

FEBRUARY 2022

HOPE I BELONG

BELONG

This year's theme rests in the truth that you belong. Over the course of this year's events and newsletters you will have the opportunity to hear how people have accepted the invitation to join our Father at the table.

Belonging is a core value we all share, and we can BE with other people when we accept our status as Beloved. Each of us is a chosen child of God. Too often life experiences have tainted this reality, and left us wandering aimlessly. At Hope Street, we meet people where they are at, and welcome them to belong to something greater than themselves. Included in this newsletter are stories from beloved members of our community who have shared what it has meant to belong here at Hope Street. Each individual is connected in a different way, yet each has had the opportunity to truly belong and be a part of the Greenhouse for People.

VOLUNTEER: SUZI ELLINGTON

One day a favor for a friend turned into one of the most incredible yes moments of my life. I stood at the door of Hope Street, the greenhouse for people on 26th and Capitol, for the first time, with an arm full of bread to deliver. Karyll received the bread graciously and took me on tour. The loving vibe of peace, hope, and positive energy washed over me, and I immediately began brainstorming ways to get involved.

As a volunteer, I spent most of my time with the children the first few years, playing outside, tutoring math, or making holiday crafts. In the past few years, members and some extraordinary ladies have helped facilitate personal flourishing programs to foster growth in faith, community, and self-discovery. We share in fellowship and discussion on topics ranging from what it means to be a person of faith to how our identities are dignified and worthy of love regardless of our brokenness.

I've learned at Hope Street that peace comes about when you are free to be your

authentic self and are fully available in the present moment. Some of the most incredible days at Hope Street happen when the sessions don't go as I had planned. Beautiful and meaningful moments have come out of days that no one showed up for the class, but a conversation ensued with another. God always has a plan, and it's a gift to let go and experience God at work every day of our lives.

In the five years I have been volunteering, I've expanded my idea of community to extend much farther than my suburban zip code. Many preconceived notions have been shattered. At Hope Street, members and volunteers inspire each other to grow in mind and spirit, to know and to be known.





MEMBER: MOLLY RISCHÉ

Hope Street for me means home away from home. It means learning responsibility and being held 100% accountable. This place has helped me become the woman I so proudly am today. Learning how to be the mother I have always strived to be. I have been a member of this community since September 2021, throughout my journey here I have met some of the most amazing people, really created true friendships. I have learned that I can trust people and that I too can be a

great friend despite my track record. Hope Street also offers groups all week. The group that I have loved from the start is Trauma run by Clem Richardson. It has helped me to realize God has kept me on this earth for a reason. My journey is NOT over. That my story and by sharing my story might just touch somebody enough to change. I have never felt more safe, more loved, more welcomed than I do at Hope Street. I am so grateful for this opportunity and the staff here. I have come to realize all the resources are right in reach if you utilize them is up to you. Basically Hope Street has helped me change every aspect of my life that I never thought was possible.

“I have never felt more safe, more loved, more welcomed than I do at Hope Street.”

DONOR: EDDI SCHMITT

What's it like to walk into Hope Street?
Welcoming! Before even getting to the door, someone offers to help me with my load. The main hall is full of life; kids, teens, adults going about their business and wondering about mine. What am I doing at 26th and Capital on a Wednesday afternoon? I have to ask myself the same question. It had been a long time coming, finding my niche at Hope Street, not that you need a niche.

History: I've been circling around this 'Greenhouse for People' for years and years. My husband, Dave, has been involved for more than a decade, and my son, Aaron. As much as I supported their involvement, the mission wasn't on my heart. The residents were men who'd made poor life choices and my time for involvement was at a premium. Judgmental, a little?

Too much of my time was devoted to my job in furniture sales, where I learned the concept of 'overcoming objections.' I realize now, that's what's happened to me. First, Perry Brown came on board and became a good friend. He's very persuasive. Then, Hope Street began housing women. Women; I could more easily relate to their needs and life choices. So we went to the Family Reunions and a picnic for Hope Street residents and had fun getting to meet and talk with them. I circled closer. Then, some of our family members made poor choices. My heart softened as we faced some similar challenges and I saw that our family struggles were not so different from the members.

Later, we got to know Ashley Thomas and see her vision for Shechem and the Hope Street neighborhood. Soon, Hope Street started housing families with children. I love kids and started giving to the Acorn Fund. Still, I wasn't sure how I belonged. We enjoy giving to Hope Street. It's beautiful to see

the result prayerfully translated into the residents' lives. I tiptoed closer. After all, Shechem is coming with new opportunities. So my grandson and I painted reeds for the entrance. My son, dog and I did the Hike for Hope. I went to the Women's Luncheon and heard more first hand stories of life change. My objections and excuses were picked away.

About two years ago, our next door neighbors became very involved. They were at Hope Street every month with their little kids, sneakers on the ground. It was time I got in the door. Should I help with the meal planning classes or take up knitting? My feet still dragged, but I blamed the pandemic.

Then this fall, Kris moved out of Hope Street and needed blessing with his new apartment. He had a wishlist and the Lord opened my eyes to a need I could fill: furniture shopping. I'd learned a few things through my old job, so Dave and I rented a storage unit and are starting a good second hand supply of furniture for Hope Street refreshers and transplanting residents. Finally, a good excuse (not that you need one), to get into the halls of the Greenhouse and bloom with the residents. And maybe grab some hugs from the kids.



SPECIFIC ASK:

How can you belong to our community in this season?

PRAY! Join our weekly email list (brooke@hopestreetministry.org), or show up on Wednesday at 9:00 AM.

SHOW UP: Dinner Tour on March 17th; we host quarterly gatherings, for future dates and times please refer to the website (hopestreetministry.org).

NEXT EVENT:

HOPE STREET OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH

Tour the Greenhouse, and be the first to get a sneak peak of Shechem at Hope Street (registration required). To learn about this event, and all upcoming events please refer to our website.



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