



NEWSLETTER

June 2015

This quarter's newsletter offers an inside look at the transforming power of the gospel, the teamwork which God facilitates at the ministry, and upcoming transitions in services and leadership.

Transformation through the gospel is seen every day at Mission of Hope. Consider, for example, our Communications Director Kelli Hansen. Kelli grew up in Arizona, graduated from University of Arizona, and brings great life and work experience to Mission of Hope. After several years of struggling with drug addiction and wandering from faith, Kelli found herself recovering with family here in Iowa. As part of her rehabilitation, she volunteered in our food pantry. It quickly became apparent that Kelli was a perfect fit for the Mission of Hope community. She says "these are my people" and it shows. At the heart of her success is her personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which grows stronger each day.



*Kelli Hansen
Communications*

Teamwork makes it all possible. The Mission of Hope is supported by over 1,000 donors and volunteers. Here are just a few of the amazing things God has pulled together at Mission of Hope over the past three months:

- ❖ **Food pantry donations** exceeded 5,000 pounds of canned goods during the second quarter alone. River of Life, Antioch Christian Church, St. Mark's, Relevant Life, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church and Veritas Church all organized large-scale collections.
- ❖ **Church sponsors** from over 50 Christian churches came together to serve over 8,000 hot noon meals. It is a great blessing to see God's people united by the gospel and service each and every day.
- ❖ **Community organizations** including HACAP, Kirkwood Community College, and Benjamin Franklin Middle School all contributed to services in the second quarter. Students from Franklin Middle School hosted a variety show, which was a big success.
- ❖ **Corporate Sponsors** such as Hy Vee Corporation, Fareway, Reinhart Foods, the Cedar Rapids Area Association of Realtors, Wells Fargo, and Little Caesars all contributed to services so far in 2015.



*Yes We Can Food Drive
Over 3,000 pounds*



*Little Caesars
Love Kitchen*



*Wells Fargo
Community Outreach*

Transitions are always taking place in God's Kingdom service. We are deeply concerned with the over 450 homeless in the local area, including dozens that are sleeping on the streets, under bridges, and along the river. We are committed to searching for a solution.



Transition is also in process for the leadership team. I have informed the board that I will be returning to full-time pastoral service in 2016. The board has formed a search committee and I am excited to see what great things the Lord will do through Mission of Hope in the years to come.

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.

"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*

