

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Mission Tuesday #81



What a week it has been at Mission of Hope!

We had a wonderful event at Mission of Hope Monday night called Catch the Vision. We invited others to hear about Mission of Hope's vision, what we do, where we are headed, and testimonies were shared of how Mission of Hope has helped our community. It was exciting to be a part of the evening, and I was so proud of our Mission of Hope family. What a blessing!

Speaking of our Mission of Hope family, it is such a joy to work alongside of so many wonderful people. It truly feels like a family! It's obvious that God has hand selected each one. We complement each other so well. We help each other through the strengths God has given us, and are able to help each other grow in areas we may not be so strong in. It's unlike anything I've ever experienced...ever!

It was a week of progress. The I.D. came in the mail last week for our friend who is homeless, whom we are helping to get housing before winter. His Social Security card came in the mail this week! We, as a staff celebrated and thanked God for answering these prayers! The application to where he wants to live has been submitted and is being processed. If he's accepted, they would have an apartment for him the beginning of October! My co-worker Tom talked to someone this week who is moving and wanted to give away his furniture. Now our friend will be able to have furniture in his home too! The process of getting him off the streets is moving quickly now. I pray God continues to move it along, and that his application will be approved. My son cleaned out his closet last weekend, and we found a backpack he never used. I thought our friend could use it! I took it to him Wednesday to replace his plastic grocery sack that he

uses to carry his belongings. He was happy to have it, and I was thrilled to give it to him.

It was also a week of reaching out. Yesterday was the first time I saw our friend J.J, since the death of his girlfriend, Kim. How good it was to see him! It was nice to reach out to him, give him a hug, and to tell him how much we missed him, and how important he is to all of us at the Mission. We were worried about him when no one could locate him for the last two weeks...not knowing he was in the hospital in a different town recovering from pneumonia. He wasn't even able to go to Kim's funeral since he was in the hospital. How lost he must feel without her. They were inseparable. His eyes looked hollow, tired and weary. He took a couple of sandwiches with him for a meal later. I pray God protects him, and that J.J. will allow us to minister to him during this terribly difficult time in his life.

It was a week of serving. Volunteers come in each day...some planned and some unplanned. It's wonderful to serve alongside of all sorts of people...college students, young adults, senior citizens, men, women, children, business men and women, others who need to do community service hours, etc. It's such a privilege meeting so many new friends! On Tuesday alone, we had students and/or staff from three local colleges helping us! We could still use more volunteers as our needs seem to increase each month.

It was a week of showing love. I don't think I've ever received so many hugs as I did this week! I especially touched by one of our patrons who I met just last month for the first time. We have had some wonderful conversations and has shared a little of her life with me each time. Yesterday she blessed me with a beautiful gift...a cross-stitch work of art. It has 33 different scripture verses on it, which she hand stitched. It moved me to tears. Her hug was the biggest of all this week! :) She touched my heart with her act of showing me love. I cherish this gift from her!



God is glorified through the awe-inspiring things He's doing at Mission of Hope. What He's doing through His people amazes me each week. As I've said before, Mission of Hope is a place where lives and hearts are being changed. In the last year and a half, God has changed me through being involved in His work there, and I know I'm still a work in progress. I'll forever be grateful to Him for changing my heart and my life through Mission of Hope.

Julie