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## Running with the Wind

Our Inaugural “Hope Ablaze” Run/Walk saw steady 20 mile per hour winds with gusts up to 45 miles per hour. Yet over 200 people registered and 165 people participated on that blustery October day.

Participants chose between a 10K, 5K, and Family Fun-Mile. A full list of participants, with results, can be found at <http://www.performancetiming.com>.

We want to thank the many business sponsors, volunteers, and participants for making our first run/walk event a resounding success. Next year’s date is October 20, 2012. Photos are on page 7.



## “ACTS OF HOPE” Wausau

*“For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”*

— Acts 4:20 ESV

Join us on April 17, 2012, for the 10th Annual Hope Pregnancy Resource Center Spring Banquet. This year’s banquet will celebrate the wonderful things we have witnessed at Hope PRC throughout 2011, including the technology make-over, our move to downtown Wausau, and several amazing gifts that have all come to us through our generous donors. Come see a special video presentation about Hope PRC and listen in person to nationally-known speaker Eric Ludy as he tells his family’s story of the amazing gift of adoption.

This banquet is the center’s major fundraising banquet that supports its services throughout Marathon County and surrounding areas. Since 2003 Hope PRC has served over 1,300 young women and men facing unplanned pregnancies, educating them on the options they have and empowering them to choose life for their unborn child. Hope PRC is a privately funded organization that relies solely on tax deductible gifts from faithful, churches, businesses, and individuals.

We ask for your support as we move forward, filled with assurance that God’s grace and mercy will lend hope to many young women’s hearts in this community. If you are interested in sponsoring this event please call Kim Manney at 715-843-4673, or e-mail her at [kmanney@HopeWI.org](mailto:kmanney@HopeWI.org) for a list a ways you can contribute to this event.

## Our Mission

To be the leading community resource, providing a caring sanctuary for women and men, offering informed pregnancy options, while sharing the good news of forgiveness and hope found in Jesus Christ.

# Finding Freedom from Secrecy and Shame

“If only people knew who I really was,” she said, “they’d never love me.” With this thought always in her head, she sat in silence for many years, with intense shame



by Brian Whitaker

forcing her to keep a dark secret from her past. She didn’t want to be in bondage, yet she was captive to a secret she hoped nobody would ever find out.

At Hope Pregnancy Resource Center, we hear stories like this from a number of clients. Some clients are traumatized by the

emotional aftermath from having had an abortion, and they don’t even realize how poisonous the shame and silence have been to their souls. Other clients hold secrets of sexual abuse, promiscuous relationships, or any of a number of other physical and emotional scars.

We welcome these women (and men) to share their painful past. Our advocates meet with each client confidentially and without condemnation; our services are free of charge to the client. Once clients share the secret and stop the silence, they begin to find forgiveness, healing, and freedom.

In particular, Hope’s abortion recovery ministry has helped women of all ages find freedom through God’s forgiveness and healing. We offer abortion recovery classes in Wausau – and soon we will begin classes in Antigo as well. If you know of someone who would benefit from this ministry, please let them know they are not alone, and they can find help and healing at Hope Pregnancy Resource Center.

Secrecy and shame are two of Satan’s biggest weapons to imprison a soul. Our spiritual enemy convinces us that our sin (any kind of sin) could never really be forgiven by God or understood by other people, so therefore it is best to hide it in a dark corner and hope nobody ever



finds out. Somehow the enemy convinces a person that he/she is the only person who has done this, and that his/her life would be ruined if the secret ever got out.

If we look into the Bible, we learn that this is a complete lie. The path to forgiveness and freedom begins with humble confession. God already knows, so He will not be surprised by our admission. Rather, He stands ready to forgive according to 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Jesus came to set captives free. Early in His earthly ministry He proclaimed how He came to fulfill Isaiah 61:1: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” John 8:36 says, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Let’s stop the silence and the shame. If you are reading this and you are held captive by a shameful secret, please call Hope, or seek help from your pastor or counselor.

For all of our readers who support this ministry with prayers or financial gifts, thank you for supporting the important work we do.



by Christina Wilson

## Locusts – They’re Not the End of the Story

In this edition of the newsletter, I wanted to share with you an e-mail I wrote earlier this year to some friends who were going through some difficult circumstances. My sincere prayer is that the truth of God’s Word ministers to you if you find yourself in a tough place.

As I was reading God’s Word this morning, I ended up thinking about how God graciously restores what the locusts have eaten.

Joel 1 describes four types of locusts: gnawing, swarming, creeping, and stripping. That’s a lot of bugs. My commentary says that represents the various species or their stages of development. In either event, we’re talking about total and complete devastation. Yet when the people repented/grieved and turned from their sin, the Lord said in Joel 2:24: “Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust...” I say, thank you Lord for that incredible grace.

Another remarkable story of restoration is found in Job. I realize his troubles were not of his own making. Even so, Job reached a point where he realized he had a little repenting of his own to do (chapter 42). And in Job 42:12 we read, “The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning...”

Joyce Meyer has said: “The truth is, you don’t have to have a great start to have a great finish.” She also talks about our mess becoming our ministry.

As many of you know from what I’ve shared regarding my personal experiences, a significant part of my grief was around the wasted YEARS. Lost...gone forever...not recoverable. That was a lie the enemy of our soul used to try to defeat me. Yes, the years passed. Yes, I can’t turn back the clock. Yes, my decisions stand. Yes, those years seem to have been of no value. But, He who is Truth says, because I repented and turned from my wicked ways, God has restored, is restoring, and will continue to restore...to make better...to bless the latter more than the beginning. (For me, blessing means productivity for God’s kingdom, good fruit that remains.) How exciting is that prospect of restoration for all of us? Many characters in the Bible accomplished their greatest feats for God in their later years. Abraham. Moses. Noah. Paul. And most did it after a time of preparation, a season spent learning and growing – just like we are doing now.

Continue to boldly face this season in your life, embrace it, and get from it everything God has for you. As Beth Moore said in her Jesus – 90 Days with the One and Only study: “I wouldn’t wish a sifting on a single soul, but if that’s what a life of harvest requires, may God use it so thoroughly that the enemy ends up being sorry he ever asked permission.” YES! That’s my prayer. May we see God in every circumstance in our lives...His plan, His purpose, His intent, and may we just be rock solid – determined, persistent, consistent – knowing that God is with us.

May God richly bless you as you continue to seek and obey Him.

For further reading, see I Timothy 1:12-17 and Revelation 12:11.

# ANTIGO HOPE

Pregnancy Resource Center

## Opening Date Set for Antigo Center

In culmination of two years of prayer and preparation, we are very pleased to announce the Antigo center is scheduled to open for clients on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

The center address is 618 Fifth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409 and the telephone number is 715.350.4333. Center hours will vary based on community needs.

We will celebrate with a public open house on January 11, 2012. See the Upcoming Events section for details.

Please continue to pray for our future clients, as well as the staff and volunteers serving them. Prayer is integral to the ministry of Hope and we are so thankful for your prayers.

We are promoting this opening to potential clients in several ways. You can pick up business cards that can easily be handed out to advertise our opening or if you would like to schedule an appointment please contact Christina Wilson at 715.350.4333 or [cwilson@HopeWI.org](mailto:cwilson@HopeWI.org).

## Hope Training Event in Antigo!

We have completed our first volunteer advocate training class in Antigo. This was a three day period of learning and spiritual bonding, as the first group of volunteers gathers in preparation for serving clients. A big thank you to Langlade Hospital for allowing us to use one of its meeting rooms.

Thanks also to the group of volunteers who are committed to Hope, but were unable to make this first training session. We expect to host another training class in early 2012, so please stay tuned for details. If you're interested in volunteering at Hope Antigo,

## Thank You Antigo!

We're grateful to the following churches and groups for allowing us to present information about the ministry of Hope:

- Antigo Community Church
- Aspirus General Clinic Healthcare Providers and Assistants
- Faith Center Church of God
- Faith United Church of Christ Women's Group
- Homestead Fellowship
- Langlade Hospital Birthing Center Nursing Staff
- Peace Lutheran Church
- St. John The Evangelist Catholic Parish
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Phlox
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church Mary and Martha Fellowship Group, Polar
- Upper Room Family Church

If your church or group would like to have a representative from Hope share how we can partner with you to serve the needs of your congregation or group, please contact Christina Wilson at 715.350.4333 or [cwilson@HopeWI.org](mailto:cwilson@HopeWI.org). She welcomes the opportunity to serve you.

## Well Done!

As the site preparations wind down, Christina wants to extend a public thank you to the people who have been instrumental in completing the construction, reupholstering, and painting needed for the new center.

Their work is a wonderful blessing and has resulted in a center environment that is warm and inviting. A heartfelt thank you to Miles Cerny, Deb Thom, Carol Baerenwald, Carolyn Kubitz, and Rick Wilson for their service.



please let contact Christina. She can be reached at 715.350.4333 or [cwilson@HopeWI.org](mailto:cwilson@HopeWI.org)

## Antigo Wish List

- Office Supplies
- Manila Folders
- Hanging File Folders
- Copier/Printer Paper
- Wire shelving and installation to create Hope Boutique – Please contact Christina at 715.571.1441 for details
- New Baby Items
- New Baby Clothing from 0 – 12 months
- Diapers for first year
- Car Seats
- Infant Toys
- Pack n Plays
- Receiving Blankets
- High Chairs
- Portable Cribs
- Formula
- Baby Bottles
- Anything else you know is needed to care for that new baby (except no crib quilts/bumper pads, please)

*\*All baby items must be new*

## How can you pray for Hope?

- For our clients
- For our advocates who work with the clients
- For God's help in the spiritual battles we face every day.
- For all the staff: Brian Whitaker, Jackie Sazama, Christina Wilson, Deb Corallo, Kimberly Manney, and Gail Hoffman
- For our board members and the decisions they make
- That God will raise up additional board members and volunteers
- For the search for a full-time executive director
- For the Antigo Center opening
- For continued donations to meet our financial needs
- For the abortion recovery ministry as we reach out to women who have had abortions

## Upcoming Antigo Events

### Antigo Chili Cook-off and Christmas Parade

Oh, yes, that's right...we wouldn't miss it! We'll be there for this great community tradition, scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th. During the chili cook-off, look for us outside The Thirsty Soul. Diane has generously offered to again let us take up residence outside her store. (Hmmm...wonder if Miles Cerny will be making his wonderful chili...Stop by our booth to check it out.) Then, during the Christmas parade, join us down the street at the Antigo Center for hot chocolate.

### Open House and Ribbon Cutting

We are very pleased to announce Hope Antigo Center will be hosting its official public open house on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 2 – 6 p.m. Please plan to join us at 618 Fifth Avenue, Antigo, 54409, to tour the center and rejoice with us regarding all God has done. We look forward to seeing you there.

### 2nd Annual Antigo Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 9, 2012, as we celebrate **Acts of Hope-Antigo** at Peace Lutheran Church. This classic theatre-style event will encourage and excite you about the ministry of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. Don't miss it! Tickets will be available by year's end and you'll want to get yours early, as we saw a capacity crowd at the 2011 event.



## Upcoming Events

- ♥ **January 22, 2012**  
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- ♥ **February 9, 2012**  
Antigo Fundraising Event-Acts of Hope  
Antigo
- ♥ **April 17, 2012**  
Acts of Hope-Wausau, Hope's 10th Annual  
Spring Banquet

## News Briefs

- In late September, four staff members from Hope were able to attend the national Care Net conference. This event provided wonderful training and vision for the next phase of ministry at Hope.
- Hope's search for a permanent Executive Director continues. Please pray for God's best provision for the future of Hope PRC.

## Cupcakes for Life



Two teens from Faith Christian Academy hosted a pro-life cupcake drive at their school and raised over \$100 selling cupcakes!

A special thank you to Sierra Leach of Birnamwood and Lindsey Kannenberg of Wausau for their

creative and inspiring way of helping Hope PRC!

## Bringing Hope to the Heart of Wausau



Late summer, the Wausau Center office moved downtown to 210 McClellan Street, Suite 310. Thanks to the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce and all who joined us at the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony on September 22. To date we have already served many in this new location and have seen an increase in walk-in clients. Above is a photo of the Wausau Chamber Ambassadors with, Hope PRC Staff, Volunteers, and Advocates.

If you would like to see our new office, we offer tours on Wednesday afternoons. Contact Jackie at 715-843-HOPE to set up a time to visit.

## LIKE us on Facebook!



Our former Hope Pregnancy Resource Center group was closed when Facebook upgraded, and we lost the ability to contact our group list. Search for the new Hope Pregnancy Resource Center page, look for the red heart logo, and "like" us!

# Remembering Kitty Schumitsch

On September 19, the earthly life of Mary (“Kitty”) Schumitsch ended, and she entered the presence of the Lord in heaven. Kitty volunteered as an advocate at Hope since the fall of 2010.

Kitty’s memorial service included many stories of her kind and generous volunteer work over the years. Hope was blessed by her compassionate service. Jackie Sazama wrote, “Kitty had an amazingly tender heart. She would almost get giddy about meeting and connecting with clients.”

Throughout her life Kitty pointed people to Christ. At Hope she “shared Christ in a bold way and she was always grateful for every opportunity to do so. She loved Jesus and was a great example of what it means to serve Him humbly,” said Jackie.

We will miss Kitty, but we rejoice that she is in heaven. As we look at her example we are encouraged to serve Christ joyfully until the day we see Him face to face.

## Inaugural “Hope Ablaze” Run/Walk

Here are a few photos from the Inaugural “Hope Ablaze Run/Walk,” held on Oct. 15. About 165 people participated in this event, which included a 10K run, a 5K run/walk, and a Family Fun-Mile.

Participants welcomed the chili lunch provided by Rockman’s Catering after a crisp and blustery morning.

Next year’s “Hope Ablaze” is October 20, 2012.

We hope you’ll join us!



Photos by  
Meghan Manney



Want to receive this newsletter electronically?

Please send your e-mail address.

We plan to have Hope’s newsletter available by e-mail starting in 2012

to save printing costs. Send your e-mail address to [kmanney@HopeWI.org](mailto:kmanney@HopeWI.org)

# HOPE

Pregnancy Resource Center

210 McClellan St., Suite 310

Wausau, WI 54403

## How Can You Support Hope?

- Pray for Hope daily.
- Give a financial gift (tax-exempt) to support this important work. One-time gifts are welcome, as are monthly gifts of any amount.
- Have Operation Baby Bottle (OBB) come to your church. Contact Gail Hoffman, 715-843-HOPE, to learn more.
- Get some of our updated brochures and business cards to put in your business or church.
- Become a volunteer. We need people who can guide Hope as a board member, or meet clients in a caring and compassionate way, or help with special projects, or help regularly around the office in a variety of ways. To volunteer in Wausau, contact Jackie Sazama; to volunteer in Antigo, contact Christina Wilson. Both can be reached at our main phone number: 715-843-HOPE (4673).

## Thank you for your generosity!

Hope Pregnancy Resource Center is a non-profit organization. We do not receive any government funding; our entire budget is provided through the generous support of churches, individuals, and businesses. As each calendar year draws to a close, people sometimes seek worthwhile groups to which they can give tax-deductible gifts. Please consider Hope Pregnancy Resource Center for any end-of-year giving you or your business may do.