Imagine you and I are sitting in church together and the pastor opens the Bible to the story of David and Goliath. If we stopped and polled the congregation in that moment, most would probably guess the message was going to focus on faith. The greatest underdog story of all time certainly has a lot to do with faith.

I read something recently that focused on another part of the story. The author talked about the crucial matter of vision to David’s success. His ability to see the situation differently, and to take a different approach than the fight the giant was asking for, was a big part of that faith victory.

How and where we place our vision matters. That fact is on my mind at Hope Haven. For starters, we are just kicking off a new Strategic Plan with seven core directives (see inside for more info). We are going to be moving Hope Haven forward in several important ways in the next three years.

We’ve also had to see differently when it comes to mental health services. A program that had been struggling because of limited income possibilities ended in June. That’s a big shift in our services, but aligns with the need to proceed wisely for the best interest of Hope Haven’s future. It’s hard to end any program, but we rest assured that the people we served will have plenty of choice at other providers for continuing their services.

Finally, vision applies to how we do employment. The state deadline for closing employment workshops has arrived, and Hope Haven complied with that big change, even though we don’t entirely agree with it. We have moved initiatives forward to engage people in their community with employment or our My Day programs for meaningful day activities.

In all of this, vision matters. We have to see the fight as a matter of faith. We continue to open new homes. We continue to lead in the state on who has the opportunity to work. We continue to have a statewide impact on training of best practices. God is leading Hope Haven. He’s giving us faith to stay strong and eyes to proceed well.

Matt Buley, CEO
April was National Volunteer Month – and it was certainly a busy month for participants in Hope Haven’s “My Day” Day Habilitation program! “My Day” contributed a whopping 743 volunteering hours to the community in the month of April alone. These hours were comprised of volunteering activities for organizations like Meals on Wheels, Destiny Ranch, Justice for All, Promise Center, and area nursing homes, among others.

### Overcoming Fear with Faith
As Karlynn Kleinhesselink looks back on the last few decades, the Orange City native expresses a few important things. She's been involved with Hope Haven since 1992, as an employee of Parkview Industries and Double HH Manufacturing over the years. Additionally, Karlynn was a member of the Gospel Choir and even traveled to Guatemala for a Spiritual Retreat as a volunteer. Lastly, she shares one more noteworthy item: breast cancer survivor.

In 2017, Karlynn was shocked to discover that she had breast cancer. After her diagnosis, she underwent a series of radiation treatments, ultimately followed by surgery. "Surgery took a big toll on me, I was very tired," Karlynn explains. Despite these tumultuous events, Karlynn missed very little work and utilized her supports at Hope Haven to cope.

Carla Kieft, Director of Day Habilitation, observes, “Karlynn used Day Habilitation as a safe place. She was able to identify the coping skills needed to get through. She had such a strong faith through the journey.” Karlynn attends Faith Reformed Church in Rock Valley, and notes the important role her community played during her battle. "My church and my friends were there for me from the beginning," she recollects.

Fast forward to the present, and Karlynn is now cancer free. She’s required to return to the doctor for regular check-ups, but is optimistically embracing the return to a healthy life and routine. Karlynn works at Pizza Ranch in Rock Valley and participates in Day Habilitation a few times a week. After overcoming cancer, Karlynn shares that she approaches life and change with a newfound sense of gratitude. She assures, “My life changed a lot. I thank God every morning that I’m here and I’m alive.”

### Finding Strides at Pure Fishing
Changes at work can be difficult and may involve tough transitions. But for those from Hope Haven who previously worked in sheltered employment in Spirit Lake, the changeover from working at the Echo Plus building to working at Pure Fishing has been largely positive. Nancy Brewer, Job Coach Lead, notes that the crew finds pride in where they work, “They say, ‘I work at Pure Fishing’ now.” Nancy’s role is to support and lead the group and staff who made this transition from Echo Plus.

The majority of the group who now work at Pure Fishing were previously served through facility based employment, which federal Medicaid site rules will soon be prohibiting as it is considered segregation. The main responsibility in this part of the Pure Fishing factory is quality control and restoration for rods and reels that come from returns departments across the country. Some of the returned products only possess small defects or issues that are easily remedied. Crew members determine if a product is eligible for restoration, while damaged items are dissembled and removed from the process.

Next, eligible products are cleaned, restored, and sent to Fisherman’s Factory Outlet for sale. Additional projects arise throughout the week, like labeling or packaging new product. Nancy remarks that the group loves the variety that extra projects like this provide, and the opportunity to hone new skills that they bring.

“The opportunity in May 2018 for Hope Haven to begin to operate a group supported employment crew at Pure Fishing has grown an already excellent partnership between our two companies,” says Scott Witte, Director of Employment Services. “When observing the operations, it is readily apparent that work crew members and Hope Haven staff love their work. The crew feels supported by Pure Fishing staff, and the company values their contributions to the business.”

### 2019-2020 Strategic Plan Focal Points
- Increase intentionality in expressing our Christian faith.
- Promote a corporate culture that facilitates company unity.
- Stabilize Hope Haven’s workforce shortages.
- Create data driven approaches to improve quality across the organization.
- Optimize operations through expansion and contraction.
- Increase cultural competency.
- Increase international ministry services within gospel-oriented model.
Hope Haven’s “Book of Remembrance” provides an attractive, permanent record of all memorials.

Lorene Franken
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Johnson
Angela Fick
Richard Kleen
Leona Noteboom
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bruyvoort
Al & Angie Wadsley
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Intveld
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James Dwyer Ill
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Jane Baker Bosch
Billy Mueggenberg
Marion Groeneweg
Lila Kempers
Lila Kempers
Jean De Jong
Pauline Vander Zwaag
Pearl De Booy
Pearl De Booy

HOPE HAVEN ROMANIA BREAKS NEW GROUND

After concluding a successful capital campaign, Hope Haven Romania (Portul Sperantei) broke ground on the site for their new building in May of this year. The new site will be larger and more accessible than the previous location, accommodating the growing need for mobility support in Eastern Europe.

Hope Haven has operated in Romania for more than 22 years, and has distributed over 10,000 wheelchairs to people in need in Romania, Ukraine, and surrounding areas.

TALsMA ATV & HORSE RIDE

SEPT 14
Talma’s Trail Park
Avon, SD
Get your adrenaline pumping at this adventurous event! Bring your ATV or horse, along with safety gear for a day of exploring along the Missouri River. Overnight camping is available upon request. If you love riding, you won’t want to miss this one.

DESSERT AUCTION

SEPT 24
Minnehaha Country Club
Sioux Falls, SD
You’ll experience an unforgettable evening at the Hope Haven Dessert Auction! Join us for a night filled with delicious desserts – generously donated from area businesses. There’s dinner, music, and the chance to bid on one-of-a-kind sweet treats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOW TO AVOID PHONE & INTERNET SCAMS

AUG 14
Terrace View Event Center
Sioux Center, IA
Viruses, scamming, malwares – losing personal information is very real and can be very costly. Representatives from Premier Communications will present on how you as an individual can look for danger and stay safe.

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Memorial Gifts to Hope Haven honor the lives of relatives, friends, or associates by enhancing the future for people with disabilities. Such lasting tributes also affirm the donor’s love for the Lord and provide a legacy that supports the practical work of God’s kingdom. These gifts will provide for special needs among clients.

(L-R) Steve Sikorski, Matt Buley, Daniel Mereuta, Luke Russell

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