

downtown soup kitchen

# HOPE CENTER

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

HOPE RESTORED

HEARTS RENEWED

LIVES TRANSFORMED

## Director's Message

Dear Friends and Partners of the Downtown Hope Center,

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of how grateful I am to all of you who have chosen to give your time, finances, and prayers throughout 2017. Your support has been integral to our ability to provide services to those in our community that are struggling with hunger, unemployment, abuse, and poverty. We feel so fortunate to serve alongside you!

The Downtown Hope Center seems to be in a constant state of growth: services continue to expand; each Feed Me Hope Class is bigger than the last; ministries provide daily prayer and fellowship for our guests; local organizations help us improve our kitchen and baking equipment; the list goes on. God has been so faithful to bring us partners that share our heart for ensuring everyone in our community is afforded basic comforts and the opportunity to improve their circumstances.

It has been especially uplifting to see the success of our Feed Me Hope students following graduation! We have been so blown away by the support of local businesses willing to hire our students as line and prep cooks, bakers, waiters and waitresses, and managers fresh out of Feed Me Hope Culinary School. It is truly inspiring to see our students' faces on graduation day: their eyes bright with a sense of achievement, glowing smiles reflecting their newfound knowledge that they are loved by God, and an inexhaustible enthusiasm for their futures. There is no way to quantify the impact we have on our guests each day, but moments like the ones we have at graduation show us that we are fulfilling our mission of restoring hope, renewing hearts, and transforming lives.

In the Women's Shelter, Soup Kitchen, and Shower house, we hear words of gratitude and appreciation from people who are in the midst of heartbreaking circumstances and trauma. However small a simple cup of soup, hot shower, or safe shelter may seem, it is providing our guest with humanizing comforts that remind them that they are valued, loved, and respected. If you are a member of our staff, a volunteer, or a donor, I am so grateful that you have chosen to offer up your time and resources to share God's love with all who enter the Hope Center. Acts 10:4 states, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God".

May the peace of the Lord rest on your homes and families as we celebrate this Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Laurie  
Executive Director



**22 CULINARY GRADS**  
**84% OF CULINARY GRADUATES FOUND EMPLOYMENT**  
**18 BAKERY GRADS**  
**77% OF BAKERY GRADUATES FOUND EMPLOYMENT**

## FEED ME HOPE GRADUATIONS

Forty students have graduated from Feed Me Hope Culinary School and Bakery in the past year. These graduates have all worked incredibly hard to complete the program, and we're always amazed by the transformation that takes place from start to finish. By the time they finish the program, they are ready to work as line and



prep cooks, waiters and waitresses, hospitality managers, and bakers! Most of our grads have had success finding new jobs, and we continue to assist the graduates still searching. Thank you to all our donors that have supported Feed Me Hope by sponsoring a student or buying our baked goods!

## GRADUATE UPDATES

Samuel graduated from Feed Me Hope Culinary School on October 12th. He successfully found a position at Kriner's Burgers and Pies immediately after graduation.

His employer reported, "Samuel... works really hard. I dream of employees like him. I just want someone that cares, and Sam really does."



Tammy graduated alongside Samuel from Feed Me Hope Culinary School. She has already been promoted to manager in at Village Inn, and is currently in training for the position.

In addition to success in her new job, Tammy has recently moved into her own apartment and regained custody of her two children.

## WELCOME CHRIS CONNORS

Chris graduated from Feed Me Hope Culinary School with our fourth cohort of students on October 12th, 2017. We were so impressed by his skills in the kitchen and happy demeanor, we decided to hire him as our new operations assistant!

“ I was released from prison on July 25th, 2017 at 8:00 AM, I was moved into the Glennwood Center in Downtown Anchorage. The supervisor for the furloughs in Alaska enrolled me into the Culinary Arts School... That decision was the best one I'd made in my entire life besides accepting Jesus Christ as my savior.

The First staff I met was T.J... He has taught me and provided me enough information to leave prison behind and begin my journey back into society.

The [Culinary School] is top notch...it equips people with coping skills and teaches a trade that will always need employees in the industry. ”

Chris is an exemplary employee! He works hard helping Vicki in the kitchen throughout the day and spends the late afternoons in the office learning how to use Microsoft Excel. We are so blessed to have him here!



# HOOPS 4 HOPE



Call us to purchase a pair of earrings handcrafted by our shelter guests. At \$15 a pair, these earrings cover the expenses for one woman in a crisis situation to receive safe shelter for a night, a shower, dinner and breakfast, and laundry services. These make great stocking stuffers! What could be better than giving back to your community and scoring on Christmas presents in one go! Special requests? Email us- our ladies would love to make a custom piece for you.



**CHRISTMAS COOKIES**  
ORDER NOW FOR  
**CHRISTMAS EVENTS!**

SMALL PLATTER (24) \$30.00

LARGE PLATTER (48) \$60.00

## LETTERS FROM OUR SHELTER

A few women from our shelter blessed us with letters expressing their gratitude for the services we offer them through our shelter. We would like to share them with you, knowing that none of this would be possible without your consistent and generous support!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regard to the Downtown Soup Kitchen, I have had the privilege to stay here at night in this transitional women's shelter. If it were not for their open doors I'm not sure what I would have done. The staff is kind and helpful, treating me as a person and not as a social outcast as some facilities do. It is a port in the storm of my life and I hope it will remain so for other women in their time of need. Thank you for your time and attention to this.

- Janice

To Whom it May Concern,

I needed the Hope Center Women's Shelter. During a recent transition in my life caused by domestic violence I came to the Hope Center for help with a place to sleep, eat, obtain clean clothing and personal hygiene. Without the Hope Center I would have not been able to survive in Alaska (nearly nine months). The helpful and genuine concern of the staff including the kitchen staff at Hope Center is remarkable. The word of God is reaching a lot of people here also.

- Donna

## TILT SKILLET



Thanks to the generous support of Anchorage Rotary and the many donors that participated in our crowd-funding campaign, we were able to purchase a tilt skillet for our culinary program and soup kitchen! The tilt skillet speeds up our cooking process by allowing us to do everything from browning large batches of meat for soups to sauteing fresh veggies from our garden.

Chef Dave is especially excited about this development and plans to prepare grilled cheese sandwiches on the tilt skillet and homemade tomato soup for lunch soon!

## UPCOMING EVENT CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Join us for our Christmas celebration on December 12th from 6pm - 7pm!

Enjoy a performance by the City Children's Choir, hot chocolate, and Feed Me Hope Christmas Cookies.

Admission is free.

**DONATE  
TODAY**

MAIL-IN PO Box 202684, Anchorage, AK 99520  
ONLINE <https://give.ministrylinq.com/DHC>  
TEXT send any amount to (907) 202-7322



PO Box 202684  
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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE DOWNTOWN HOPE CENTER

**Lovalaska**  
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240 E 3rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 277-4302

[www.downtownsoupkitchen.org](http://www.downtownsoupkitchen.org)

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