

Stories Of HOPE



MobileHope

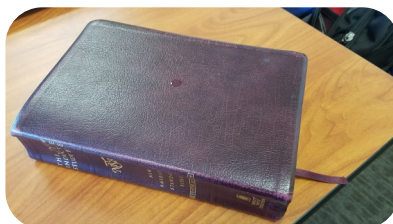
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Salty-Awe

What brings you to tears? It may be a memory of someone loved and lost, or an innocent tender word from your child, or possibly a sense of overwhelming awe. I am not generally a person brought to tears... and yet this past week I welled up and overflowed.

We were at a board retreat, aimed at reviewing our mission, vision, and core values. Before the “work session” began, we spent some intentional time in prayer asking God for guidance. The prayers started out like many do, asking God to lead, centering ourselves and attempting to clear our minds and hearts of distractions. As things went on, I started to become overwhelmed. I began recalling and praising Him for the many ways in which He has been a part of this ministry, and the ways in which we have witnessed God’s hand at work. From the very beginning of Mobile Hope, then simply called Maple Hill Ministry, we have witnessed God’s plan unfold. Beginning with the softening of Beth McConn and Jill’s hearts for this community, the ongoing direction through challenges, the many volunteers, churches, and supporters who have made this a reality, the calling toward living in the park, the unleashing of resources for the Cube, the Hope



House, and the Hope Center, the momentum and growth into new mobile home communities, the protection of our boys, and the hearts and lives that have been transformed, just to name a few. There is **much** to be thankful for!

As I prayed, I was leaning on the table in front of me and in between my arms below me was my Bible. As more and more blessings flowed from my lips, the feeling of awe in a God who cares this much for the communities and people we serve brought me to tears... flowing down my face to the point of dripping off my chin and onto my Bible. I didn’t notice until we were done. I looked down and thought to myself “what a great example of the truth of this book.” The tear sat on the very book that directs our paths and breaks our hearts into action!

My prayer is that you will also step into the work God has for you and that it will cause you to witness His power, leading to salty-awe flowing down your face and onto your Bible. Being broken in this way is, ironically, one of the greatest joys we can experience.

“...the feeling of awe in a God who cares this much for the communities and people we serve brought me to tears...”

Expansion continues - into Rice, MN

A year ago, we were excited to share that we had moved into our second mobile home community - which was Dayton, MN. Over that time, the Dayton team, led by Cathy Walter, has done a great job ramping up activities as well as infrastructure. They now have a board as well as a leadership team, and offer services such as Homework Help twice a week, English language classes, food distribution, VBS in the summer, and a host of programs unique for them in this location. We are proud to be a part of it.

The work that we do is clearly needed throughout the country. Very few mobile home communities offer services to residents yet the challenges being faced by families can be daunting.

The impact that can be had is overwhelming!

This past week, we had the pleasure of meeting with a new team of people who came together after months of preparation to talk about what might happen in Rockwood Estates, in Rice, MN. This is a community just north of St. Cloud. Represented there

were several churches, nonprofit leaders, school district principals, park ownership, and other volunteers. Mobile Hope was able to present about the needs being seen, a bit of history about what God has been doing in Corcoran, Dayton, and other communities. We then brainstormed together about the future for the community of Rockwood Estates.

Enthusiasm was high and the group that came together was a motivated crew eager to get started. Next steps for this group will be to nail down a few targeted events for this year and a clear leadership team and champion.

As you invest in Mobile Hope, you are investing not only in a single community, but in the expansion of this model into many new

communities. Riverview Estates in Rockford, MN will be launching its first VBS this summer and Aberdeen, SD is in the process of gathering a similar meeting to what Rice just completed. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Lives continue to be touched!



Volunteer Recognition - Jen St. Cyr

Everyone has a gifting, and one person I have been blessed to watch as she uses that gifting to connect with the youth and kids at Maple Hill Estates is **Jen St. Cyr**. Jen is one of our most faithful volunteers and someone who has used her love for arts and crafts to do ministry here at Mobile Hope.

When we built the Hope Center, one of the most requested items from all ages was “arts and crafts.” As a result, we made sure that there was a room dedicated to this in the building. This room becomes a bustling, messy, colorful, sticky, and creative place every Monday evening when a new project is organized and overseen by Jen and often her daughter and friends! Kids line up to participate and at the end of each evening have a new hand-made project to bring home and show off. Jen’s positive and friendly nature open the door for conversations, encouragement, and a friendly ear. Thank you, Jen, for all you have invested in the young people of Maple Hill! We are grateful for all you do and look forward to more creativity in the future! If you would like to be a part of this or other volunteer opportunities, contact us through our website at www.MobileHopeMN.org.



Mentoring Impact

Young people have said, and research confirms, that mentoring relationships (especially for at-risk youth) have significant impact on their futures. Youth with mentors are more likely to engage, volunteer, lead others, graduate from H.S., go to college, and pursue their dreams. At the end of last year, Mobile Hope announced that it is now a TreeHouse location. One of three main pillars of the TreeHouse model is mentoring, which we are seeking to expand in the Fall.



In order to do that, we need volunteers willing to mentor!

Would you be willing to spend time one-on-one with a young person at least twice per month? If so, we would love to talk with you. Training is provided and available to mentors on-line and in person. If you would like to make an impact on the future for a teenager, contact us at www.MobileHopeMN.org.

Hope House Futures

After moving into the Hope Center two years ago, we continued to use the Hope HOUSE for overflow events. As the usage began to lessen, we considered the option of selling it to a family. However, we are looking to use this home for more strategic and longer lasting impact... Students.



College age students who are studying in fields such as teaching, social work, youth ministry and the like will all work with at-risk youth and families. To aid in their growth and education, we are going to renovate this home to allow for three student interns to live and do their studies. These students will have the opportunity to live in a marginalized community for 1 year. In that time, they will learn a lot about the needs, challenges, strengths, and personalities of at-risk youth and families. We believe



this will alter the future impact of these students for years to come - touching thousands of youth through their lives.

We have already started the work and this will continue through the summer. Volunteers are welcome and specific skilled labor is needed (plumbing and flooring). Feel free to give us a call if you would like to be a part of the work or contribute to the cost of renovation! Ph: 763-416-0945

Vision Statement

The vision of any organization is a statement that helps narrow the focus, make decisions, and evaluate progress. Below is the vision statement for Mobile Hope. We will remain committed to this vision as the organization grows and expands.

The vision of Mobile Hope is...



“A world in which every mobile home community has residents, churches, and organizations working together to ensure students are succeeding, families are thriving, and individuals are experiencing the hope of Jesus Christ.”



www.mobilehopeMN.org

Mobile Hope

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There is no greater power in this ministry than prayer. Please join us in lifting these items up to God in prayer.

- **Summer VBS** - Each year, we have 60+ youth come out and host a summer VBS and camp for a week. Please pray for the impact of this week on the kids serving as well as attending - July 16-21
- **Expansion of Mobile Hope** - We need discernment regarding which communities to choose, how best to empower each community, the resources needed for each team to provide services, and how to expand without overextending ourselves.
- **Protection for Youth** - In an environment with many opportunities to pursue harmful activities, and extra free-time in the summer, we pray for protection over the young people of the park. We pray for a vision for the future where service to God, pursuing truth, and opportunities for achievement are key goals.
- **Recruitment of Mentors** - As we grow our mentor program with teens, we pray for strong, encouraging, and healthy mentors to connect with the kids.



Individuals often ask “what’s on your wish-list for the ministry?” So, here is a sample of things we could use...

- **Hope House Renovation** - We are still a bit short on funds to complete the renovation for the Hope House. We have raised approx. 21,000 of the 30,000 required. Thank you for considering being a part of the project!
- **Gift Cards for Getting Ahead** - A powerful program offered through Mobile Hope is the “Getting Ahead in a just getting by world” class. As attendees participate, they are incentivized with a \$25 gift card or funds saved for the future. Sponsors are needed to cover the cost of these incentives.
- **Drivers for events** - Events are only available to youth if they can get there. We have a 15 passenger van available for use, but often need drivers who are willing to contribute the time to transport kids - usually evening practices, etc.

If you are interested in making a contribution toward any of these items, please contact Brian at 612-716-0885 or send him an email at Brian@MobileHopeMN.org.

Amen.