

# HELP US PURCHASE



## Suite Hope

is being purchased by the Downtown Hope Center. Suite Hope is an adjacent, 18 unit apartment complex currently known as Uptown Suites.



## Suite Hope

offers housing to our students enrolled in the Downtown Hope Center's 'Feed Me Hope' Bakery and Culinary Job Training Program.



## Suite Hope

offers safe, subsidized housing to women needing trauma care and treatment for abuse, addiction and to victims of sex trafficking.



# OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER PART II

We believe that you care about Anchorage and that you want to be part of the solution in providing a hand up regarding the homeless crisis in our community. Since its humble beginnings in 1978, the Downtown Soup Kitchen has existed to demonstrate God's heart for the hungry and homeless of Anchorage, AK. Nearly four decades later Downtown Hope Center continues to faithfully serve those in the Anchorage community who have found themselves in hopeless life situations. On a daily basis 300-400 people receive healthy meals, are given the opportunity to shower, are offered laundry service and fresh clothing. All of this is provided because of committed partners who carry the cause of caring for others in their heart. The DHC's Women's shelter continues to offer a safe shelter for more than 50 women who have lived in harmful environments or lived on the streets of Anchorage. Women fleeing the horrors of sex trafficking, trap houses, sexual exploitation and drugs have found safe refuge in Hope Shelter. They are provided a safe place to disassociate from traffickers, pimps, and abusers. They receive the basics of food, shelter, showers, clothing, and participation in our job skill training program is encouraged.

For over five years, the Feed Me Hope Culinary and Bakery program has provided both men & women tools necessary for gainful employment. Today, our program has a 78% job placement success for our graduates. During our 16-week training program students learn on-the-job culinary and bakery skills. These students courageously address life dominating barriers, while participating in an addiction recovery program and trauma counseling. From experience, we have learned that safe and consistent housing is essential for successful life transitions.

If you received last quarters Newsletter you may remember us mentioning Uptown Suites in our Opportunity To Partner section. Well now more than ever is the time to partner! It is with clear vision and purpose that the Downtown Hope Center has entered into a purchase agreement for a nearby apartment complex at the cost of \$1.7 million. This monitored facility will afford our shelter guests (in transition) and our Feed Me Hope students a safe and healthy environment, for one year, as they walk out their new life transitions. This 18-unit complex is designed to house four guests per 1 bedroom apartment. Residents are required to participate in trauma counseling and maintain their sobriety. Would you prayerfully consider financially partnering with the Downtown Hope Center in purchasing Suite Hope? For more information, please visit our website. [www.downtownhopecenter.org/suitehope](http://www.downtownhopecenter.org/suitehope) or call us at 1-907-277-4302 Ext.1. We appreciate your participation and investment in the community of Anchorage. Hope is restored, Hearts are Renewed, and Lives are transformed because of your caring heart.

*When I think about Suite Hope there is an excitement that comes. For our women in the Shelter it is a place that some of them will be able to go and have an opportunity to heal. They can have peace and feel safe! Suite Hope is a place of belonging and restoring the women we serve with dignity. I foresee the women in our shelter being filled with gratefulness that produces a response to give back to the community that gave back to them. Suite hope is truly an exciting move forward.*

**-Shelter Director**

**-Sherrie Laurie | Executive Director**

*Over the years, we have seen first-hand the importance and benefits of a safe and healthy living environment for the students enrolled in Feed Me Hope. We know that one of the biggest reasons for student drop out is the lack of a safe place to go at the end of the day. Suite Hope can absolutely change that for current and future students. I believe with all my heart that Suite Hope will dramatically improve student retention, graduate employment and most importantly, each student's individual walk with Christ. We currently have three participants residing at Suite Hope – they were the first. The fruits they have reaped of their ability to “go home” at the end of the day are obvious the next morning! We are so grateful God has opened this door and that we have been called to expand his Kingdom in our community.*

**-Employment Specialist for Feed Me Hope**



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS





# GRADUATE TESTIMONIAL

We sat down with one of our recent graduates and asked her to share her story with us. "I moved from New Jersey to Alaska in 2016 and started

working at the Hampton Hotel as a Breakfast Attendant. I was told I was one of the good workers out of all four of us working in that area.

Sometime in 2018, while I was at work, my arm went numb and I dropped a metal baking sheet. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and I lost my job. My landlord showed me sympathy and allowed me to stay as long as he could. While I was waiting for Social Security or Disability money to be mailed I had my identity hacked. Having no money to give to my landlord I began living out of my van. After my van was stolen I started living in a tent. After living in the cold and not showering for over 3 months I sought out living in a shelter. The first shelter I went to

thought I was crazy when I spoke about the warfare I was experiencing and the hacking of my identity and I was told help could not be offered to me. After that I found shelter at the Downtown Hope Center and since I have lived there I realized the Downtown Hope Center doesn't shelter women who are just homeless, but the Downtown Hope Center shelters women who are elderly, disabled, mentally ill, traumatized, victimized and more. There is not a place that accepts all kinds of women like the Downtown Hope Center. By the grace of God the Downtown Hope Center is giving hope and offering healing! I believed in God before I came to the Downtown Hope Center, but now I believe in Him even more. Since I have been here I have graduated from the Feed Me Hope bakery program and have worked part-time as Shelter Staff while also learning part-time in the bakery as one of the first Tier 3 students. When I was in the program as a Tier 1 and Tier 2 I knew I would graduate because I knew and still am a hard worker. Not only have I graduated, but with the Downtown Hope Center purchasing Suite Hope I now have a home! I still am having my identity hacked and that has been the hardest thing for me, not having privacy. However, I know God wants me to help women who have been through what I have been through. God wants me to help those women and more! I would like to see the future people who stay at Suite Hope have a desire to be in the program and obtain a job like me. *This place is more than just a shelter.*"

**-Katrina J. | Class 26 Graduate**



## SUITE HOPE GIVING TUESDAY

### Online Event

**Giving Tuesday**, the global day of giving, is **November 30th** and this year we are hosting an online event on our **Facebook** page to help us raise funds for Suite Hope. If you participate in giving during this event you will be entered into a giveaway primarily sponsored by Alaskan businesses.

[www.facebook.com/DSKHopeCenter](http://www.facebook.com/DSKHopeCenter)

downtown soup kitchen



PO Box 202684  
Anchorage, AK 99520



**CITYGATE™**  
NETWORK

MISSION  
MEMBER  
CERTIFIED

*Help and hope found here*



**TO DONATE TO SUITE HOPE**  
VISIT [WWW.DOWNTOWNHOPECENTER.ORG/SUITEHOPE](http://WWW.DOWNTOWNHOPECENTER.ORG/SUITEHOPE)  
**OR CALL 907-277-4302 EXT 1**

Pick.  
Click.  
Give.

**240 E 3RD AVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501**  
**(907) 277-4302**  
**[WWW.DOWNTOWNHOPECENTER.ORG](http://WWW.DOWNTOWNHOPECENTER.ORG)**

Follow us!



[@dskhopecenter](https://www.instagram.com/dskhopecenter)