



July 2021

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN LIVE TOGETHER IN RECOVERY AT HEALING HOUSE

Hi, my name is Amanda. I am 26 years old and have struggled with a meth addiction for the last 6 years. The first time I tried it, I was 14. I was introduced to it by my oldest sibling. I have been smoking weed and drinking since the age of 12 but that didn't get bad until I was about 15. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

My childhood was stolen from me at such an early age. One of my older siblings had me smoking cigarettes and watching porn



at age 8. I was physically and sexually abused from the age of 7-9 and my brother was the lookout. My dad was a good dad and he did the best he knew how, but he worked all the time to afford to raise us 4 children. He did not know what was going on. At age 9, I told my mother what had been going on and she just never sent us back. We had a few good years from that point, but in middle school, I started noticing changes in my mom. I didn't find out until later that she too struggled with addiction. In middle school, she was doing well until she wasn't. She got very sick with pneumonia and she also had a stroke. She was in a coma for a long time and when she came out of it, she wasn't the same. I started stealing from stores, credit cards, drinking at school and rebelling. My grandpa couldn't handle me anymore so he called my father for us to go back and live with him. I met my oldest sister, after many years, and she introduced me to meth while I was in high school. I knew I loved it. I also met the father of my children in high school and we started dating shortly after graduation. It wasn't long after my son was born that one of my boyfriend's family members said they'd tried meth and really liked it. They knew I knew how to get it. That was the big start of my full-blown addiction. Our relationship was good at first, as they all are, but it didn't take long before it became verbally and very physically abusive. When I first became pregnant with my daughter, 9 months after my son was born, I was arrested for a probation violation and I had to sit a few months in jail. When I got out, the father of my children was still using. Of course I wanted to be that mother who was strong enough to say no, but the reality of it was that it was my drug of choice and it came before anything and it was around me. I wasn't full-blown while I carried my daughter, but I had my binges and my doctor warned me, if I didn't quit, they would take her. I quit until she was born. My addiction took us from shelter to shelter until one day the cops stopped us. We both had warrants so Child Protection Services took our children. I did everything right to get my children back, and I did. But that wasn't the last time I would have CPS involved.

This addiction is so strong and so powerful, it will come before anything else if given the chance. I let it take control so many times. Even when I was around my children, if I was high, I was not there. My children didn't have a mom the way they should have. My son went to visit his father in South Carolina while I was in another treatment and he got in trouble, and again, CPS. This was 2019. I did everything right again but it took that and my father, who I was extremely close with, passing away, for me to truly

understand that I was missing something in my life. That something was God. CPS in South Carolina was the biggest blessing in my life! I still have a real, authentic relationship with the foster family there. I brought my son home to Minnesota and the family kept in contact. They helped me so much in knowing how much God loves me and my children. She believed in me every single day, that I would truly find God and find recovery through Jesus. That is what I have done here at Healing House. Since coming to Healing House with both of my children, who have lived with me full-time, I have completed all of my probations and I am no longer on paper. I have paid off all of my fines in full and bought a new vehicle. Healing House of Metro Hope saved my life! God saved my life! My children pray every single day and night before bed, they understand who Jesus is, who God is, and the place for the Holy Spirit. We have read the Children's Bible twice, cover to cover and that's pretty much all they want to read. We are a family and God is in our center. I have over 8 months clean and a life I am truly proud of and it is thanks to everyone I have encountered here at Healing House and especially God. I love, love, love Healing House and whenever I see someone struggling like I was, I tell them about Healing House. I have so much more to continue to grow in but I know with God, anything is possible. I know my dad is extremely proud of me right now. ~Amanda

Amanda graduated on May 8 after successfully completing her programming. She had a job 2 days later, driving kiddos to and from school, which she loves! She also volunteers her time at Healing House. Amanda and her children will continue to live and grow at Healing House. Jesus restores families!



Andy is a graduate and this is his family that God restored! "I'm so grateful to God and Metro Hope for saving my life 3 years ago or I would not be here today to celebrate the graduation of my daughter", said Andy. God rescued Andy from suicide and brought him to Metro Hope. Lives saved for eternity and addiction destroyed! This is the power of Jesus Christ at Metro Hope!

SAVE THE DATE

August 21 - Motorcycle Ride for Recovery
 September 30 - Annual Gala, Midland Hills, Roseville
 December 18 - Christmas Concert with Fernando Ortega, North Heights Lutheran, Arden Hills
 details to follow

I love Metro Hope! Recently, I was in Chapel with our men. I'd heard that the beautiful flowers in the yard were purchased from a pool of funds the men donated to. When I asked them about this, they confirmed that it was true. I replied, "What other recovery center in the city can say their residents love the program so much that they would spend their own money on flowers?" A man raised his hand and said, "We don't see this as a recovery program. This is where we are getting better and growing closer to God"! I was speechless! Then another man said that one of our teacher's daughters is a missionary in Guatemala, building houses for \$1500 for the Guatemalan people. He went on to say that the men had pooled their money and purchased a home. Now, I was crying! That is the power of Jesus in this ministry, living proof of changed hearts and minds! A new graduate recently said, "The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead is in us and in this house! A sermon seen is more powerful than a sermon heard." Come and visit us, experience the power of Jesus Christ! ❤️

Cammy Oren, Board President



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Any excess designated funds will be used to meet the needs of our residents
 Metro Hope Ministries is a 501©3, tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent of the law.



Enhancing Trust

OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANGE LIVES

Volunteer

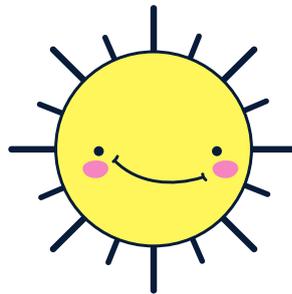
Mentoring - Our residents need people of godly character to invest in their lives. We are looking for men, women and married couples to walk along side our men, women, mothers and children, mentoring them in their new walk with Christ and their families.

Front Desk Administrator - We are in need of volunteers to answer our phones, greet visitors, collect mail and chat with our residents. 4 hour morning and afternoon spots available at both centers.

Sponsorships and Projects



Praise The Lord!
We are dry and chilly!
Our new roof and HVAC system at New Hope Center, for our men, is finished but we still need to raise \$100,000 for the bill.



Our elementary age kiddos go to a full-time summer program for fun and learning! We have 9 children attending at the cost of \$300 each, \$2,700 total.



We always have resident rooms that need some TLC! This room was sponsored by Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley. They painted, added new bedding, window coverings and other items to give our residents a *Home Sweet Home*



3 Acoustic guitars for our men, please!



The City of Minneapolis says we have a leaking underground pipe that must be repaired or capped. Our best bid is \$2,300.



Our level 3 & 4 men are able to attend a Prayer Retreat for 3 days at \$12/person/day! \$500 will cover the cost of lodging, food, gas and a deeper relationship with their Savior!



MORE ON THE OTHER SIDE!

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Sponsorships and Projects

Did you know that Metro Hope's **Healing House** is the only Christ-centered, addiction-focused program in the Twin Cities that allows mothers to bring their children into recovery with them **FULL TIME**?



Many of the families God brings to Healing House come with only the clothes on their backs. There is NO taxpayer funding to cover the expenses of these precious kiddos.

CHILD SPONSORSHIPS

YOU can become a SPONSOR to care for our children!

Your \$40 monthly sponsorship will provide all of their needs including food, shelter, clothing, shoes, toys, childcare-while their mothers are in Christ-centered programming, a bed and an abundance of the love of Jesus!

The bond between mother and child is strengthened, not broken, while they live, heal and grow together through the power of Jesus Christ. Our families are with us for 9 months to 2 years, depending on their needs. We are excellent at helping mothers regain custody of their children.

It's easy to become a Sponsor! Visit our website, metrohope.org, go to the Donate page, click Child Sponsorship under fund, make it a reoccurring donation and sign up with your credit card.

You will receive a monthly email highlighting a child, along with a photo. We will have special events during the year so you can meet our children. As mothers graduate and move on to their own housing, your sponsorship will move to the next child that God brings through our doors.

**FOR VOLUNTEER AND PROJECT INQUIRIES,
CONTACT CAMMY,
CAMMYO@METROHOPE.ORG**



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