

## Mission Tuesday #113



I have spent the last two days at home, not feeling well. I must have caught a "bug" somewhere along my travels in the last week. This "bug" has gotten the best of me.

So, needless to say, I haven't been at Mission of Hope at all this week...yet. Tomorrow is our monthly staff retreat, and the Mission will be closed. Hopefully Friday I will be able to return! I have realized today just how much I am missing my co-workers, and just how much I'm missing the people we serve, our friends! Today I planned to go in and at least lead the Wednesday Bible study at noon, but by 9:00 a.m., I knew I wouldn't have the strength to pull that off. Before that realization though, without me knowing, Kimmie made a phone call right away this morning to see if Scott, one of our volunteers, could come in and lead the study for me. She texted me she wanted me to stay home and get better, and that Scott had agreed to lead the study! Her action and care for me blessed me so much! I work with the BEST co-workers EVER! :)

I also get the incredible privilege of being able to help some of the most wonderful people on this planet! I have missed our patrons--my friends--dearly this week. I see their faces in my mind, and my heart longs to see them again in person! I can't wait to hear about what has transpired in their lives over the last few days! And I look forward to being there for them again. These dear ones have a special place in my heart and in my life!

Earlier this week we compiled our statistics on the numbers of people we served at Mission of Hope in the month of April. Do you realize how many people are hungry, even in our own communities? There's a good possibility they don't have food in their homes like you and I do. So, thankfully, we at Mission of Hope have a Food Pantry to help them have some food at home. We also serve a hot lunch every day Tuesday through Friday, so anyone can come in and receive a wonderful meal...maybe this is their only meal of the day. We don't have any strings attached. If you're hungry, you're invited (even if you're not hungry, you're invited)!

Mission of Hope also has a Clothes Closet with free emergency clothing for men. No one should have to go without proper clothing for the season. We will soon be transitioning from winter clothing to summer clothing soon. When someone is released from jail in the winter, but went in six months prior in the summer and only has summer clothes on his back, he needs some winter clothing! He can come to the Mission to receive such clothing.

As our statistics reflect, God is allowing Mission of Hope to reach out to many, many people! Are you ready for this??!!

In April alone, Mission of Hope served **2,041 lunches!**

In our **Food Pantry**, we served **477 total households**, and a total of **1,394 people...928 were**

**adults and 466 were children!**

In our **Clothes Closet**, we helped **94 people** with clothing, with a total of **249 items!**

Pretty amazing, isn't it? And if you have seen the size of our Food Pantry, it's even MORE amazing that 1,394 people were fed through it! And if you've seen the size of our kitchen...it's even MORE incredible that 2,041 people were served a lunch from it! God gets all the credit, as He is the only One who could make these things happen!!

Mission of Hope continues to follow the original vision God gave to Pastor Barb years ago...based on Matthew Chapter 25. In verse 40 Jesus summarized it all and gave us our purpose for doing what we do..."*The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*"

I urge you to join us! Give us a call at the Mission (319-362-5559) or friend us on facebook (Mission of Hope - Cedar Rapids) or visit our website (<http://www.missionofhopecr.org/>) to see how you can get involved! We look forward to continuing to help those who are considered the least, the last, and the lost...with YOU alongside of us!!!