



Annual
PIE SALE

Delicious Homemade Dutch Apple Pies

Just \$9

Ready in time for Easter.

Available for pick-up Monday/Tuesday, April 11/12 (Only 350 pies available this first week) and Monday/Tuesday, April 18/19, 9am-6pm.

Order by calling Marlene at 989-893-5973, ext. 21 or marlene@gsrmbaycity.org.



A HOT MEAL
can make a difference in the life of a homeless child.

Operation Hope Tote



Feb. 1 through Easter

Operation Hope Tote

gives mid-Michigan homeless men and women something most of us take for granted – basic hygiene essentials. **Hope Totes** can be a chance for a new life for some of the Bay area's neediest residents. **Hope Totes** are especially designed "help bags" that can be filled with necessities such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tissues, deodorant and warm socks. The items are then given to the men and women staying at the mission.

Many see the problems of homelessness as overwhelming. But, often it's the smallest opportunity that provides the greatest impact in a person's life. Experience has shown that once homeless men and women have an opportunity to feel better about themselves, they are in a much better position to make other, more long-lasting changes.

Born out of a desire to encourage a more tangible and collaborative connection between those who *need* help and those who *can* help. **Operation Hope Tote** is a rewarding way for individuals, churches, schools and other organizations to provide encouragement and support of the Bay area's poorest residents. "I believe this tangible outpouring of concern will refresh many hurting bodies, minds and spirits. The gifts of friends in our community will provide services that may help many homeless people find hope to hold on to ... and a brand-new life!" said Dan Streeter.

To participate in **Operation Hope Tote**, contact mission staff member Marlene Sajdak at 989-893-5973. Once your **Hope Totes** are filled, members of your group may want to deliver them to the mission and take a tour.



the Connection

989-893-5973

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission

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The Annual Pie Sale is Here 4

Delicious homemade Dutch apple pies for just \$9



Help For Today... Hope For Tomorrow

By Pati LaLonde

Although he knew where to find the mission, he was hesitant to go, because, as he says, he knew what missions are like. It took until the next afternoon for Adam to heed the message and head to the mission with only his truck, some clothes and a few of his children's things. He had lost all his personal items when he couldn't pay the fees on a storage bin.

As soon as Adam walked through the door, he realized his conceptions of the mission were more misconceptions. "Without a doubt, it changed my life around," he said. "It's more than what people realize. From the get-go everyone was nice and friendly. But I still had bad things happen, even when I did get a break."

After a couple days at the mission, Adam was arrested and his truck blew up. "My new life started very shaky," he says. But Adam didn't give up. The staff helped Adam find his way. He also had an encounter with one of the more famous unpaid volunteers at the mission – Jesus. Heading into the chapel, he listened to Tom and Cybil Clark from New Jerusalem Church, and their guest, a man named Sledgehammer, who spoke of his previous life and finding his faith in God. That was when Adam realized he needed Christ in his life, too.

Although that first week was very hard and stressful, Adam kept at it. With the help of staff member Rick Brown, Adam began reading Bible passages that pertained to what he was going through. "Rick asked if I

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From the Director's Desk

Dan Streeter

"New Year ... New Hope"

At the end of each year, the majority of Americans stay up until the early morning hours for the annual tradition of bringing in the new year. Discussions are filled with disappointments of the previous

year and proclamations of hopeful expectations for a fresh start. There is a renewed spirit to accomplish the resolution that will ensure a great year to come.

The majority of the guests that walk through the doors of the mission have usually fallen short of the expectations they had for themselves earlier in life and in some cases have given up. They come to the doors of the mission as an act of self-preservation and survival.

Since 1905, the doors of Rescue Ministries of Mid Michigan have been open to accomplish one primary goal: to show the way to the true hope and a new start. The staff and volunteers of the mission has a unique opportunity;

we get to experience the zeal of a fresh start every day with each new face that walks through the doors looking for a hand up out of their distress.

It is amazing when you think about one life being turned around, now think about the fact that in 2010 that there were 748 individuals that came to the doors of Good Samaritan Rescue Mission searching for a warm bed and a hot meal.

As we start upon a new calendar year, I want to thank you for your partnership in ministry that allows us each day to keep the doors open for another person to come to realize new hope and a new life. Your support helps ensure that the spirit of the fresh start is available throughout the year.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

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wanted to pray," Adam said. "I asked the Lord to please take all of my transgressions and that I accept him as my Savior and I shall walk in his light. Through this prayer, I felt instantly relieved of all my worries. I began my new life with Christ."

He also prayed for a job and a car – and with a little help from Chris Overley, men's shelter director, he got both. Adam now works for Lutz Builders with someone he calls a wonderful boss, Mike Lutz. The company is putting Adam through a lead abatement course, so he can better help out on jobs.

His personal life is moving forward as well. With his new apartment he can

see his children more and he's made friends in the neighborhood and at his new church, New Jerusalem. "I've got a two bedroom apartment in a decent neighborhood that my kids love," he said. "My bills are paid. I have a vehicle again."

Although Adam still has a few bad days, he isn't looking back, but to the future. A future he says he has the Lord and staff at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission to thank, "I guess the bottom line comes down to without Christ and the mission, all the staff members and my pastors and friends and family at church, I wouldn't be where I'm at. There is no possible way."



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Our Mission

"Expressing God's love by reaching out to the hurting and homeless of the Bay area by providing shelter and care, by developing a community of support, and by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ."

A New

By Pati LaLonde

Reconnecting with an old friend has opened up a whole new world of possibilities for Lori Wegner. A world where her life is back on track, where lasting friendships are formed and where this self-described loner now reaches out for help and reaches out to help.

"Reconnecting with God just made my life so much easier," she said. "The old way wasn't working, obviously. I talked with staff. They prayed with me. We had deep conversations about the Lord and I took Him for my savior. When I didn't have Him in my life, my life was going to crap. I found Him again and my life is on the upswing." That staff, is the staff at the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.

As she prepared to move into her own apartment on Jan. 14, Lori, and Judi Bash, family shelter director, reflected on how far Lori has come since arriving at the mission for the second time in December. The first time she came to the mission, things just didn't work out and she was asked to leave. The first of December, Lori came back, telling the staff she was ready to buckle down and do what was needed to be done to get her life back on track.

"She came in and apologized for her actions and said she really wanted to do what she needed to do to get her out of her homeless situation," said Bash. "She said 'I need your help.' She had not made wise choices." This time around Lori began reading her Bible and realized she could go to God and ask for help. "When they first realize they can go to God and ask for help, they are scared," Bash said. "They ask, 'why should I go to God?' And I say, 'well, why did you come to me? You need that relationship. God wants you to talk to Him, just like you are talking to me.'"



HOPE

In addition to reconnecting with God, Lori also gives credit for her turnaround to the staff at the mission who welcomed her back with open arms. "The ladies here are wonderful," she said. "It's almost like a second family. They joke, they have fun. It's stressful being here, but the ladies who work here make it less stressful."

The staff gives Lori high marks as well. "There are some gals who get their place, and I say good for you," said Bash. "Lori, I would like her to stay. I don't think there isn't a day that goes by that I don't say I'm so proud of her. She has a special place in my heart. She just wants to do everything so right. It's 'what else can I do for you,' instead of, 'what are you going to do for me.'"

When Lori left the mission this time, she took more than her belongings. She took the bonds of friendships – and a whole bunch of phone numbers.

It's a Party and You're invited!

THE ANNUAL PANTRY PARTY
March 1st thru March 31st



Stop by the Bay City, Midland or Saginaw Gordon Food Service Marketplace and help fill the Mission's pantry

Yes! I Want to be a Partner in Hope

My \$_____ gift for the mission is enclosed.

I would like to volunteer. Please send me a volunteer application.

(please print and return in the envelope provided)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



SAVE THE DATE
GSRM Open House & Spaghetti Dinner

**THURSDAY,
MAY 5**
4:30pm – 7:00pm
Cost \$5.00 per person