

25 YEARS OF HOPE

NOVEMBER 2024



# 25 YEARS OF HOPE STREET

**The family gathered. Just under 500 people joined us for this year's 25th Anniversary celebration.**

If I am honest, I am still processing the evening - the stories, the walkthrough experience, and His story that was shared through the lens of Hope Street's history. It was beautiful. It was profound. The evening has left a lasting impact for many, and words can't do it justice. This year's Family Reunion brought the greenhouse to life. Guests walked through an interactive and immersive experience that brought people into the story of the gospel, alongside life that happens on a daily basis within

our walls. We hold the tension of the brokenness that wreaks havoc in our community, alongside the deep truth that we are beloved and set free to live life anew. You can see pictures from the evening here.

But this was just one evening, our team has been remembering the goodness of our Father over the years as we have looked back at what He has done in 25 years. While I cannot share them all, these are some highlights:

**WE HAVE SERVED** over 1,600 men, women and children through our housing. We have been home for a season of growth and healing.

Shechem has been open for 2 years, and we have over 1,800 members! Kids have a safe space to be after school, where they receive support with school, a healthy snack and an opportunity to have fun!

**OUR TEAM** has more than doubled. We are blessed with incredibly gifted individuals who serve with their gifts and talents while being faithfully present. Together, we pour into one another and point to the One who transforms.

**WE HAVE TWO BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS** that support the 53206 zip code, one wrought with lots of challenges, and yet we have seen beauty from ashes - and seen the power of community.

Thank YOU for your part in being a part of our history, and for the ways you will join us in our future. We know it is the people who make Hope Street special - you, make it possible for men, women and children to grow and flourish. Through your gifts, time, prayers, and willingness to join the story. Thank you!

**- ASHLEY THOMAS**



SCAN CODE  
TO WATCH  
ANNIVERSARY  
VIDEO



SCAN CODE  
TO SEE  
ANNIVERSARY  
PHOTOS

# HOMES AT HOPE STREET



**“My adult kids keep telling me I’m doing good. I just keep telling them that God is doing good through me.”**

**- Tyree, Member of Homes**

I used to believe that humankind was defined by depravity at our very core. But several things over the last two years, including being within the Greenhouse For People, have completely changed my once firmly held notion. Hearing this member share his heart for the community and his hopes for the future I now wish I would have given him a big hug in agreement-but also said “you are good.”

God didn’t create us as human doings-He created us as human beings and declared over His image bearers, “very good.” Our sinful nature does not change the way our Creator still views us-as good and dearly beloved. The People within this Greenhouse come from brokenness and darkness-in reality, every single human does. It’s just that no one here at Hope Street is in denial. There’s something about a place where we get to practice saying and hearing hard things, to drop everything else to simply be with

someone, and where we’re daily reminded through the very name of this place that we are called to abide.

All of us in our joys, sorrows, mistakes, and triumphs are good, known, and called to come close. Closer to the heart of our Creator Father and closer to each other. As we reflect on 2024 and look ahead to a new year, may we fix our eyes on Jesus and continue walking in belovedness. If, like me, you struggle with this notion of goodness-come sit in the Vine to enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. Attend a Family Dinner and simply rest in belonging.

**GOD CREATED ALL OF US FOR COMMUNITY- WOULD YOU CONSIDER JOINING OURS IN SOME WAY?**

**- JAMIE CHAPMAN**

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Are you looking for a way to enrich this Advent season? Join us as we enjoy a daily devotional written by members of our staff and community. Each day will explore what it means to abide with Jesus, through the lens of different men and women throughout scripture. These digital devotional books will be available for \$20 each and will provide a month of membership for a Shechem member.

## NOTE FROM THE BOARD

As I reflect on the 25th anniversary of Hope Street, I am reminded of something the Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher, Richard Rohr said, “The soul does not use words, instead it surrounds words with space.”

25 years ago Hope Street was born. A space where men, women, and eventually children could come and live out God’s love, grace, and belovedness. If you were able to join us at our Family Reunion you were immersed in a replica of the space that is The Greenhouse for People.

When I first stepped foot into Hope Street, long before I was a volunteer, a staff member, or a board member I felt that tangible feeling of peace - the presence of God in the space. It wasn’t the paint or the pictures or the hardwood floors in each apartment, it was the space - held together by the soul and the spirit of God. Have you felt it, too?

We have come a long way over the last 25 years as an organization. One apartment building with space for men. That turned into space for men and women. That turned into space for men, women and children. We’ve had 2 employees to now 12 employees. We had a handful of volunteers to countless, dedicated volunteers. And now a community center offering space where the greater community gathers to be held by the presence of God daily.

As we enter into this 25th year, I am excited and hopeful to see how The Greenhouse for People will continue to grow and flourish as a space where words can’t begin to express the goodness of our Father.

**- RACHAEL STRICKER**





I hear guys on the phone every single day calling their friends, “come on down to the gym”.

## SHECHEM

**“A gym” by and large has not been my favorite descriptor for the whole of Shechem at Hope Street.**

I’ve likely rolled my eyes at hearing it, coming from my deeper desire for the guys who come here to see that this is a community, a God place, a place making change, a place with resources above and beyond “a gym”.

Xavier is a young man who works third shift and comes to Shechem to play during the day. He’s been coming here since it’s been open and appreciates having a safe and positive place to play ball. Sometimes during the day, the gym fills up with young men and it’s hard for people to get on the court. On busy days Xavier runs up and down the court making sure everyone gets a chance to play and manages conflict so that the games keep moving. Xavier, like many of the members, care that the space continues to be a safe and positive

space to play. He puts in effort to maintain the space. In return, he’s built positive relationships and has a place to come to get exercise and clear his mind.

For someone who leaves Shechem each day to go to the gym or some field to play sports or workout, I don’t know how my mind didn’t connect the dots. I know the difference exercise, sports, and play have made in my life. At least half of my friends have come from sports. I know that for my brain to be sane I need endorphins from exercise. My work ethic was built through sports. My steadiness was defined by it. I have been connected to opportunities through it. It taught me to manage disappointment and celebrate wins. And now, I see the same things happening in members like Xavier who come to “the gym”.

So here we have a gym that builds community, highlights God, makes changes and connects people to resources. Not such a bad descriptor.

**- KENDALL SCHOENIKE**

## VOLUNTEERS

Hope Street doesn’t function without volunteers showing up with willing hearts and open hands. This past summer we hosted three youth teams through LeaderTrek. It was amazing to see youth dive in to do the hard work of cleaning and prepping living spaces. One Monday afternoon after lunch a student asked if some of them could play basketball for “just a couple minutes” he promised they would be back to do the next project. They played for more than just a couple of minutes, which was great! The energy and joy in the gym was palpable, they gave each other a hard time, played hard and laughed a lot. Volunteering at Hope Street always means people over projects, that afternoon it was about some kids from Indiana hooping with Shechem members

from Milwaukee. Having volunteers isn’t always about how much we can accomplish; our honey do list will always be there. It is always about showing up and being a part of the Greenhouse for People on 26th and Capitol.

Showing up looks different every day at Hope Street and it will look the same when you come down. We truly have opportunities to fit every person and family. There are things you can do from home like cook a meal for Tuesday night Family Dinner or pray for our members. We have other projects that are onsite. We welcome you to come down to Hope Street on a weekday afternoon or a Serve Saturday. You can help us tackle our ever growing list of things to do. While you are here you may be surprised by a conversation or simply experience a stirring in your spirit while you clean a bathroom,

mop a floor, teach a kid how to sew, provide homework help, cook a pizza or any other ways “showing up” takes shape during that time. God is moving at Hope Street. We really hope you will come visit and spend an hour or two with us.

**-KATEE HOLCOMB**



SCAN  
CODE FOR  
VOLUNTEER  
INTEREST



# PRAYER FOR 2025

Dear Jesus,

You make all things new. You restore. You bring beauty from ashes. You are the giver of life. Thank you for the gift of new beginnings, second chances, and fresh grace each day.

We pray for Hope Street in 2025. We know You have good things planned, and we pray You reveal those things to us. Help us to hear Your voice as You lead. Guide our thoughts, our decisions, and our actions. We pray for our members. Please show them

Your infinite love and goodness. Help us to be vessels of that love as we show up and engage. We pray for financial provision and new donors. Stir the hearts of Your people to give towards our Greenhouse. You know what we need, and we trust You to provide. We pray for unity in our staff, board, and community. We pray against division and discontentment.

You are so good. We thank you for how You've blessed us richly here at Hope Street. We pray for continued favor and an outpouring of Your Spirit in our lives.

Amen.

-HANNAH CARPENTER

## YEAR END GIVING

Simply put, we can't do, without people's faithful investment in the work. This includes covering costs for electricity, building repairs, staff, programming and supplies. The need is ever present, and we are doing our part to meet people where they are at. With a larger budget, we are asking people to consider a larger gift to help provide Hope for men, women and children through our housing and community.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support a specific program or need, please don't hesitate to reach out - I would love to connect with you!

**[Ashley@hopestreetministry.org](mailto:Ashley@hopestreetministry.org) or 262-993-8454**

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

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



**2522 W. CAPITOL DRIVE | MILWAUKEE, WI 53206**  
[hopestreetministry.org](http://hopestreetministry.org)