



Autumn Newsletter 2022

We say this, pray for this, hope for this and look with anticipation for this in the lives of each person we serve here at the Downtown Hope Center:

Hope Restored: Isaiah 40:31 Those who Hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Hearts Renewed: Ezekiel 36:2 I will give you a new Heart and put a new Spirit in you; I will remove from you your Heart of stone and give you a Heart of flesh.

Lives Transformed: Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be Transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Pictured above this letter pose five of our 'Feed Me Hope' graduates. Together these women embody the answer to our prayers and hopes as all five are now employed by Downtown Hope Center (DHC.) Each of these beautiful women have experienced the Restoration of Hope, the Renewal of their Hearts and the Transformation of their lives in Jesus Christ! We could not be more proud of them.

Pictured from left to right we have Heidi, our newest employee who drives our delivery truck and assists in the kitchen alongside Peggy. Peggy is one of our newest soup cooks and leads our volunteer lunch teams on the weekends. In the middle stands Daja, a graduate from Class #1, who has worked at DHC for over six years as our Bakery Manager. Kat and Frances both graduated from our Tier Three program, committing themselves to almost a year of learning and healing in our Bakery and/or Culinary Program. Kat works in our Emergency Women's Shelter and Frances works in our Shower House providing showers and

laundry services to women in the shelter. These five women are why we do what we do and it is an honor that we get to be the ones who celebrate their successes with them.

Since graduating, all five women are paying their own rent and four of the five are residents of Suite Hope. In January of this year DHC purchased Suite Hope, an 18 unit apartment complex, to help house our students as they work and learn how to manage their lives. Each of these women have walked difficult journeys, but those journeys led them to DHC where they are learning every day how valuable and special they are and how dearly they are loved by their Heavenly Father. Now they are choosing to care and serve others on their journey in hopes of leading others into Lives Transformed.

We are so grateful for all of you who partner with Downtown Hope Center so we can continue to come alongside others as their Hope is Restored, Hearts are Renewed and Lives are Transformed.

-Sherrie Laurie | Executive Director



The Downtown Hope Center has helped me greatly to heal from my past and have hope in my future through their faith-based program. To help all women focus forward with positive outcomes, growing in God's goodness and blessings.

-Frances | PM Shower House Manager

A message from
OUR CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD
Lorraine O'Neal

"Hope Restored, Hearts Renewed and Lives Transformed," this is the mission of the Downtown Hope Center. But how is a life actually transformed? It's a process! A magic wand, government programs and even lots of money aren't effective without personal involvement. True heart change requires healthy loving relationships. At the Hope Center we teach God's truth, with patience, kindness, and mercy. Our board, staff and volunteers all take part in this beautiful work.

We are thankful to witness as God bestows beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Gradually hearts are renewed and hope is restored. God's amazing agape love, demonstrated through His Body, is the greatest change agent on earth.

As Board Chair, I give thanks and celebrate lives transformed!



SUITE HOPE Testimony

Revelation 22:17, "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."

I started the Feed Me Hope Culinary program in August of 2022. I truly love and enjoy being in the kitchen learning new skills and serving the body of Christ. Chef David and Chef Peggy are truly amazing and supportive. I've learned so much from the both of them and in kitchen and life skills. I came to the Downtown Hope Center shattered to the core and with a stone cold heart. I knew God, but I was so shattered I figured He walked away just like everyone else. Through all of the classes, and the love of Christ-centered support and guidance, I have been able to truly give true forgiveness to myself and others that I have held onto for 32 years. I now have pure joy and hope; my heart and soul is overflowing and my fire for wanting more of Christ is burning stronger. I am proud of the woman Christ is molding me to be for His glory.

Suite Hope is home sweet home. I have longed for a safe place to call home for all of my life. It is beautiful inside and out. It is truly humbling and far more than I have ever had. I have been blessed to be able to fully unpack my suitcase and hang up my clothes for the first time in four years. My roommate is my best friend and my chosen family within Christ. The both of us can openly sing praise and worship our Lord in our home! If you ask those who live by us, they will say they love the singing and the pure joyful laughter. I am forever thankful that Christ put me on His path to the Downtown Hope Center. I am truly wanted and not judged for my past hurts or traumas...not just by Christ, but by all of the staff. I cannot fully put into words what that in itself means to me. I am honored to be on this journey here and I am looking forward to all of the adventures Christ has for me. Christ is my living hope and healer. I wake up every morning grateful I am living the life Christ has graciously given to me. I am thankful and honored to be able to serve the body of Christ with my forever family here at the Downtown Hope Center. I cannot get enough and have started serving on the weekends all for Christ's honor and glory. He gets all of the praise!

-Angie | Tier II Student in the Feed Me Hope Program



COLD WEATHER DRIVE

SEPTEMBER-APRIL

We provide clothing to approximately 100 people a day! Help us keep them warm this winter.

Donations can be dropped off in our Cordova Parking Lot to a staff member Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM, except for 12-1:30PM.
 Mailing address: 240 E 3rd Ave Anchorage, AK 99501

Winter Jackets, Rain Jackets, Vests, Hoodies, Sweaters, Long Sleeves, Snow Pants, Jeans, Gloves, Hats, Hand Warmers etc.



Saturday, Nov 12th
Changepoint 10AM-5PM



Sunday, Nov 13th
Congregation Beth Shalom 12PM-3PM



Friday 2PM-7PM
Saturday 10AM-4PM

Give the gift of time this Holiday Season!

Sign up online Oct 1st-31st
to volunteer for

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 24th

Sign up online Nov 1st-Nov 30th
to volunteer for

Christmas Dinner

***December 25th**

*Tentative

HEAR FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS



Nancy

"I prayed about volunteering and the following sayings came to mind: 'If anyone is in need, give them food and drink for that is love' and 'Nancy be my hands and feet on earth.' These sayings were from God. The best thing about DHC is seeing how God provides for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs...not just for the homeless/needy but also for the staff and volunteers. We are one big family!"

-Nancy | August Volunteer of the Month



Rexann

"If someone asked me about the Hope Center, I would tell them it is a safe, Godly, shelter for women. It is warm, safe, clean, encouraging, has excellent food; and I am grateful the women have this place to go. If not for DHC, where would they be? I love volunteering because it gives me a place to serve God and serve others. There is always something to do, not the least of which is to engage and listen to guests at the shelter. Many times, they just need someone to listen to their story. I had the pleasure of hearing a woman tell her story to me, her struggles as a little girl living in a village, her job as an administrative assistant, how and why she came to the shelter. And of course, just offering prayer support is probably the greatest honor. It might sound selfish, but I get so much energy and gratitude being able to serve, to actually be hands on and do something worthwhile; it is incredibly rewarding."

-Rexann | July Volunteer of the Month

Coach's Corner

Hope is typically defined as "a bright expectation for tomorrow." Hope is not a wish or just a dream. Hope has substance. Our students are finding the hope that they have longed for a good portion, if not all, of their life. To see the changes in attitudes, behavior and even appearance is at times surreal. I wish we could somehow capture their "before hope life" and the reality of "hope experienced," so all could see what genuine transformation looks like. I recently heard a teaching on hope that provided an even richer understanding. Hope gives permission for someone to emotionally experience the joy of their expectation before it is realized. For example, Imagine little children, on Christmas morning, waiting with the emotional expectation to discover what the decorated package is under the tree that they had only imagined. The Greek definition of hope is saturated with the understanding that it is full of joy and pleasure. That's Gods heart and the very real experience our students find in the Feed Me Hope, culinary and bakery, program. That's my prayer for you is that you would find that kind of hope. Thank you for your partnership is seeing Hope Restored, Hearts Renewed, and Lives Transformed.

-Coach Richard | Life Transformation Director

After graduation, I reached for the sky and I now live and work at a ranch in the Valley!

- Chad | Class 33 Graduate





HOPE
CENTER
HOPE RESTORED | HEARTS RENEWED
LIVES TRANSFORMED

PO Box 202684 Anchorage, AK 99520



GIVING TUESDAY
Online Auction

November 1st-November 29

Gear up for the Christmas season this November by purchasing gifts that give back to the Downtown Hope Center.
More information to come via email, mailings and social media.



Pick. Click. Give.

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