

Because of You.

HOPE MISSION
2013 ANNUAL REPORT





A NEW FOCUS BRINGS FREEDOM

HANS' STORY

At most mealtimes, you will see Hans—a large friendly presence—manning the doors. He smiles at the folks filing out, wishing them the best, hoping for the best. For a long time he was part of the line.

Crack cocaine controlled his life, contorted his days. Eventually it inflicted, as yet, an untreatable bacteria in his blood. He was hospitalized. Then, having come through surgery on an arterial valve, and despite warnings and his own promises to the surgeon, within three days he was back using.

“I was on the street again, and I was sick, the bottoms of my feet were all blistered up, all I knew was that if I didn’t get help, I’d be dead.”

I was able to stop fighting, and receive God as my true solution.

At that point in his life Hans felt that suicide was preferable to anything else. But he recalled an experience that steadied him: “I was in jail for thirteen years. I used to get paid to keep people quiet. Once when I had a guy backed in a corner, it was like something grabbed my arm and I couldn’t swing,” here Hans’ already soft voice, goes quieter, “and I saw my face pictured into his face, and there was a presence...well, that was it, it was over. This has stayed with me.”

The memory of that presence, like an inescapable hope, kept Hans from taking his life and it compelled him to enter Hope Mission’s recovery program. “To tell you the truth, God brought me to Hope Mission.”

Because of you, Hans is twenty months clean. Because of your compassion, Hans now sees his life in a different light.

“Before it was all me, concentrating on the addiction, fighting it...it would always win.” Now, Hans’ focus has changed. “For me, once I stopped seeing myself as an addict, and instead, as someone with a problem, using crack as a solution, I was able to stop fighting, and receive God as my true solution.”

For Hans, this total shift in focus, away from the addiction toward God, has given him an enduring hope. This hope is what you have given Hans. You have helped Hans fill that hole that was created by so many past hurts with the love of God through Jesus.

And you have given him freedom from worrying about the future. “I’ll go wherever God leads me. Because of my health (Hans will need yet another surgery on his heart to limit the damage the bacteria has caused) I can’t drive truck like I used to, but I can volunteer. I know there will be something more to come.”

There will be more to come for Hans and hundreds more like him. Because of you they can look forward to tomorrow. Because of you they can plan and dream. You have given much more than food or housing or sobriety. You have given hope.

On behalf Hans and the many men and women you have blessed by your giving, thank you.



349,652
hot meals
served



563
people slept
each night



73
people
housed



54,520
volunteer
hours given

BECAUSE OF YOU...



21
graduated from
1 year recovery
programs



3,096
jackets
given



87,235
bag lunches
served



20,051
pairs of socks
distributed

BRIGHTWOOD RANCH CAMP

A COUNSELLOR'S STORY

We're sitting on the steps of our cabin. A teenage girl is telling me about her home life: a phrase indicating the presence of a home. But as she talks I'm wondering what it's called when home-life is a series of placements with strangers that you can't warm too, because you feel like an appendage, an unwelcome add-on? And I think of the word foster, which means to nurture—sometimes that gets forgotten.



But then she tells me...well, let me back up: you know when someone receives bad news? how they hold themselves, shoulders up, head bent, arms crossing themselves, holding either side of their ribcage; that's how she's sitting when she tells me that the one family that cared, that felt like home—with the house that had the bright bedroom she liked—had to sell and move away not long after she arrived, because the dad got cancer.

And with hardly a pause—as to escape the memory—she says that now she's living in a group home and since she's 15 she'll be placed in an Independent Living Program next year.

And here she rallies, straightens up, smiles—though her eyes give her away—and announces that, "It'll be fun living all by myself, being my own boss and staying up however late I want."

Then I go and ruin her moment and ask if she'll be lonely; and will she have someone to look in on her? And I see her wound up close. It's evening and the light is fading but I see it clear, see her fold up around it, shield herself with her shoulders, her collar almost covering her ears, her arms again holding herself. What can I do? So now there are two sets of arms around her, hers and mine, and I feel her tears, hot on my neck.

She left the next day. Camp was over. And in another week September came and I went home, looking forward to university—second year—but looking forward to seeing my parents more. And at supper, that night, I ask my mom this: "Why does a teenager have to feel like she is alone with no one looking out for her?" My mom looks at me; we're silent; she understands.

I'll tell you this, I think of Melissa—that's her beautiful name—I will for a long time. I console myself, thankful for the time we had, the chat...no, the talk.

Maybe she thinks of me as well. I pray for her. Perhaps she'll find a home, a home-life. At least I know while she was at camp, she was cared for, assured she was loved.

And at least there are people out there who give, so that there is camp, these times, this possibility, this hope.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Whether challenge or change, trial or success, when I look back over this past year I'm reminded once again, that at the heart of this ministry are hearts of understanding and compassion. Ultimately, I'm reminded that it's God's grace and the concern and open-handedness of supporters that have put us here for a primary purpose.

That purpose has remained our watchword for 85 years. Hope—the hope inherent in God's love, the hope offered through Jesus Christ—is reflected in the transformational stories that come through our recovery communities, programs and camps.

Through it all, as recounted here in our Annual Report, lives are being renewed, strengthened and uplifted. For this we are eternally thankful; and to this we remain steadfastly committed.

On behalf of the directors, staff, interns and volunteers, thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, your spirit of generosity and care. God's special love and compassion for the destitute and despairing is evidenced through you.

May God bless you,



Bruce Reith | Executive Director

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

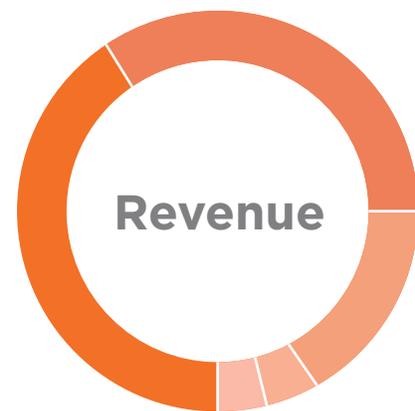


84% Ministry Programs

- 48% Men's Services
- 8% Women's Services
- 12% Youth Programs
- 11% Children's Programs
- 5% General Programs

16% Administration & Resource Development

- 4% Administration
- 12% Resource Development



- 45% Donations
- 30% Government
- 17% Foundations/Trusts
- 4% Social Housing Rent
- 3% Thrift Store & Other Income

*Based on Hope Mission's audited 2013 financial statement.
Numbers rounded to nearest percent.

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