

APRIL 2023

# HOPE BEGINS HERE

**Oftentimes, it is easy to go throughout your day and maneuver through spaces anonymously, but what makes Hope Street so unique is the value of cultivating true, genuine, and deep community!**

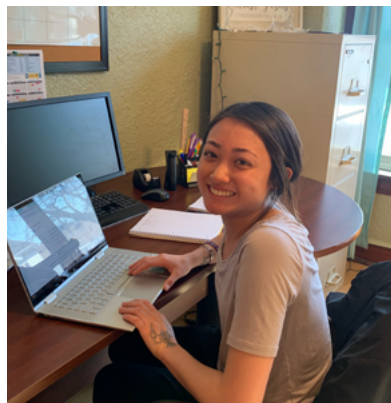
One morning, in my own search for community, I was led to attend a Wednesday morning prayer at Shechem. From this one step of faith, it unlocked so many other doors to building community that I never expected. As I became more involved as a volunteer, Hope Street's family dinner attracted me because it provided that intimate opportunity to get to know the members of Hope Street. Whenever I am serving, I never want to feel as though I am coming in telling others what they need, but acknowledging that the folks you are serving already have the solution.

Sharing a meal is one of the most intimate ways to build community and fellowship and Hope Street provides opportunities for volunteers to do exactly that by either providing volunteers with all the ingredients to cook right in

The Vine or giving the freedom for volunteers to deliver a hot-cooked meal of their own. For me, what I've found is that it is the stories and conversations that are shared that are the most filling rather than the actual meal.

Volunteering at Hope Street alters the understanding of what it means to serve.

It is not just emptying your cup to fill someone else's. It instead will empty you of wrong approaches to service and fill you with new



understandings and perspectives, new hope and joy that only comes when you open yourself to building relationships with the members. These opportunities will fill you up more than you could ever give. If you would like to get involved, one easy way to start is by making a soup or freezer meal for us to serve at Family Dinner!

**- LEEAN LE, VOLUNTEER TO FUND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

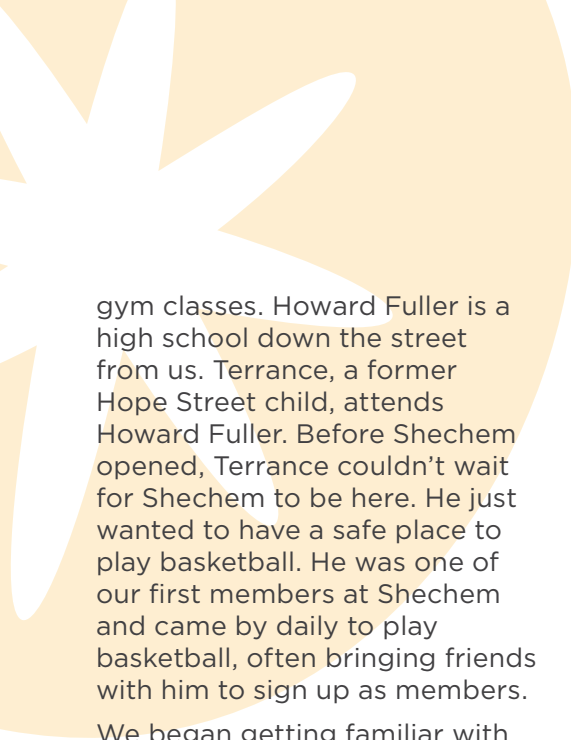
**“I would go crazy if Shechem weren't here. This is the best place on the planet.”**

- ETHAN, 9

When Shechem was being envisioned, we knew it would be important to have a gym. In fact, the gym was dreamt up before the rest of the spaces in Shechem ever were. It was evident that the kids in our neighborhood needed a place to play and we knew it would provide opportunities for other members as well. What we could have never imagined was just how loved this space would be, or how many people would want to use it at any given time.

Many of the schools in our community don't have a gymnasium. In turn, kids have lacked access to physical movement and the many benefits it brings. With Shechem open, we've already been able to partner with Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy to hold their basketball practices and New Believers in Christ to hold their

**“It is recognizing that service is meant to affirm a person's dignity, and our role in service is to simply be there to walk alongside. The best way to serve is to simply be present.”**



gym classes. Howard Fuller is a high school down the street from us. Terrance, a former Hope Street child, attends Howard Fuller. Before Shechem opened, Terrance couldn't wait for Shechem to be here. He just wanted to have a safe place to play basketball. He was one of our first members at Shechem and came by daily to play basketball, often bringing friends with him to sign up as members.

We began getting familiar with some of the students at Howard Fuller through Terrance but really got connected with them when we partnered with them by renting out our gym each evening during their basketball season. In the past, students on the team had to travel 2 miles to

Washington High School just for basketball practice and kids who weren't involved in team sports got no access to a gym at all. The Varsity and JV boy's basketball teams quickly became regulars here. They'd get here long before practice started to relax, get homework help, and engage with our community.

The word about Shechem spread quickly at the school, and now everyday we have Howard Fuller students fill our space to play in the gym, join in on our programming or sometimes, just make TikToks.

We've seen how much a gym has transformed life for the students at Howard Fuller. It's given those students a safe

place to be, an opportunity to be seen and known and a space to join in. This is just one of the many groups of people that have found safety and healing through Hope Street after being introduced to us because of our gymnasium. We've held AAU practices, gym times for other nonprofit organizations- Operation Dream and Neulife, Senior Fitness Classes and Zumba through Milwaukee Rec, and endless open gyms. All of these groups and people need a space to be, to play, to grow. Our community's needs are being met through this space and with that people are getting healthier.

**- KENDALL SCHOENIKE  
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## Annual events have become part of our DNA at Hope Street.

We have loved the excuse to create opportunities for you to learn and become involved in life inside the Greenhouse for People. Our events are more "friendraisers" than fundraisers, as they give you a glimpse into what it looks like to be a part of our community. We know that as people invest their time and energy, resources come in too. Our goal is to create a community that mutually cares for each other. We are excited for the Hike for Hope to return this Spring. We will be back at Nashotah Park on Saturday, June 17th. Start Father's Day weekend off with a hike through the woods. We will provide the conversation starters, and staff will be along the trail to capture

photos and share stories of all of the good things happening down on 26th and Capitol. Towards the end of the summer we will host our first Golf Outing, the jury is still out on whether this will become an annual event, but we hope to reach new people out on the links on Monday, August 14th at The Legend at Merrill Hills. Registration for both of these events are up on our website, under the "Events" tab. Last but certainly not least, this year's Family Reunion will look a little different. It will be an opportunity for you to join us down at Hope Street Ministries. This year you can "walk in our shoes" by participating in different activities the week of September 25th. The week will conclude with a special event, as Hope Street partners with the Hoan Bridge for a special lighting. Be on the lookout for more details to come.

Whether you join us in person for an event, help cover the cost by being a sponsor, donate, or share about an opportunity — we thank you in advance for the ways you will join us!



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

**REACH OUT TO**  
[info@hopestreetministry.org](mailto:info@hopestreetministry.org)



**HOPE  
STREET**

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