



MERRY CHRISTMAS

This time of year is so much fun at Metro Hope! The trees are decorated, the lights are up and the hearts of our residents belong to Jesus! For the 3rd year, our residents were asked to purchase a minimum of 1 item, a favorite toy they had or wished they'd had as a child, to put in a box for Operation Christmas Child. We watched testimony videos of children and adults, from all around the world, who had received Shoebox gifts. Our residents were so moved by these life changing stories, many that they could relate to. They saw the power of a relationship with Jesus Christ change everything for others which helped them believe, a little deeper, that their lives could be different too. On packing day at Healing House, the ladies were so excited, chatting about the gifts and the kids who would receive them as they carefully packed their 15 boxes! The men's center had Covid so we had to postpone our packing and later stuffed 27 stockings for Toys For Tots! The men were as excited to pack the gifts as the women, talking and laughing about the "cool" toys and gifts that each of them had purchased. Their prayers over the boxes and stockings were so precious! They prayed, "As we give to the children, we remember what You've given us", "Let this stocking be a seed for Jesus", "I love that we could come together as a family and give these stockings", "I want the children to know there is a Father in Heaven, that these gifts came from their Heavenly Father", "May the name of Jesus prevail", "It is such a privilege to participate in sharing Jesus all around the world". These precious prayers are evidence of their love for Jesus and the fresh hope in their hearts.



2020 has been a year of trials, for all of us. It has been a time of being drawn to our knees, seeking God's heart for ourselves and our communities, but it has also been a time a silver linings. In the midst of this chaotic year, Metro Hope has welcomed 522 men and 100 women and children into our centers. Each of these people that God brought to us heard His gospel and experienced His love everyday through our staff and supporters, and each person received a Bible! No matter what is going on in the world, or in our own hearts, God still reigns. In the chaos we experienced renewal, peace and joy. People found hope and forgiveness in the Gospel. We saw chains of addiction and shame drop at the feet of Jesus. It has been a year of gratefulness, a year of seeing and experiencing the mighty power of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Phil 4:4



This is Glenys Freeman, with one of our mamas and her kiddos. Glenys has been a monthly donor for 30 years. In November, she made her first visit to Healing House where she shared the stories she has written about her life. Her stories of being a single mother resonated with our women, leaving many crying but also filled with hope. After her stories the children joined us for cookies that Glenys had made. This was a very special day for everyone! You are loved, Glenys ❤️



Our new bride, Erin and her husband, Marlin! She is a graduate and staff of Healing House.

"I am thankful that we absolutely love helping people and look for opportunities to bless others".



Our youngest little love at Healing House



The men of New Hope Center, praying over a brother

I recently asked two new residents how they decided to come to Metro Hope. One said he was referred by a friend who told him Metro Hope is a strong, Christian program. The other came up from St. Louis. He was told of three recovery centers in the Twin Cities by an outreach group, who said Metro Hope is the best. Kevin Saunders, from UpWorks, helps some of our women with their career path. He recently told us that he has worked with 38 of our women in the past three years and today 90% of them are living life sober and dedicated to Jesus. The most important thing we do at Metro Hope is share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through our resident's relationship with Jesus, with a surrendered heart, they learn how to live life in His will. There is a change in each person, the veil has been torn away and the light of Hope shines through them. Jesus is that Hope, our only Hope. Freedom from the destructive behaviors in their lives is the blessing of the love of Jesus. This is the rewarding part of Metro Hope!

The harder part is finances. Spring 2020, we were able to pay off our Line Of Credit, but due to Covid, the riots and tent compounds, our census went down which meant our income went down as well. We needed to tap into our Line Of Credit to keep our doors open so today we have a balance of \$85,000. Next spring we need to replace the leaking roof at New Hope Center, with a cost of \$125,000. We have learned that God does meet our needs but we also need to do our part in trusting as we ask for help. Maybe you would like to help us in these areas? God is moving in hundreds of lives a year at Metro Hope, not just for a few weeks but for eternity. We feel the impact of your prayers and gifts. We are SO grateful for each of you! God has chosen you to partner with Him, and us, at Metro Hope. We are prayer-full and excited to move into our future with God because we know He has great plans for His mission at Metro Hope! I hope you will join us in experiencing His outrageous love for Metro Hope! May God's blessings in your life go beyond all that you can imagine as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the lover of our souls. From all of us at Metro Hope, Merry Christmas!

Cammy Oren, Board President



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