

# HOPE HAVEN NEWS

SUMMER HORIZONS 2025

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Groundbreaking on the property is expected to begin in July 2025, with a hopeful move-in date set for Spring of 2026.

This new home will welcome four familiar faces: James Kooima, Brent Martens, Michael Schneider, and Roger “Brian” Westerberg, all individuals who have been patiently waiting to return to a place they can once again call home. As Brian and James both shared, “We’re so excited!”.

## BUILDING BACK HOPE: A NEW CHAPTER IN ROCK VALLEY

It’s hard to believe that just over a year has passed since the floodwaters swept through Northwest Iowa, changing lives and displacing many of our residents in a matter of hours. Among the losses were three Hope Haven residences in Rock Valley: Riverview, a 12-bed apartment complex; Rock Valley 1008, a five-bedroom home; and Redwood, our 12-bed Residential Care Facility. These were more than just buildings—they were homes.

But finally, a year later, we’re turning a new page.

We’re thrilled to share that Hope Haven has purchased a lot northwest of the Netherlands Christian Reformed School in Rock Valley, where we’ll begin building a brand-new home designed for increased accessibility, independence, and comfort.



**THE NEW LOT, CONSTRUCTION STARTING JULY 2025**

## A NEW CHAPTER IN ROCK VALLEY (CONTINUED)

Every detail of the home design reflects our commitment to quality care and accessibility. There will be no steps, no carpet, and two washer/dryer units to make daily routines smoother. Walk-in showers, ceiling tracks for mechanical lifts, and built-in smart living features will offer both ease and independence for our residents.

This is more than a building project to us; it's a symbol of our resilience, love, and dedication after the losses we suffered. We're excited to share more in the months ahead as construction begins and things continue to move forward.

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## SPREADING HOPE IN ETHIOPIA

BY JOE VANDER ZEE | WHEELCHAIR OPERATIONS MANAGER



It is so refreshing to see how partnerships within the Church can work together for the glory of God! During the last week of April, I had the opportunity to serve with Central Church - Sioux Falls, Agape Mobility, Cure Hospital, Make Your Mark, and MKC Church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This was my first wheelchair distribution trip since starting my employment with Hope Haven International. Over the last seven months, I have learned a lot about what a blessing a new wheelchair can be for individuals and families. However, seeing and experiencing this in person is much different.

Our team consisted of very experienced wheelchair fitters, and other rookies like me. We all got to be a part of something great. We worked with local Ethiopians who have a passion for helping their community. With their support, our group was able to fit 196 people, many who received a wheelchair for the very first time. During our distribution trip, local pastors connected with these recipients and their families, and 89 people committed themselves to Christ! Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers who help make trips like this possible. The Holy Spirit was ever-present with us, and I will continue to pray for God's leading to help those in need in Ethiopia. It's a great pleasure to be a part of this Kingdom work! Peace and Grace!

## A BIG DAY IN ORANGE CITY: OPEN HOUSE SUCCESS

On a beautiful afternoon this past May, Hope Haven celebrated an exciting milestone with the ribbon cutting and open house for our brand-new multipurpose facility in Orange City.



This moment has been nearly eight months in the making, following the original groundbreaking in early October 2024. Since then, the space has come to life and is supporting both our My Day program, offering engaging daily activities for individuals with disabilities, and our International Ministries wheelchair workshop, giving our volunteer another space to help continue our mission to provide mobility to the world. As part of the celebration, we were honored to receive a generous donation of \$5,725 from EPS Buildings, helping to further the mission of our facility and the work it supports. Their gift is already making a difference.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to mark this special occasion. We're grateful for your support and excited for the days to come in this new space!

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## CELEBRATING MARK SIEMONSMAS: A LEGACY OF IMPACT



On June 17, we gathered to celebrate and honor the retirement of our Director of Development, Mark Siemonsma. It was a heartfelt send-off filled with kind words and great memories from those who have had the privilege of working alongside him. Over the years, Mark has played a key role in advancing Hope Haven's mission, helping to build meaningful connections and lasting impact through his leadership and dedication. Though we'll miss seeing him around the office, we're excited for what lies ahead as he steps into this new season. Let the adventure begin!

We also want to congratulate Krystal Vander Pol as she steps in as his replacement, we are confident the Foundation will continue to be in good hands under her leadership and look forward to the future!



## 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.



**AUG 2** **RUSSELL DICKERSON**  
**COUNTRY CONCERT | ALL AGES**  
 7:30PM Show | The District | Sioux Falls, SD

Exciting News! Don't miss this incredible country concert featuring Russell Dickerson, who quickly stood out from the pack with four consecutive career-starting singles reaching No. One on the Billboard Country Airplay chart. Known for hits like "Yours," "Blue Tacoma," "Every Little Thing," and "God Gave Me A Girl," his latest single, "Bones," is already making waves! Grab your tickets now and join us for an unforgettable night of music!

[Learn more at hopehaven.org/events](http://hopehaven.org/events)

**OCT 7** **ANNUAL DESSERT AUCTION**  
 Minnehaha Country Club | Sioux Falls, SD

Experience an unforgettable evening at Hope Haven's 17th Annual Dessert Auction Benefit! Join us as we strive to make an impact on the lives of those in need of wheelchairs worldwide. Invite your friends or business associates to fill a table of 8 for the chance to bid on your favorite sweet treat! If interested, please contact Krystal Vander Pol at [kvanderpol@hopehaven.org](mailto:kvanderpol@hopehaven.org)



## HOPE HAVEN MEMORIAL

Memorial Gifts to Hope Haven honor the lives of loved ones by creating a brighter future for individuals with disabilities. These meaningful tributes reflect the donor's love for the Lord and leave a lasting legacy that supports the impactful work of God's Kingdom. Your gift will help meet the special needs of our clients. Each memorial is permanently recorded in Hope Haven's "Book of Remembrance," serving as a beautiful and enduring tribute.

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