

HOPE HAVEN NEWS

SPRING HORIZONS 2023

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SEBASTIAN'S STORY

When Sebastian was six months old, a doctor diagnosed epilepsy. He has spasms, epileptic seizures, psychomotor development problems, seizures every 3-4 hours, and he is also autistic.

He is always taking painkillers, only stays still when he eats cookies. I have to blend his food to feed him.

The wheelchair will help us a lot! Now we can take him to medical appointments, take him out in the sun and attend community events in his new wheelchair.

I am very grateful to Hope Haven and Moviendo Esperanzas for this wonderful gift for my son!



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH MOBILITY

Costa Rica Wheelchair Distribution Trip

On January 18-27, 2023, 11 team members from Hope Haven went on a wheelchair distribution trip to Costa Rica. Many lives were changed, including our own Hope Haven employees! 80 individuals received wheelchairs that were measured and fitted personally for each person. Many of these individuals were receiving their wheelchair for the first time.

One of the members, Amber Altena, Community Living Supervisor at Hope Haven for 17 years, went on her first trip. “I work as a community living supervisor for Hope Haven. In Costa Rica, I worked as a storytelling translator. As individuals received their chairs, I would hear their stories, and worked with a translator to document their difficulties before the chair, and to learn how a chair will benefit their life.”



“Another member, Linda Feikema, who has volunteered at Hope Haven for two and a half years in the Orange City location, primarily works on sewing seat cushions together for wheelchairs. In Costa Rica, her responsibilities were working in several stations, assisting recipients with fitting their new chairs. “We measure individuals for a chair; then we measure again to ensure it is just right. We lined the chairs up in boxes according to size, and I worked with the person who did the fitting, adjusting, pulling the chairs from the boxes, and fine-tuning them for the person who would receive it. It was a lot of back and foot adjustments to work to customize the fit for each person,” Feikema said.

Feikema remarked on the number of dedicated volunteers in Costa Rica that worked with the team. “There were four local men who volunteered with us. On the last day, I remember a man named Louis. He worked for four straight hours working on one chair. He took the entire chair apart and rebuilt it to fit perfectly for that individual.”

Altena shared an intense personal connection she made on the trip. “There was a boy named Sebastian I met who was dropped as a newborn baby. He was autistic, non-verbal, and suffered from seizures. So often, I asked myself, am I supposed to be on this trip? How will God use me? And it was at this moment I was here for a reason. My daughter is also non-verbal and struggles with similar things; I was exactly where I was supposed to be.”

The emotional reactions many recipients have to receiving a chair is overwhelming. Altena shared, “There was another lady named Maria, a fisher woman, and breadwinner of her home, supporting her daughter

CONTINUED - WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION TRIP

and granddaughter. She was out in her boat and was hit by another, and the boat snapped her leg off. She was in severe pain. When she was finally fitted for a chair, she wept the minute she hit the seat.”

Something Feikema noted about how Hope Haven handles distribution is their model of “treating everyone as they are the number one person. People come in with a stricken look on their faces and often leave clapping, smiling; it is truly life-changing.” Feikema could travel and work at several stations at the distribution center, experiencing everything Hope Haven provides. “There was a station where the recipient took pictures with family members and a spiritual station where we prayed and talked about special concerns. There was also a station that talked about medical care and how to care for yourself and also how to care for the chair.” The team also went into some private homes for recipients that could not get to the distribution.

“I walked away from this experience, realizing how fortunate we are that we were born here. These people had nothing, but they were clean, well-presented, happy, whole families all living together. Some of these people care for someone 24/7, there is no daycare or home health, but they care for one another,” Feikema said.

“I would gladly go again,” Feikema added. “Whether or not they should do something like this, God has a reason for going. He uses people so well. He brought us to where our natural talents were. God has people in mind; you just have to say yes.”

With the need for pediatric wheelchairs increasing, Hope Haven is looking for more volunteers. For more information or to sign up to volunteer in Orange City or Rock Valley, visit hopehaven.org or contact Drew Smith at drew.smith@hopehaven.org or call 712.476.2737.



So far, in 2023, HHIM distributed 874 wheelchairs to children and adults with disabilities around the world.

- 33 wheelchairs delivered to Mexico to support the Mobilize Mankind Organization
- 190 wheelchairs delivered to Guatemala to support 3 organizations - BeeLine/Vine Intl/Hope for Home
- 204 wheelchairs delivered to Costa Rica to support the Moviendo Esperanzas Organization
- 207 wheelchairs delivered to Vietnam supported by the Hope Haven International Ministries
- 25 wheelchairs delivered to Guatemala to support the Orphan Grain Train Organization
- 215 wheelchairs delivered to Uganda and Ghana to support the Joni and Friends Organization

JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING Doug Smit on his retirement

Doug has been a part of our organization serving many roles for the past 29 ½ years, from Residential Manager and Director of Adolescent and Children's Services to Director of Mental Health in Rock Valley. We are so grateful for the hard work and dedication Doug has put in to making Hope Haven a better place. It's employees like Doug that make it possible for us to carry out our mission every day.



As I look back at the past 29 ½ years of working at Hope Haven, the poster in my office has been the driving force to what I have done during my time at Hope Haven. The poster states: **P.R.I.O.R.I.T.I.E.S. A Hundred Years from Now It Will Not Matter What My Bank Account Was, The Sort of House I Lived In, Or The Kind Of Car I Drove... But The World May Be Different Because I Was Important In The Life Of A Child.** God has used me in many ways to touch the lives of children and adults over these many years at Hope Haven. My hope and prayer is that this will continue through the generations to come.

DOUBLE HH MANUFACTURING EXPANSION

Double HH Manufacturing, a division of Hope Haven, is a couple of months away from completing a 35,000-square-foot addition to expand the use of robotics, cobots, and state-of-the-art order picking/packing operations.

Established in 1970, Double HH Manufacturing evolved from a work training facility in Hope Haven's main building in Rock Valley to employ people with disabilities, to the business it conducts today. About the same time, a local business gave the work training facility a couple of machines and a basic hitch pin design. The hitch pin was initially sold to local farmers, who offered suggestions regarding the product's design. Today, the hitch pin design has become one of the most widely imitated worldwide!



"We recognized opportunities to expand not only in the hitch pin production but also in the other machining services Double HH could offer to customers"

said Loy Van't Hul, Double HH's Chief Manufacturing Officer. "The move increased manufacturing

and warehouse space, and we wanted to take advantage of those opportunities." Along with the hitch pin, Double HH Manufacturing has expanded its product line to include other types of pins, non-threaded fasteners, and tractor 3-point linkage parts.

The company has remained under the direction of Hope Haven, and an integral part of its mission. Its employee base consists of people with disabilities and people without disabilities. Today, the company employs 60 people.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

The My Day Program in Spencer attended a St. Patrick's Day Dance hosted by the Occasions Activity Center. Everyone had a great time dancing to their favorite music played by DJ Chris and mingling with their friends and all the volunteers!



WINTER WONDERLAND PROM



Individuals ages 14 and up were invited to dress their best and enjoy a meal, grand march, and dance.

Several local businesses from Spencer volunteered and donated decorations, flowers, lights, and their time. An estimate of 200 people attended the grand march. It was a special event with a lot of smiles!



IA MISS AMAZING PAGEANT

Five ladies from Spirit Lake participated in the Iowa Miss Amazing Pageant! This is an annual event that provides opportunities for girls with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem in a fun and supportive environment.



They participate in introductions, evening wear, and talent. All participants were crowned a princess at the end of the pageant.



Additionally, these ladies got to shop for their dresses at Elegance Bridal & Prom Boutique and got the full "I said yes to the dress" experience! The ladies had a great time shopping with their friends for their dresses!



HOPE HAVEN MEMORIAL

(As of 3-23-2023)

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. Hope Haven's "Book of Remembrance" provides an attractive, permanent record of all memorials.

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Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Venenga
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Venenga
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Venenga
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First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids
First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids
First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids
First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids
First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids
First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids

IN MEMORY OF

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Randal Van Gelder
Albert & Bette Crawford
Lyle Schleusener
Althea Stubbe
Raymond Arends
Rev. Brian Hellenga
Terry Nachtigal
Minnie Van Dis
Helen Huisman
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Helen Huisman
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Brian Hellenga
Garlene Mulder
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First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids
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Florence Van Roekel
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Ramona Harken
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Mr. & Mrs. Al Vander Plaats
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Jean De Jong
Paul Raak
Daniel Van Schepen

IN MEMORY OF

Lori Debuhr
Ruth Caswell
Marianne Groen
Marianne Groen
Elton Hilbrands
Francis Le Loux
Carson Ehde
Pamela Lais
Harlan Van't Hul
Harlan Van't Hul
Harlan Van't Hul
Darlene Van Holland
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Mary Hoogland
Eugene Harken
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Jernelene Van Schepen
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Jernelene Van Schepen

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Wilmina Dekkers
Sherri Lauritsen
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hansen
Lucille Reit
Mr. & Mrs. David VanNingen
Austin Nyhof

IN MEMORY OF

Jernelene Van Schepen
Jernelene Van Schepen
Jernelene Van Schepen
Jernelene Van Schepen
Jernelene Van Schepen
Jernelene Van Schepen
Cornie Visser
Howard Thomas
Vernon Sybesma
Ethel Heyman
Dr. Liana Badiu
Lyle Nyhof

ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION RECAP

On Friday, March 31, Hope Haven held its biggest fundraiser of the year - The Annual Benefit Auction. We want to give a BIG thank you to the businesses for all their donations, our sponsors, and to those who attended the event. Because of individuals and businesses like you, we raised over \$100,000 on auction night. PLUS, donations from the wheelchair sponsorship alone totaled \$30,000! The most we have ever raised! It was a great evening to come together and raise funds to help support children and adults with disabilities within our communities and around the world. We can't say enough on how grateful we are to have such great supporters to help serve our mission!



UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL FISHING BENEFIT

Lake Francis Case | Pickstown, SD

JUN
2

Looking for a reason to do some fishing on the Missouri River this summer? Join us for a fun day of fishing, all while supporting Hope Haven. Plus, you could win some great prizes. Children under 16 are free. Learn more at hopehaven.org/events.

GOSPEL MUSIC IN THE PARK

Central Park | Sioux Center, IA

JUNE
16/17

Mark your calendar for this two day festival, featuring groups and soloists performing gospel music. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the sunshine and music in Sioux Center's Central Park.

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS: Scan the QR code to join our email list! We'll only send a few emails a month, with community updates and reminders about upcoming events.



ANNUAL GOLF BENEFIT

Emerald Hills Golf Course | Arnolds Park, IA

JUN
21

Registration fee of \$150 per golfer includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, grilled lunch, great raffle prizes, and a Cutter & Buck quarter zip pullover as an entry gift. Space is limited at this prestigious event to 144 golfers, and spots fill up quickly! Learn more at hopehaven.org/events.

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