

Stories of HOPE



"Emily just started Kindergarten and has watched her older siblings participate in Mobile Hope programs. This year, she exclaimed "I finally get to come to Homework Help!!" —EMILY



MobileHope

Mobile Hope, 7900 Maple Hill
Road, Corcoran, MN 55340

www.MobileHopeMN.org

www.facebook.com/MobileHopeMN

Firming Up the Foundation

By Brian Dejewski, Executive Director

Many of you likely know that Jill Dejewski has been building relationships and serving the Maple Hill Estates community for many years. In fact, this next summer we will celebrate our 25th anniversary of the VBS program called A Work Of Love (AWOL)! What began as a step of faith toward a community of families looking to be valued and loved as they are has grown tremendously since then. Each step carried with it a new set of challenges and dependence upon God.

This year, the board and leadership of Mobile Hope made some intentional decisions to firm-up the infrastructure, expand the staff, develop strategies for longer-term success, and add evaluation and measurement to strengthen the programs that are most effective. This includes a team of experts to assist us in building our capacity as an organization and it is quite a ride! We have decided to engage the services of several consultants to assist with Strategic Planning, Marketing, Grant writing, Program Evaluation, and Expansion to new communities.

As volunteers and supporters of Mobile Hope, we want you to be aware of these strategies so you can rest assured that Mobile Hope is doing all we can to ensure your support for this organization is being used effectively. With all of that said, we depend not only on "strategic plans" for moving forward, but remain steadfast in prayer and seek God's direction as to how we should pursue this vision for the organization. We want to thank Heather Caillier of Ascend Consulting, Jennifer Fuller of IX2 Consulting, and soon Jennifer Fox of Fox Consulting for being willing to assist us in this journey.

As a result, we now have a new 5 year strategic plan, consistent messaging, brand guidelines, a new website, grant applications for review by foundations, and soon a plan for measuring and evaluating our programs! I welcome you to hear more about these plans and accomplishments as we move into the next phase of serving mobile home communities in Minnesota!

The Journey

By Jill Dejewski,
Director of Programs

Our world is changing so fast! It seems to me that the typical 5th and 6th grade student today is dealing with similar issues to what a high schooler would have been dealing with 10 years ago! Understanding this reality, Mobile Hope wanted to create a safe and fun space for the 5th and 6th graders at Maple Hill Estates to call their own. This year we kicked off a new program called "The Journey."

The concept behind the name came from the simple fact that life is a complicated Journey—with ups, downs, complicated emotions, and many questions. The vision is one of having caring adults that students could share their "journey" through life with. A place where students can question, wonder, learn... and decide who they want to become.

Over the past 30 years, I have had a passion for this age and I am excited to provide leadership for the team each week. We host monthly activities that help build trust and memories. The other 3 weeks of the month we meet at the Hope Center to address some of the realities these pre-teens deal with on a daily basis: identity; friendship; peer pressure; social media; all through the lens of faith.

The four pillars of Mobile Hope are: Education, Healthy Activities; Connection to resources; and Faith Development. Journey connects with each of these foundational pillars. As these pre-teens graduate from The Journey, we are excited that they will step right into our TreeHouse program where staff are ready to welcome them and continue the "Journey" by their side.

Serving Together

By Nicole Brush, Volunteer



I personally heard about Mobile Hope through my son Joey who had attended the summer outreach called "AWOL" with Wooddale church. After Joey's second year of AWOL, he came home saying that he wanted to spend more time at Maple Hill. Joey and I reached out to Heather Flies, Wooddale Church middle school youth pastor, to ask how we could get more involved on a regular basis. Heather helped us connect with Jill Dejewski.

Originally, Joey and I were thinking of helping out with homework help, but those times did not work for us. Jill then suggested helping out with open hours at the Hope Center on Thursday's. Open hours are very informal "free time" for families and kids to take advantage of the Hope Center, play games, workout, use the computers, and create art projects. Joey and I knew that would be a great fit! Once we started, Joey and I had so enjoyed our time together and with everyone at Hope Center, we decided to make it a part of every week!

What causes me to want to go are two things. One, I love "hanging" with kids, doing art projects, playing games, baking and what not, so it is a great fit. The second is I so enjoy the time with my son Joey. I love watching him with the kids. It has offered us deep meaningful conversation on our rides to and from the Hope Center, and I love seeing him so comfortable and happy volunteering there. As a mom, the sight of seeing your child find their passion to serve others is a true gift!

Mobile Hope has had a huge impact on us both! We are so grateful to Jill, Brian, Ashley and Gama. You all are inspiring! Joey and I have valued getting to know you as well as building relationships with the kids and the parents. There was a big turning point for me a year or more ago when one of the teenage girls came up to me and asked if I knew her name. Sometimes I struggle to remember names but thankfully God gave me her name and as I said it, her eyes got big and she said, "you actually know who I am!" It hit me, no matter who you are or what your story is, we all just want to be "known." That hit me hard. So I continue to go to Mobile Hope as I want these children to know that they are "known" and loved beyond measure by God.

That evening I remember being so grateful that Joey had asked to get more involved. Mobile Hope is an amazing place for those who live in Maple Hill and for those of us who get the chance to come and hang out. We are so so grateful!

Mobile Hope in Dayton



A few years ago, we were approached by a small group who were seeking to reach out to the mobile home park in Dayton. At that time, we were not in a position to take on a second location but we were willing to walk along-side the team to help in any way we could. We assisted them in forming their own nonprofit organization, setting up their board, and assisting with program models we have found to be effective.

Last summer, while we were on our sabbatical, it was impressed on us that we should approach the Dayton location and see if there were ways we could be more helpful and supportive of the work they were doing. After a series of discussions, it was decided that the thing that would be most helpful for the team, and Cathy Walter the Director, would be to fully combine the organizations. This would allow for consistent support, leverage the strengths of each organization, and add some needed structure to what was being offered. We are happy to announce the formal merging of these two organizations under the umbrella of Mobile Hope that took effect in August of this year! Cathy Walter is now employed by Mobile Hope as the Dayton Site Director! Cathy spends most of her time managing after school and evening programs for the children and families of Dayton Properties. She has also been putting in many hours, along with a host of volunteers, working on the new Hope House building where she will now have to run programs within the park. We would be happy to have you visit this new site as we seek the best way to engage this new community!

Another Hope House in Dayton!

By Cathy Walter, Dayton Site Director

In August of 2019 we opened the doors of a new 1410 sq.ft. Hope House in Dayton for a new program, "Gearing Up For School!" After initially moving the home onto our lot at 303 York Avenue, we had to remove it and add 37 footings. After management poured the footings, they pieced the two homes together, hooked up the electric and plumbing and turned the keys over to Mobile Hope! This was followed by extensive remodeling that finally started in the Spring of 2019. With the help of The Hearts in Action Men's group from Church of The Open Door, we removed a hallway, four offices, a breakroom, a shower and a bathtub. The piles of debris they would leave each month was a testament of the work accomplished. The rebuild has been over-the-top! New moldings, flooring, windows, toilets and ceilings have created a space for families to gather for our flagship Homework Help and English Language programs.

So many groups were a part of this renovation and we are grateful for their time and expertise! HVAC: Dakota Supply Group and Heating and Cooling Two. Siding and Labor: Russ & Erica Salmon/Contractor Supply. Electrical: Viking Electric and Walter Electrical Contractors. The ramp and interior supplies such as flooring, sheetrock & lumber were purchased with funds from our Community Development Block Grant from Hennepin County. Hershfield's and Hennepin County Recycling Center supplied the paint. And, finally, the amazing volunteers from our Homework Help program painted and scrubbed and organized all of our supplies so that we could meet our August deadline! Please stop by and see us at our Dayton location!

Prayer Needs

- For the youth of our communities as they wrestle with issues like hopelessness, neglect, discouragement, and pressures through social media.
- For the leadership of the mobile home communities we serve (Corcoran and Dayton) and their support of the work that is changing lives.
- For wisdom in discerning which locations to consider as we expand and grow.
- For the energy, encouragement, and wisdom needed for the staff of Mobile Hope.
- For the financial and volunteer support needed to strengthen the ministry.

Wish List

- Funding to provide scholarships to help kids attend college.
- Sponsorships to help adults attend the "Getting Ahead" life skills class.
- Please contact us of a list of other items needed.

Donate

Financial Donations - You can give safely and securely through our website by credit card, or by mailing a check to 7900 Maple Hill Road, Corcoran, MN 55340.

Non-cash Assets - Would you prefer to support Mobile Hope through assets such as the sale of stock, business interests, real estate, charitable gift annuities, or by setting up a donor-advised fund? Mobile Hope works with our partner, The National Christian Foundation -Twin Cities, to provide these and other services you may find helpful. Contact us for more information.



"I'm glad Mobile Hope is here. This year I was able to go to summer camp for the first time and now I get help with my homework and get to go to Journey every week!" —**SYDNEY**

Mission: To honor God by building relationships, hope, and a culture of achievement within mobile home communities through **education, healthy activities, resource connections, and faith development.**



Connecting with Teens!

By Ashley Xitumul, TreeHouse Program Director



Our TreeHouse youth program is on the grow! We are excited to announce that we have expanded our programming to 2 days a week. Tuesdays we offer peer support groups where students are taught to identify their emotions and how to express them in a healthy way. Thursdays we run our youth group called Connect. Isn't that what we all want? To connect with people? At TreeHouse we are passionate about seeing youth connect with each other, caring adults, and with the living hope—Jesus.

Over the Summer, some of our teens had the opportunity to go to Trout Lake Camp for a week, while others went kayaking for the first time ever, and lots of quality time spent over the past few months.

We are looking forward to what the rest of this school year has in store for our teens. We are hopeful about their futures and are working with them to reach their goals. We currently have 13 students being mentored one to one by a caring adult. We would love to see more of our students meeting with mentors. If you are interested in learning more about what that looks like, please reach out to Ashley at ashley@mobilehopemn.org.



7900 Maple Hill Road
Corcoran, MN 55340