

# HOPE HAVEN NEWS

SPRING HORIZONS 2024

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FAITH. COMMUNITY. POSSIBILITIES.

## LARGEST FARM-LAND ESTATE GIFT EVER MADE IN IOWA

The Heerde Family of Spirit Lake recently provided Hope Haven with a farm estate gift of approximately \$2.5 million. The ministry held a ceremony Thursday, April 11 to recognize the family's sizable contribution.

“This is historic for us and historic for Iowa,” said Hope Haven CEO, Matt Buley. “The purpose of Hope Haven is not to have a big endowment. It’s for gifts to go out while funds continue to grow, so there will be a day — years from now — where we’ll be able to say, the Heerde gift has been doubled. We’ve now given out \$2.5 million dollars.”



The family's sale of their farmland generated close to \$20 million — making for one of the largest donations of its kind in Iowa, according to organizers. The total gift benefited ten nonprofits, including local organizations like City of Spirit Lake, Excelsior United Methodist Church, Camp Foster YMCA, United Methodist Camp, and Milford Memorial Library.

Hope Haven initially discovered it would be receiving the donation in March of 2022. Farmers Savings Bank handled the sale of the land in August of 2021 and was ultimately involved in the donation process as well. Bank President, Brad Simington, said many farm families got to know the Heerde family through their corn-shelling business, including Simington's own relatives.



“I think, within life, you have relationships and you gain relationships, and that’s the case with the Heerdes and the Simingtons,” Simington said. “Somewhere along the line, there was a relationship that was gained and trust that was had there. In some ways, we never thought this day would come where we would have to sell the land. It took us quite a few years.”

The Heerde family owned hundreds of acres of farm ground northwest of Fostoria, valued at around \$24 million. A total of 1,359 acres of land was sold — \$14,067 per acre on average — all of which was owned previously by Willie and Earnedine Heerde, and their four children. Heerde and his children — each of whom lived with a disability — worked on the farm together for many years.

## ESTATE GIFT (CONTINUED)



Psalm 37:9 "but for those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land."

In recognition of the Willie Heerde Family Estate Gift made to the Hope Haven Support Foundation in 2022-2023. Family members included his wife, Earnadine, three sons; Willie Jr., Henry, and Ronnie and a daughter, Sharon.

Their example of stewardship produced one of the largest farm-land estate gifts ever made in Iowa. Ten non-profits from the Iowa Great Lakes area benefitted from this generous gift.

The Hope Haven Support Foundation utilizes these resources to enhance the services provided for individuals with disabilities in Iowa and Minnesota. We are filled forever with gratitude.

**HOPE HAVEN**

Hope Haven will add the recent estate gift to their Support Foundation Endowment fund, bringing the total funds to over \$20 million. A percentage of the endowment will be used annually to fund client scholarships, independent housing, wheelchair distribution, mental health services, job placement, and other needs from those receiving Hope Haven services. According to Buley, a common refrain among Hope Haven's supporters is that they wish they could do more.

"I think about those donors when you see the faithfulness of the Heerdes, for them to give that kind of money," Buley said. "It's unreal someone did that — take \$20 million and not spend it on themselves. This is a remarkable and humble act."

Now, this gold plaque depicting the supportive Heerde family rests inside Hope Haven's Spirit Lake building, recognizing and honor the family's estate gift. "Their example of stewardship produced one of the largest farm-land estate gifts ever made in Iowa," the plaque states. "We are filled forever with gratitude."

## NEW IPADS BENEFIT OUR NON-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

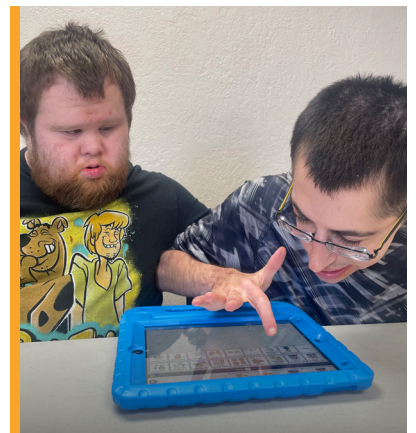


In November 2023, Hope Haven participated in Giving Tuesday, a global movement inspiring people to give. Hope Haven met the goal and recently purchased 10 iPads with the Proloquo2Go app to be used in the My Day programs. Proloquo2Go is an award-winning AAC app that is designed to be personalized to meet the needs of non-speaking individuals with autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and various other diagnoses or speech impediments.

In the My Day programs across our agency, there are several non-speaking individuals who do not have the resources for a communication device. Thankfully, this project allows us to provide them with a voice. Through the use of iPads, individuals with communication disabilities

will be empowered to reach their full potential in learning and communication by accessing the tools they need to find their voice. The iPads will enable people to express themselves in new ways and be more independent in their communication, reducing their reliance on staff. Individuals will use the iPads to introduce themselves out in the community or when a guest speaker is visiting, share how they are feeling, participate in calendar planning by sharing their ideas for the activities, make choices for the activities they wish to participate in, order their food at a restaurant, ask for help at the library, and so much more!

“The iPads and the software are a great tool to have now for our program. I am excited to see how our non-speaking individuals learn, provide grammar support/language development, and use effective communication with core words. It will remove the communication barrier and empower individuals to express themselves in ways they previously could not. This technology enables a more inclusive society by assisting individuals in developing new skills and living a full, meaningful life through the use of communication!” Paula Gomez, Hope Haven My Day Specialist.





# NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN EASTERN AFRICA



Five-year-old Shamika was a joy to fit in a wheelchair. The flexibility of the configuration of the kidschair was needed in her case. Shamika appears in this photo with Physical Therapist, Katie Jenkins.



God is stirring at Hope Haven International Ministries with exciting new partnerships and developments in Eastern Africa.

Thanks to individual donors and a Rotary International grant, a team recently distributed 129 wheelchairs in Uganda. The project was completed in partnership with AsOne Ministries, based in Sioux Falls, SD. AsOne provides education, health, and agriculture services in rural Uganda. Their multiple sites allowed the team to fit wheelchairs in different locations, and to respond to many difficult cases. More chairs will be provided in Uganda in the months ahead through two other partners.



The Uganda team was led by Hope Haven's CEO, Matt Buley, and International Ministries Director, Luke Russell. Buley said, "significant needs were met thanks to a team of Ugandans and Americans. It never gets old seeing someone who arrives pulling themselves along the ground leave in a wheelchair fit for them."

Uganda borders Kenya to the East, where a wheelchair distribution in 2023 is developing into much more. Thanks to a partnership with Living with Hope, based in Highland, IN, Hope Haven recently sent "flat pack" wheelchairs to their team in Nairobi. These unassembled wheelchairs take up less space in a shipping container. Trained by Hope Haven staff, the Living with Hope team will assemble and distribute the chairs. Kenyans will provide mobility services in their own communities. We are excited to see these partnerships develop!

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION RECAP

On Friday, April 5, Hope Haven held its biggest fundraiser of the year at Te Slaa Trucking in Hull - The Annual Benefit Auction. To make this a successful event every year, a BIG "Thank You" goes out to the businesses and individuals for all their donations, our sponsors, our auctioneers, our volunteers, Kingdom Boundaries for the delicious food, and to those who attended the event. **Because of individuals and businesses like you, we raised approximately \$120,000 from our auction. The total amount includes \$31,000 + a \$10,000 donation match for wheelchair sponsorships. 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 today and in the future!





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 Rock Valley, IA 51247-0070  
 hopehaven.org | 712.476.2737

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**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.



## 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FISHING BENEFIT | 7 AM

Fort Randall Dam | Pickstown, SD



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 incredible prizes in all categories! The entry fee is \$60 and children under 16 are free. [Learn more at hopehaven.org.](#)

## 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF BENEFIT | 11 AM

Emerald Hills Golf Course | Arnolds Park, IA



Join us on the fairway and make a difference that counts. The registration fee of \$150 per golfer covers 18 holes of golf with a cart, a grab and go meal, great raffle/pin prizes, and an entry gift. Space is limited to 144 golfers, so don't wait! **Sign up early to not miss your chance to golf this premier course for a great cause at hopehaven.org.**



## NEW! RICK HARMELINK MEMORIAL TRAIL RIDE | 8:30 AM

Newton Hills State Park | Canton, SD

Join us and experience the Newton Hills State Park with 13 horse trails for everyone to enjoy the scenic view, from beginners to professionals. [Learn more at hopehaven.org.](#)

# HOPE HAVEN MEMORIAL

(As of 3.31.2024)

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.

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Mr. & Mrs. David Loveall	Joe & Mary Jean Wynja	Florence Van Roekel	Johanna Punt	Mavis Niebruegge	Thelma Van Briesen
Jeanette Meyer	Vicki Lock	Virgil Van Schepen	Jerlene Van Schepen	Primebank	Judy Jordan
David Schaap	Randy Van Gelder	Florence Van Roekel	Arlin Van Roekel	Mr. & Mrs. Gayle Wagenaar	Barbara Schulte
First Ref. Church-Rock Rapids	Pam Foster	Mr. & Mrs. Paul De Groot	Allen De Groot	Hilda Holtrop	Abe Van Dyke
First Ref. Church-Rock Rapids	Myron Krull	Claude Vander Zwaag	Betty Vander Zwaag	Hilda Holtrop	Elizabeth Dykstra
First Ref. Church-Rock Rapids	Christina Vonk	Angela Van Briesen	Paul Baker	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Huizenga	Elizabeth Dykstra
First Ref. Church-Rock Rapids	Joyce Hommes	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Van Vuuren	Arie & Muriel Van Vuuren	Joyce De Boer	Orville De Boer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dykstra	Anne Bonestroo	Mavis Murphy	Arnie Vande Vegte	Mr. & Mrs. Cornie Rylaarsdam	Joan Horstman
Hope Ref. Church-George	Bonnie Kruger	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Conzemius	Eduardo Aquirre	Carol Van Velzen	Joan Horstman
Willi Klumper	Minnie Van Dis	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon De Jongh	John Kroese	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Kempema	Glenda Vollink
				Mr. & Mrs. Mark Siemonsma	Lavonne Schelling

**IN MEMORY OF SHERWIN VAN KEKERIX:** Mr. & Mrs. Scott Witte, Eddie & Karissa Adams, Family & Friends, Billy & Melinda Cox, Jeff & Amy De Boer, Ted & Noreen De Hoogh, Kevin & Brenda Gisolf, Dale & Koni Kooima, Randy Olson, Glen & Donna Tilstra, Joe & Judy Van Tol, Glenn & Marilyn Westra, Marvin Van Kekerix

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN SCHOLTEN:** Jean De Jong, Pizza Ranch Corporate Office, Mr. & Mrs. David Kroese, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Moss, Daryl Meendering, Mr. & Mrs. Glen Scholten, Ryan & Kelley Crawford, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon De Jongh, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dykstra, Gerald Jansen, Ben Koerselman, Sherri Morgan, Jennie Pluim, Agnes Scholten, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Franken

**IN MEMORY OF JEAN DE JONG:** Mr. & Mrs. Stanton Visser, Mr. & Mrs. Hal Congdon, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry De Wit, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Eckhoff, Doug Van Gorp, Mr. & Mrs. Loren De Wit, Kent & Brandi Willet, Kiley & Melanie Yates, Lisa Steggarda, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Siemonsma,

**IN MEMORY OF PAUL TRUESDELL:** Christy Curry-Hoyland, Don Curry, DeKoter, Thole, Dawson, Rockman & Krikke, PLC, Sara Evans, Micah Kiernan, Katie Lacey, Paul Raak, Amber Sherman, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Wielenga, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Parks, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Den Hartog, Roberta Gagne, Bill Shimek, William Smart Company

**IN MEMORY OF MYRNA ELBERS:** Mike & Tammy Baartman, Leon & Lora Burgers, Ron & Gayle Damstra, Donna Driesen, Henry & Carolyn Damstra, Rich & Lisa Schwanke, Lonna Smeenk, Harvard & Annette Sneller, Marv & Jeanette Van Beek, Marge Harmelink