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NEWSLETTER

December 2014

We praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him, and to preach the Gospel every day at Mission of Hope, where we are blessed to see God's life changing power in action. In this quarter's newsletter we celebrate:

The Gospel's Transforming Power: Russ Elkins had known about Mission of Hope for a long time. Just over one year ago, after a rough patch in his life which left him recovering from addiction and homeless, Russ found the love of God as a resident of the Mission of Hope shelter. Almost immediately, he felt called to serve. Now one year later, Russ works the night shift at the Shelter House. During the day, you will often find him volunteering in the kitchen or other areas of the Mission. Russ shares a quiet, giving, Christ-centered demeanor with all those who come to know him. We are blessed to have him on our team.



Russ Elkins
Shelter Staff &
Mission Volunteer

	Through December 31		% Increase
	2014*	2013	
Mission: Lunches Served	37,483	22,873	63.8%
Food Pantry Clients	22,915	19,424	18.0%
Clothes Closet Clients	2,035	657	385.0%
Shelter House			
Occupancy	110%	85%	29.0%

* Estimated based on activity through December 8, 2014

Mission Relocation: Thanks to dozens of volunteers, relocation is complete. Special moving day thanks go to *Two Men and a Truck*, the deacons of *Immanuel Baptist Church*, and the youth group of *Faith Bible Church*. Daily services have resumed at prior levels. Donations of food and supplies continue to be received from dozens of individuals and groups, with special thanks to *Mercy Medical Center* and *Veritas Church* for organizing large group donations of food and supplies for our new location.



Shelter Focus: Cedar Rapids has a large and growing unmet need for Christ centered homeless shelter and transition. Our shelter house just completed its busiest year ever, and we are praying for ways to expand shelter operations to meet the local need. Please join us in prayer as we strive to follow the call of the Lord to shelter the homeless.



Praises for Provision: Operating donations over the past twelve months exceeded operating expenses by \$3,897. Ministry expenses were down 15% the past year due mainly to a 25% reduction in staffing cost enabled by a shift to volunteer support for ongoing mission operations.



We Need Your Help: The ministry remains 100% privately funded. Monthly budgeted expenses are \$22,000, and funds are needed for building projects, including new shelter space. Donate online or mail to Mission of Hope, P.O. Box 1101, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52406.

We give God praise and thanks for each of you, always, for your faithful financial support, volunteer hours, giving of food and clothes, and prayers.

“And the king will answer them, ‘I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.’”

Matthew 25:40

Martin Dwyer
Executive Director

