

JUNE 2023

# HOPE BEGINS HERE LIFER

If you have been around Hope Street, you may be familiar with her name. You may have heard her story from the stage, seen her picture in a post, or if you are lucky, you have had the honor of spending time with her. Judy is dear to our community and plays quite a role in the overall rhythm of life at Hope Street.

## SHE'S WHAT WE MAY CALL A LIFER.

What people might remember about Judy is "her story." The extreme highs and lows of a life marred by use and other forms of brokenness. Judy had lived a lot of life before coming to Hope Street and it's easy to see her time at Hope Street as THE turning point that changed it all instead of the continuation of a series of turning points along the way during her nine years of calling Hope Street home.

I (Hannah) have had the honor of knowing Judy for about seven years. The thing I consider the greatest gift? Getting to be a part of the ebbs and flows in the everyday, mundane, parts of Judy's life. The real life parts that aren't just told from a series of memories but the small, significant ways Judy has grown over time. This is one of the gifts we get to see in allowing members to stay for as long as they need to.

I came into Judy's life at a point where the external chaos had quieted, safety was established and the excitement of significant changes were no longer. She had checked the big things off her list: she found stable housing at Hope Street, she stayed sober, she found employment and she opened a bank account. At some point, when the obvious, big changes become the fabric of your story, it can feel like we are stuck in the mundane. We wonder "is there any growth here?"

Judy honored herself and responded to the gifts God had given her. She made choices that led her to places she wanted to be. Along the way we have seen some pretty cool transformations that might not be mentioned on stage but have taken place over periods of time, over seasons of dormancy and softening.



## Some finer ways we've seen Judy grow?

- Recognizing her belovedness
- Able to forgive herself
- Being a mother or motherly to the men, women and children at Hope Street
- Being consistent
- Giving people space to be where they are at
- Recognizing she doesn't always know

For Judy, Hope Street is the first place she called home and it may be her last. We have the opportunity to provide a safe space for members and trust The Gardner to cultivate, uproot and transplant us within Hope Street or outside of Hope Street.

- HANNAH DIRKSE

# DORMANCY

Each month our members fill out a **Flourishing Metric**. For each question, our members consider if they are **dormant, growing or flourishing** in different areas of their wellbeing.

After they fill it out, we then go through each of our member's metrics so we know where our members are at. While we would love for everyone to be growing or flourishing all the time, we recognize that being dormant is a regular part of life.

When plants reach cold or dry environments they turn dormant. They stop growing to store nutrients so that they can flourish later. We (as humans) turn dormant for similar

reasons; an environment or situation might throw us into dormancy. However, we don't always use our times of dormancy as efficiently as plants. Instead of storing up for later, we often let our situations deplete us entirely. Seasons of dormancy happen for all of us at different times in our lives. However, we don't have to remain in them.

There are times that we see our members enter into dormancy.

As examples, we see people pull away from our community or stop paying their membership fee, other times we see people return to unhealthy habits. Dormancy happens when growth stops, and without confrontation, they are periods where we can start moving backwards. We work to call our members up and out of periods of dormancy.

We work with our members to create a plan to get back on track, listening to our members' goals and the obstacles in front of them. We remind our members of their inherent value and encourage them. We also remind people of our values of community, hope and protection and what it means to be a member at Hope Street, having members recommit to their initial membership agreement.

- KENDALL SCHOENIKE

# FAMILY DINNER



At Hope Street, building relationships is our greatest passion and creating spaces to do so is a top priority. One way we have cultivated community is through our **TUESDAY FAMILY DINNER**. Each Tuesday, members, volunteers, and staff are invited to gather together in The Vine, Hope Street's open kitchen and community space to enjoy a meal with one another. This is a pivotal part of each week as many of our members work varying shifts and have busy lives, that we don't always get to connect. Setting aside this time each week as a connecting point to check in with everyone acts as the glue that holds our community together. I have personally found this time to be the highlight of my volunteer experience with Hope Street, that when I came on staff, I wanted to ensure that it would still be part of my experience here. Having opportunities to eat together and enjoy a variety of foods, tell stories, decompress, share a laugh, and simply be present has been the greatest way to build intimate bonds that wouldn't have been built otherwise.

If you have been considering getting involved, but are not exactly sure how, I would highly recommend volunteering at Family Dinner whether that be prepping a dish in advance and bringing it here or cooking the meal right in the kitchen of The Vine with any ingredients we have! Even more than just providing a meal, I encourage that you would come and be in the presence of our members, for it is a time that provides a sense of fullness that outlasts what a physical meal could ever provide.

- LEEAN LE

# REALITY INSIDE OF THE GREENHOUSE FOR PEOPLE


**I never stop being amazed at the countless ways God is at work in people's lives. The transformation, moments of breakthrough, freedom, love, joy...all of it point to our great Hope and the work He is doing in and through His people.**

Yet, as I often share with our members, it is lying if you don't paint the whole picture. Truth is lately it feels like we have had more hard days full of hard moments, than good ones. We have received news of a former member who overdosed leaving behind a daughter, one of our young men at Shechem (16) shot and killed, freak car accident resulting in the death of another mom leaving behind a daughter and news of cancer returning, people choosing to leave Homes at Hope Street too early, and unfortunately the list goes on. It can be really easy in these situations to fall into one of two camps: apathetic or hopeless. As a team we have been intentional about sharing where we are at. Not wanting to get lost in the darkness, and yet wanting to

make sure we still have a pulse, that we haven't stopped caring. For the moments that feel heavy, we are grateful for a Father who meets us where we are at and faithfully cares for us, and those we care for.

There are good things happening in and through people at Hope Street. We continue to wrestle with the reality that some days feel like a wave of emotions — highs and lows — yet one thing remains constant: He is faithful. Faithful in the big and small moments and everything in between. That truth empowers us to continue to show up, be present and love well.

Thanks for your part in joining over the last year, it was a FULL one and there was lots to celebrate.



**AS WE CLOSE OUT OUR FISCAL YEAR, KNOW THAT YOUR GIFT ALLOWS US TO NOT ONLY FINISH STRONG BUT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT THROUGH PROGRAMMING, A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, DEDICATED STAFF, FAITHFUL PRESENCE AND SO MUCH MORE.**

**THANKS FOR JOINING US. KNOW THAT EACH GIFT BRINGS GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN DOING OUR PART IN BRINGING GOD'S KINGDOM TO EARTH ON 26TH AND CAPITOL. THANK YOU!**

**- ASHLEY THOMAS**



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

**JUNE 17**

**Hike for Hope**  
at Nashotah Park

**JUNE 22**

**Art Night**  
at Shechem at Hope Street

**AUGUST 14**

**Golf Outing**  
at The Legend at Merrill Hills

**SEPT. 25-29**

**Family Reunion**  
A special week-long  
experience, with a boat ride  
to watch the Hoan Bridge be  
lit up with Hope Street colors

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

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

**HOPE  
STREET**

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