



# UPCOMING EVENTS

As 2021 comes to a close, we are grateful for the many opportunities this last year that we had to come together. We enjoyed seeing familiar and new faces at our events, as we shared ways that God has faithfully encouraged people to show up, invest in and support the growth that is happening at Hope Street. As we look ahead at 2022, we anticipate an exciting year.

**Women's Luncheon**  
Thursday, February 17th at Brookfield Conference Center.

**Family Reunion**  
Friday, October 15th at Discovery World.

**Open House & Shechem at Hope Street Grand Opening**  
TBD.

Be sure to stay connected to us on social media, or by checking out our website for the latest news, events, volunteer opportunities and more.



# FINAL ASK

Generosity comes in different forms. In each season, we have benefited from people's faithful and generous contributions. Contributions that have come in the form of time, talent and financial gifts. Our ask this year is simple: how **is God asking you to be generous in this season?**

Would you consider sharing that gift with Hope Street? We are committed to being good stewards of your resources, and I can promise each gift is received with a grateful heart.

**Thanks in advance for the ways you will join us in His Kingdom work!**



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# WE WERE MADE TO THRIVE

YEAR END 2021

# HOPE



# MOTHERHOOD

**Some choose it, some fall into it, some experience it's richness, and all experience it's failures.**

Some are mothers to biological children, others to foster or adopted children, and some experience motherhood by caring deeply for their friends and family's kids. Motherhood, in all its shapes and forms can be experienced throughout a lifetime and exceeds the framework of a biological family.

Karey is a mother of four children. She deeply loves them, and from the outside looking in, they deeply love her too.

At a young age Karey figured out a way to address her pain. After suddenly losing her husband and mother in the same year, alcohol

was a solution to numb, avoid and to make it through. Eventually, this solution became a problem that fractured the security of her family. Karey longed for security too.

Over the course of four years, Karey began to drink more heavily. Eventually her kids were taken from her and they moved back and forth between their uncle's and Karey's home. Her youngest wouldn't engage with her when she was drinking and this relationship was hit deeply. Years down the road this relationship would lead to a story of hope and redemption that many of you have been impacted by.

You've heard from Jazzmin, mother of Valencia and Vayda. They are all kin of Karey. Three generations living under the same roof, working through their own things and reconciling relationships overtime that have been marred and broken.

### How did this happen?

Jazzmin had a safe space here, to raise her family and work through her pain. Karey later joined, and could both love and take care of her family while being loved and taken care of by our bigger Hope Street family.

Over time Jazzmin has begun to trust Karey again, because there is safety and security inside the Greenhouse for People.

Karey is sober here and that has been the first step toward healing their relationship.

While there were many years of pain and brokenness, and still may be, Karey was called back to her giftedness as a mother. I don't know if she would name it that, but I'll believe it for her. As Jazzmin, Valencia, Vayda and Van transplanted out of Hope Street into their own greenhouse, Karey continues loving others and being a mom to our family here at The Greenhouse for People on 26th and Capitol. What is Karey most grateful for through Hope Street? A chance to see her grandchildren grow up. She is mom and grandma now. She is living out of her giftedness as a mother. Thank you for loving us all Karey.

BY HANNAH DIRKSE, SOCIAL WORKER

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND HOPE STREET?

BY BROOKE THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## “Is it always this quiet?”

This has become a very common question around Hope Street lately. The quick and easy answer is “no” but lately it has seemed to be the case more than not. Currently there are 40 men, women, and children residing at Hope Street. In the past this has looked like kids running up and down the halls playing hide and seek, an abundance of laughter coming from a group in The Vine or Mark scaring every person walking through the building. Yes - all of this still happens! There is a lot of life, laughter, and screams (from Mark scaring people) that radiates through our hallways, but for some reason it has still been just a bit quieter these days. There are a lot of explanations for this but one that stands out above all is a simple answer- employment. Over these last few months we have seen more and more of our members get jobs and not just our adult community, but our kids too!

In recent months, Hope Street has continued to increase its teen population. Our kiddos are an important part of our community and it is imperative that we invest in their lives as well! To ensure we are providing an environment for all to live, learn and develop, we have begun to find new ways to meet our kids right where they are at. With this in mind, we have now held our first talk on life after high school. At one point in time we have all been asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?” This conversation allows our youth to feel equipped on all options post high school as decisions begin to be made on what's next!



## Family Dinner

Hope Street has always placed value in building community. There are many ways to do just that and we continue to brainstorm new ways to live this out inside our walls. This led us to the idea to create what we have decided to call “Family Dinners”. There is no better way to engage with one another than over a meal. Once a month, our staff will prepare a meal for all to enjoy around a table. We invite you to be a part of this as well — whether you would like to donate gift cards to help purchase food OR join us as all are welcome at the table!

## Health Challenges

A few months ago you may have joined us along our journey towards completing a marathon. In the months leading up to this big day, we were encouraged by how our members challenged and cheered one another on. As we operate out of our holistic approach to walk alongside our community towards living a flourishing lifestyle, we have acknowledged the importance of all aspects of health in living out our best selves. To maintain this momentum, we have come up with a series of health challenges. Beginning in the new year, our members will have the opportunity to partake in a number of challenges all geared towards improving an aspect of one's health. Whether it be walking for a certain distance each day, drinking a certain amount of water or taking time to read each day — all of these are healthy habits to instill. Stay tuned for these challenges as you too can join us in living a holistically healthy life!



# SHECHEM UPDATE

At 8:30am on Monday, November 8th I watched as Shechem's first wall was placed in the ground.

Clapping and cheers rang out from the small group of staff and supporters that looked over the Shechem site from Hope Street's roof, watching a vision of a community center come to fruition. I was amazed by the preparation it took to put up a single wall. It took hours to get the crane weighted properly, to get trucks in the right places, to move poles to places poles belong (building knowledge isn't my gift).

When I came onto staff, I didn't exactly know how Shechem was going to come into being, but I had blind faith that it would. Many of us have jumped into this project years in the making, doing what we can to support it. Listening to Ashley and Perry's reflections when the first walls were coming in, I think maybe that they had that same feeling as they first envisioned something new and different next door: the feeling of being welcomed into something that is already in the works, that is bigger than yourself, and that God has crafted so carefully.

God has welcomed so many people into this vision, and that first wall couldn't have gone up without every single one of us that have entered into His plan. It took the architects & construction crew, the dreamers, the planners, the funders, the volunteers, the prayer warriors and the people who shared the news. I'm sure

that a lot of you have felt a desire to enter into this. From my short time in it, I can speak on not truly knowing what to do to help, but feeling a gentle hand on my back, a hand of someone who does know what to do, pushing me forward. Faith in this plan has brought us walls. It brought us a half a million dollars in the first 10 months of 2021 towards Shechem, sold out events, and strengthened connections to our neighbors.

We might have been the first ever audience Duffek Construction has had. For us, the knowledge of the preparation it took and insight on what this will mean to our community, made placing that wall a production like no other.

BY KENDALL SCHOENIKE, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# REFLECTION

“Do you think you can mess with the dreams of the poor? You can't, for God makes their dreams come true.”

PSALM 14:6 MSG

**Dream: an idea or vision that is created in your imagination; it is not real.**

I sometimes have a hard time sleeping. I wonder if it's the dreams of the poor that are messing with me. I wonder if I'm messing with the dreams of the poor. David was a dreamer. He wrote Psalm 14. He was, we are told, a dreamer after God's own heart. Shechem is a dream come true. It was created first, in my imagination. It wasn't real. And I think for the first time, I'm starting to see (in my imagination) that as much as it is a dream come true for me, that it has

been the dreams of many, of the poor, and as such has become so precious. Why? Because God is making their dreams come true. I'm curious how God sows dream seeds in the fields of our imaginations. How do those sprouts grow and blossom? When do they cross pollinate across people's imaginations? Is it at night, when we can't sleep? Is there a way to harvest those precious dreams and pull them across, through the portals of our imagination into the cities we live in? There must be, because the dream, my dream, the dreams of many before me, have walls 30 feet tall on the lot next door. That is NOT a dream anymore. It just got real. It became true.

So I'm going to start paying closer attention to my dreams. I'm going to ask my people about their dreams. I want to see how many dreams I've been messing with and stop it. I especially want to see how many dreams we can hear in our community center, or “common life center” as Rohr so eloquently puts it. To get real..to come true..but maybe I'm just dreaming.....Good!

BY ASHLEY THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR