who don't get to experience a neighborhood school. Kids and parents moving from school to school, changing year after year, picking the one that is easiest, or has the least fights, or has the best reputation. There is no buy in. No full stands on game day. I can't imagine active PTAs.

So then, I think of Shechem. A place that remains here. A stable place that kids can come to after school from 1st grade to 12th, and even still after graduating. A place where kids know their big cousin comes and hoops. A place where their parents can stop in and receive support too. A place where each

kid has a role in keeping it positive and contributing something to the space. I hope the longer we remain here, the pride for being a part of this place only grows stronger. I pray the kids I've gotten to know here at Shechem feel the same sense of safety and belonging I did growing up. I feel confident that Shechem is making a difference; it's powerfully impacting kids' lives.

One of our Shechem members said, "I ain't ever seen a place that cares about you like this. This place is different from other centers where people go there to fight. Here, people are here to just play." We are heading in the right direction, our community members are experiencing something new and different here.

- KENDALL SCHOENIKE,
SHECHEM DIRECTOR



Life Around Homes

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.

"You don't need to knock—just come on in!"

New members sometimes stand tentatively outside the office here at Homes and those who have been around longer are always encouraging them to "come on in." If you've spent any time here at Hope Street, you've likely been in another space we've called The Vine. In years past this was separate from the office—a 1 bedroom/1 bathroom unit set aside for weekly Family Dinners, intake appointments, Bible studies and moments of connection.

Earlier this year, it became evident that setting aside an entire unit for this purpose was no longer the best fit for the community and a plan was

created to combine The Vine and Homes office space. A wall was taken down, a long bench was installed to provide functional seating and storage, and one room within the 3 bedroom unit was converted from an office into a kitchen. What initially seemed like an inconvenience has turned into an opportunity for closeness. The Vine and the office are now combined and it's neat to consider how this physical shift aligns so beautifully with the closing part of Hope Street's mission statement: "...to restore hope that flourishing is possible for us all."

As a result of this transition, the unit originally set aside as The Vine has become home to a mom and teenage daughter who have continued to bring light, community, laughter and prayer into that space. There are now a total of twenty-three units available for men, women and children to experience peace, healing, and protection within The Greenhouse for People.

Hope Street isn't a place for "those people" ...it's a place for all people to experience something new. Staff, board members, community members and volunteers alike tell similar stories of growth, healing, restoration, new perspectives and a deeper sense of belonging. There's a profound gift to enter into a space where we're all invited to "come on in!"

- JAMIE CHAPMAN,
HOMES DIRECTOR

What our Members Have to Say!



"Everything looks clearer now looking at the world with sober eyes. You look at people different...everything seems different. I wouldn't change it for nothing in the world. You gotta remember where you came from, because it makes your fight stronger." **-T.C.**



"Hope Street is a fun, safe and friendly place where you can make a lot of friends"

-Mateo (Age 10)



"If you don't know what your purpose is...just keep living. That's a start." **-CeeCee**

Sustain Campaign Update

We need your help to stay on track with our goal for the Sustain Campaign. Before the end of the year, we need to get to \$1,277,688.67

Thanks to the Sustain Campaign and the money raised so far, we've been able to:

- Complete half our building brick rehabilitation project at Homes at Hope Street
- Welcome in 185 new Shechem members
- Host 350 supporters at our 2025 Family Reunion Fundraiser, including 150 brand new supporters
- Welcome a new baby into Homes at Hope Street straight from the hospital!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAIN CAMPAIGN

- Renovate the office and Vine at Homes, opening up another apartment for housing
- Begin new programming at Shechem: Saving our Sons/Daughters, Coding & Chess
- Get Hope Street Staff trained in the Community Resilience Model
- Have our first mother and child focused supporter event and share the Word with kids!

We have \$604,351.71 to go in order to stay on track with our campaign goal. Sometimes numbers become overwhelming - it is hard for us to ask, and yet, we are reminded of who is behind each dollar. What each dollar empowers us to do. There is a name, a story, a space, a program - each is bringing Hope to men, women and children when they need it most. Thanks for seeing the value in investing in people. Would you please prayerfully consider a donation?

Life around Hope Street

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

In the last 30 days, our Instagram page has had **24.1K views**, which is incredible because we only have 1,126 followers. That means we have **over 20,000 new people** looking at us and learning about Hope Street.



24.1K VIEWS



VOLUNTEERS

Over **3200** hours so far this year
Over **400** individual volunteers

SHECHEM MEMBERS (KIDS VS. ADULTS)

Adult males: **1293** | Adult females: **201**
Youth males: **504** | Youth females: **269**
Members active this calendar year: **841**
Youth active this calendar year: **437**

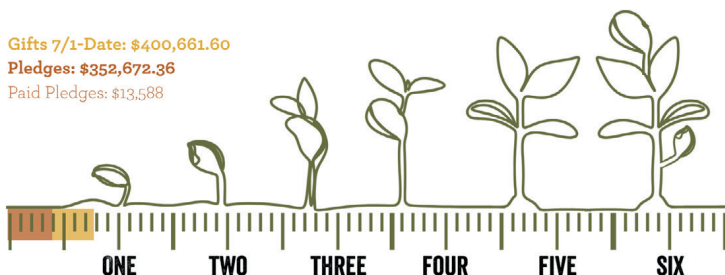


ZIP CODES REACHED 82 unique zip codes

TOTAL HOMES MEMBERS IN 2025 69 (including kids)

Current: **44** | Men: **7** | Women: **17**
Children: **20** (11 families total)

Gifts 7/1-Date: \$400,661.60
Pledges: \$352,672.36
Paid Pledges: \$13,588



Total Raised: \$739,745.96

To Go: \$5,648,597.41

Goal: \$6,388,343.37

as of 10/31/2025

Season of Philanthropy

Hope Street and Tax Year-End 2025

Recognizing our community Sustain Campaign is underway and that year-end is approaching...with the spirit of being helpful, your gift of support for Hope Street can be made in a variety of ways. Please act and utilize one or more; thank your generosity.

- Designate from your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- By personal check.
- Pledge: <https://airtable.com/appR0ewHXEaQY9JEY/pagJyhqRYOiOu2WZs/form>
- Utilize appreciated stock.
- Leverage your IRA RMD (required mandatory distribution)
- Secure portal on Hope Street website: <https://hopestreetministry.givecloud.co/fundraising/forms/PYEVm6DX>
- Ask your employer to match your gifts

If you would like to explore what your gift can do, please call or email. Thank you.

Interested in other ways to get involved?

REACH OUT TO
info@hopestreetministry.org



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