

# HOPE I BELONG

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

One of the most fun moments to see at Hope Street is a member positively transplanting out of our doors. When members move out they get to call an apartment or house their own and we all get to celebrate their growth.

Despite moving on, we often get to remain connected to our members post move out. Kris, Robie and JJ are all former members who are still engaged in our community.

In 5 years and two stays at Hope Street, Kris went from addiction and homelessness to a man of simplicity and routine to a leader in our community. Kris moved out in December, and has since joined us for Thursday family dinners and calls regularly to check in. Even better, he has gotten connected to those in his new building, spreading his love to others.

Robie came to us stubborn, grouchy and 90 days clean. She left 2 years later with sobriety, financial security and goals. Better yet, we've seen Robie show patience, tenderness, and support to others. She left Hope Street in 2020 and now has 2 jobs, is connected to family, and is looking to buy a home. Robie returns almost weekly to receive support and check in with members and staff.

JJ moved into Hope Street with his family at 10 years old and in the beginning, he was shy. He

kept to his apartment and did his best to melt into the background while in community spaces. JJ slowly started coming around more, being dragged down by his brother or mom. He made friends with other kids in the building and began to trust others. At 13, JJ moved out of Hope Street, confident and independent, with his own style and flare. Now, almost 15, he's the sweetest kid, always showing others kindness, helping people with their groceries or making them art to treasure. JJ comes back every Wednesday evening to spend time with current and former kids in our building.

In their times here, Kris found stability, JJ brightened, and Robie softened. Their hearts were changed at Hope Street. Robie, Kris and JJ all still live here on Milwaukee's Northwest side. They are bringing what they learned back into the community they lived in before coming to Hope Street, making it a better place for themselves and their neighbors. In their new homes, Kris remains stable, JJ bright, and Robie soft.

BY KENDALL SCHOENIKE





## SHECHEM UPDATE

Vision. Prayer. Team. Drawings. Foundation. Frame. Some six plus years ago it started with a vision. A vision for a space where the community could gather, and be welcomed into a culture of love, peace and acceptance. A safe space to grow, be transformed, and to flourish. All things that have been happening inside of our current building for twenty-three years. Only like any healthy plant, there has been tremendous growth that has spilled out to meet a greater need: The community in which we have resided, loved, cared for, and been impacted by. Shechem at Hope Street will be so much more than a community center, it will be a safe haven where people can gather at the well; give and receive, love and be loved, know and be known. We have waited a long time for this day, and as we watch the building come up out of the ground

we are reminded of His faithfulness, His perfect timing and His will. One that never leaves the lost behind, and always provides exactly what we need when we need it.

Shechem is Coming! Once it is here, we will celebrate together with the community that made it happen. Stay tuned for more updates about our Grand Opening, and the festivities that follow.

**Be sure to follow us on instagram @shechemathopestreet for weekly updates on the building progress.**

For more information on the project you can visit our website. Please continue to join us in prayer for the capital campaign, the building project, and of course the beloved people who will soon walk through our doors.

BY ASHLEY THOMAS

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***“A safe space to grow, be transformed, and to flourish.”***

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# VOLUNTEER

Oftentimes you will hear our staff reference the importance of someone simply showing up. If you are looking for a way to get plugged in to Hope Street, that is the best way to go about it - simply showing up. There are a lot of practical ways to do so. Join us on a Wednesday at 9am for Morning prayer alongside fellow volunteers, staff members and current members OR take part in one of our many classes offered throughout the week. Each trimester, Hope Street rotates between a number of classes targeting areas of holistic wellbeing. These classes cover topics such as Boundaries, Vulnerability, Forgiveness, Nutrition, How to Read the Bible, Mindfulness or Financial Wellbeing. These are just a few of the ways we pour into the lives of our community and YOU are a part of that community.

Over the years we have realized the importance of equipping our volunteers to enter into a space that can be quite difficult - difficult to hear and share stories and truly know and be known by people! This has led to the creation of Volunteer Trainings. Once a quarter, our staff invites you to join us in an hour and a half discussion to prepare your heart and mind to engage and be in community here at Hope Street.

**We have two more training sessions this year on Thursday, July 21st and Thursday, October 20th, both at 6:30pm at Hope Street.** If you are unable to attend either of these trainings, we always encourage our

volunteers to dive into one of the recommended books on our website. These can be found within "Read A Book" under "Volunteer" opportunities.

Looking ahead, we are SO close to Shechem's doors being open. This community center will bring lots of new opportunities. For those who have a passion for kids, we would love for you to consider joining us in our After School Programming. Monday through Friday, kids will be able to enter Shechem's doors for assistance with homework, free time in the gym, snacks, crafts and other activities. If you have a love for people and completing tangible tasks, serve as one of our Administrative representatives by greeting individuals as they walk in and assisting our current staff with other admin tasks.

For more information on how you can get plugged in or questions about any of our volunteer opportunities, email Brooke at [brooke@hopestreetministry.org](mailto:brooke@hopestreetministry.org) today.

**BY BROOKE THOMAS**



# HEALTH CHALLENGES



In November of 2020 our team trained for a marathon together. It was a special time to be working toward something collectively, all at our own pace, in our own way. I (Hannah) struggled to train, but I wouldn't have even begun the process if I was doing it on my own.

As a community we seek to live, learn and develop new habits that help us flourish. Beginning in February 2022, we have committed each month to a different area of health. In February 2022 we did a water drinking challenge (physical health), March 2022 we did a daily reading challenge (mental health), April 2022 we did a gratefulness challenge (spiritual health) and during the month of May we are doing a resting challenge (intellectual health). We want to focus on simple practices that take intention but are realistically implemented in our everyday

lives. At the end of each challenge we celebrate everyone who participated and do a drawing for a fun prize! The idea is that these prizes would build into further development of each practice.

We would love for you to join us in these challenges! Be on the lookout on Facebook for updates on challenges. If you would like to participate in any of the challenges, email Hannah at [hannah@hopestreetministry.org](mailto:hannah@hopestreetministry.org). If you would like to provide gift cards or other gifts for the winner of each challenge, that would be a helpful way to get involved too!

BY HANNAH DIRKSE

## OPEN HOUSE PROMO

A softened heart, a new habit formed, a reconciled relationship, a smile, peace...these are some of the ways that we know people are experiencing success. For years we have told stories of lives that have been impacted in their time at Hope Street. Stories from members to volunteers, to staff. Each story is unique and no less significant. Many of these stories have been difficult to quantify, or hard to put into a graph that displays our "track record". It has not been lack of effort that has kept us from tracking these milestones, but more or less an inability to adequately capture exactly what has happened in someone's life. The Flourishing Metric is one way we attempt to capture, and measure some of the work being done in people's lives at Hope Street. While this is not all-comprehensive, it is a window into the hard work of unlearning bad habits, and learning new healthy ones. It is the "heart" work that requires humility, a teachable spirit, and a willingness to change. This tool alongside the stories, helps us share the impact being made on 26th and Capitol.

**Join us on Saturday, June 25th for our Open House!**

**We invite you to enter our doors and explore life inside the Greenhouse for People. Enjoy food, activities and conversation as you experience the different phases of the Flourishing Metric. Our building will be mapped out to guide you along each phase to better understand just how we walk alongside our members.**



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