



# Hope Notes



Fall 2011

A Publication of Mission of Hope

*A Christ-centered ministry offering physical, emotional, & spiritual help to former offenders & others in need as we meet basic needs, change hearts, disciple people, and teach the church*

Founder

Rev. Barbara Furman

Board of Directors

Randy McCright  
Tina Furman Herring  
Tari Dailey  
Ken Kolek  
Julie Lefebure  
Mary Ann Snyder  
Brian Stodola  
Bart Woods

Executive Director

Tina Furman Herring

Mission Supervisor

Julie Lefebure

Shelter Supervisor

Marcia Cramer

Jail Ministry

Gary Nelson

Worship Services

Saturdays @ 5:00 pm  
Sundays @ 10:00 am  
All are welcome!

Operational Hours \*

Monday  
CLOSED  
Tuesday—Saturday  
9:00 am—4:00 pm

\*The Mission is CLOSED the first Thursday of each month for a staff retreat.



Follow our Blog!

[www.missionofhopecr.org](http://www.missionofhopecr.org)

Donate Online!

[www.missionofhopecr.org](http://www.missionofhopecr.org)



Mission of Hope - Cedar Rapids  
Mission of Hope Shelter - Cedar Rapids

Dear Friends,

God's vision for Mission of Hope has been beautifully defined in Founder Pastor Barb's final words to us upon her retirement: ***At the heart of our vision is to love every human being unconditionally as Jesus loves us. This simple principle is Christ's instruction to His Church, regardless of whether people change or not. It is Mission of Hope's belief, though, that through this ministry, NO ONE can continue to be subjected to His love and remain the same. Therefore, we know we are making a difference in each one's life and in the life of our community. I am fully confident that this vision will continue on!*** And it is! Every day we witness unconditional love & compassion poured into the lives of hurting people. Please visit our blog where Julie writes weekly of the eternal work taking place at Mission of Hope. We recently received a letter written by our dear friend Kraig to one of his high school classmates. Though Kraig passed away last December, his words live on & encourage all who give to this ministry. He wrote, ***"... I have not kept in touch with anybody from my class because I felt like a loser & didn't want anybody to know how low I had sunk. Then I started to go to Mission of Hope. I was homeless & had nothing & felt worthless. But the people at the Mission told me I was wrong, that everybody is somebody worth something. When I first started going there, it was only for a shower & to get something to eat. But I learned that God has a plan for each person. Though I'm not a real church person, I learned that God has a plan for each of us ... I was homeless, living on my wits, until they taught me something different ... I thought of all the other homeless & poor out there in the world, & I told myself that maybe I could do something about that—in my own little way. So I started to go to Mission of Hope every day and asked what I could do to help them. I shoveled snow. I mopped floors. I did anything I could think of to help them ... I wish you could meet these people."*** It's by the grace of God & His faithfulness—and thru your physical, spiritual, & financial gifts—that lives like Kraig's are being transformed & people are receiving hope. Thank you for your continued faithfulness! To God be the glory—forever! - Tina

## Love Abounds at HopeFest '11!



HopeFest 2011 was held on August 20th at Redmond Park in Cedar Rapids. This was the 9th year we've had this event to reach out to our neighborhood friends & show the love of Jesus—and it was a wonderful celebration! 25 churches,

groups, & businesses partnered with us to provide live worship, inflatable games, children's activities, and enough food to feed nearly 2,500 people. We believe this was our biggest & best year ever! It was a day filled with peace, joy, and many blessings—for those who received AND for those who gave. A special thank you to all of you who provided for and/or participated in this year's outreach event. ***Thank you for giving of your time, your resources, & your hearts.***



We are making a difference in the lives of His people! For more pictures, visit the blog on our website & click on the HopeFest '11 link.



## "Bridge the Gap" in October!

First, we want to thank you for all you've done to support this ministry through the years. There is no way we could do this work without you! Whenever we've specifically asked for your prayers, physical help, & financial support, you've responded. And we never want to take your generosity for granted! God has continued to reveal to us what a blessing this ministry is to those we serve—and to those *who* serve at Mission of Hope. We desire to keep our momentum going & continue to address our budget shortfall—a reflection of our struggling economy, increased need, & refusal to accept any government funding that could compromise our vision or threaten our freedom to minister as God leads. So, during the month of October, we're going to diligently pursue financial gifts that will continue to help us address this shortfall. **Would you consider helping us by making a monthly commitment to this ministry?** Every gift—no matter the size—is invaluable to us as we do this work that God has called to do. If this sounds like a simple way for you to give regularly, please fill out the credit card information below, along with the amount of your monthly commitment & send it to us at the Mission. **Thank you for supporting our efforts to Bridge the Gap!**



Shelter Stats January—June 2011		
Total Resident Intakes Completed = 277		
Former offenders	226	82%
Veterans	57	21%
Residents who secured housing	31	11%
Residents who secured jobs	20/190	11%
Residents with HS diploma and/or college education	172	62%

**WOW!** During Jan—Aug, Mission of Hope has served **19,486** free individual home-cooked meals. A huge thank you to those who help provide these meals each week! If you or your group would like to help, please contact Julie. We receive donations of bulk food, so we'd love to help you cut costs by sharing!

**Ongoing Needs:** Volunteers to help with meals & shifts, van drivers, preachers & music teams, paper towels, toilet paper, coffee & non-dairy creamer, & non-perishable food items. Thank you!

**Monthly Contribution:** Contribution will be **automatically charged** to your credit card each month. Thanks for your commitment!

\$ 500   
  \$ 100   
  \$ 75   
  \$ 50   
  \$ 25  
 (other) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ MC    \_\_\_\_\_ VISA    \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER

**Credit Card Information:**

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (for mailing list) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mission of Hope is a 501c(3) non-profit ministry. Contributions will be used wisely and confidentially to benefit the ministries of Mission of Hope. **Thanks for your continued support!**

**MISSION OF HOPE**  
 1537 1st Ave SE  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
 Mission Phone: 362-5559

**MISSION OF HOPE SHELTER**  
 211 Park Ct SE  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
 Shelter Phone: 365-0502

*If God's calling you to the mission field, we've got a place for you!*

Food Pantry Stats		
2011	House-	Total
August	531	1,514
July	515	1,479
June	575	1,554
May	522	1,411
April	477	1,394

**Join Us Each Week!**

**Tuesdays @ 7 pm**  
 All Addictions Anonymous

**Wednesdays @ Noon & 7 pm**  
 Bible Studies

**Thursdays @ Noon**  
 Recovery Bible Study

**Saturdays @ 5 pm**  
 Worship Service

**Sundays @ 10 am**  
 Worship Service

**2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 1pm**  
 Prayer Group

**2011 Christmas Basket Giveaway!**

Every year we give away **225** beautifully-wrapped Christmas baskets to area families in need. We are currently accepting commitments for food donations for our baskets—and also financial gifts to sponsor baskets (\$25 suggested gift per basket). For more information, go to our website or call the Mission or Shelter & ask for Julie or Marcia. Thank you!