



Hope Awaits

MINISTRIES

December 1st, 2014

Monthly Newsletter

We kicked off November big with our First Annual Benefits Concert that occurred on November 1st at the Capitol Centre. It was a great evening filled with local artists and dancers. Those who attended had the privilege of listening to local artists Sean Dayton, Emma Lea, Josh Dimmel, Shawn Blais, Keri Underwood, James Palmer, and Chris Uttaro. The audience was also blessed by the graceful dance performances by One Hope Kids dance team, Paige Smith, and Jessica Jaques. The speakers for the evening included Dennis Chippa, and Board Members Nicole Millage and Stephanie Burns. In addition host Mark Burns also shared the story of a previously homeless man. Needless to say the evening was a great success!

Through this fundraising event we were able to raise \$1,711 from ticket sales and \$767.50 in donations. On top of that we saw an increase in donations after the concert! Thank you to all who came out to the Benefits Concert. And those who were not able to make it, we hope to see you there next year!

In mid-November we had the opportunity to look through the building on McIntyre St again. It continues to look like a promising location; however we have decided to look at what else

there is before we make any final decision; and even then we still need to raise more funds before we can purchase and renovate any location.

Nicole Millage also had the opportunity to speak to the Outreach committee at Calvin Presbyterian church this month. The presentation went well, and we continue to be excited about the amount of churches that want to get involved in this new ministry in North Bay.

Near the end of November our story was even told on CBC radio. We had contacted the radio station in order to determine whether or not they would be interested in doing a story on this new endeavour. Soon after we were contacted by CBC and they wanted to interview us. Now our story has been told to a much wider audience! Praise God for the doors he continues to open for us!

At the end of November North Bay held its annual Christmas Walk. We were fortunate enough to be able to have a table at this event. Thanks to all of those who donated cookies to us, we had over 600 cookies and 700 candy canes to give away that evening. In two and a half hours we were able to give away all of our cookies and candy canes and had the opportunity to speak with many individuals about who we were and what we are doing.

Glory be to God!

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

Joshua's Story

On the very last day of November some of the board members were volunteering at the Salvation Army's Café dinner. The meal time went as usual with people being fed a delicious and nutritious meal. However at the end of the evening a young man (probably early 20's) named Joshua approached Nicole Millage and asked if she knew anywhere he could spend the night.

Currently there is only one place available to men within North Bay; so we asked Joshua if he could go there, and he informed us he had already tried that option.

So now we were stuck with a problem. We had this young man who had nowhere to spend the night. We frantically tried to think of somewhere he could go; but every option had been tried and we could not find one that would work.

When Joshua heard that there was no other place open, nowhere he could spend the night, we saw a look of hopelessness in his eyes. Joshua is a very kind and very shy individual; and when he reached out in desperation for some assistance there was nothing for him. He had lost all hope.

Unfortunately we parted ways and Joshua exited the Salvation Army and went out on the cold streets of North Bay. At this time a few of us came together and spent some time in prayer calling out to God and asking him to reveal to us what we could do to help Joshua. By the end of the prayer time we had found a place where Joshua could spend the night.

From there Nicole Millage along with former board member Michelle Bowman searched the streets of North Bay hoping to find Joshua and

bring him to a place where he would be safe and warm. The women spent two and a half hours searching North Bay for Joshua, yet were unable to find him anywhere. The majority of their search was done by walking the streets. During that time both Nicole and Michelle became cold and they both had coats, scarves and mittens on. Joshua was out somewhere in the cold with only a coat; no scarf, no mitts, no hat. We could only imagine how cold he would be.

By the end of the night we were still not able to find Joshua anywhere. We have no idea whether he found a friend's place he could stay at, or if he was sleeping outside somewhere. One thing that we do know is that Joshua's story isn't an anomaly. According to research done on this topic there are over 150 individuals who are in the exact same situation as Joshua was in that night.

As it continues to get colder outside it only increases the need for Hope Awaits Ministries' services!

Although we are not open yet we are trying to determine how we can best help these individuals now. No one should have to spend a night out in the cold.

These are our brothers and sisters in Christ who are freezing outside every night as they have nowhere to go. This thought breaks my heart. It is time for action; it is time to put an end to this!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. We hope that you will think of Joshua and those like him whenever you're outside and feeling cold.

Sincerely,

Hope Awaits Ministries' Board of Directors

Glory be to God!