

# HOPE HAVEN NEWS

WINTER HORIZONS 2026

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The CLS positions were filled by Jennie Umland, who brings experience from Iowa's Department of Health and Human Services, and Lacey Juchem, a returning Hope Haven team member known for her collaboration and creativity.

This new team meets weekly to stay aligned and build on their shared goals. Their efforts have already led to major improvements. Open positions have dropped from ten to four, billing processes are more efficient, and homes are more organized and comfortable for clients.

## A NEW CHAPTER OF LEADERSHIP IN LE MARS, IA

When faced with change, the Le Mars team at Hope Haven turned a challenge into an opportunity for growth. By May 2025, all three Community Living Supervisor (CLS) positions were vacant. Rather than fill the roles as before, leadership restructured the program to better serve both staff and clients. The new model introduced five Lead positions, one for each home, and two CLS positions, creating a stronger, more connected team.

Four of the new Leads were promoted from within: Angela Igleheart, Chas McGrew, David Doellinger, and Rob Cords, each bringing unique strengths to their roles. Maria Mata, who previously worked at Boys Town, joined as the fifth Lead, offering steady leadership and keen attention to detail.



## NEW LEADERSHIP IN LE MARS (CONTINUED)

They've also strengthened community connections by making church attendance and local events a regular part of client life. Team-building activities like a Mental Health Escape Room during DSP Week and communication workshops have helped foster trust and collaboration across all homes.

"As a young leader myself, I'm so grateful to walk alongside this team as they grow in their careers," shared their supervisor. "I cannot wait to witness the continued impact that this team will have not only for Hope Haven, but for the community of Le Mars."

Special thanks to Annette James, Serina Bates, Frankie Barnes, and Kimber Patterson for their support during this transition.

## BUILDING HOPE IN SIOUX CENTER: NEW SHOP LOCATION

Hope Haven International Ministries (HHIM) is expanding into Sioux Center, IA through a new partnership with Whispers of Love, Hope, and Joy. Together, they are developing a wheelchair assembly shop that will begin production of the new Hope Haven Tilt-in-Space (TiS) pediatric chair.

The TiS chair has been years in the making and is designed for children who struggle to maintain postural strength or need frequent repositioning for comfort. This innovation will allow HHIM and its partners to serve even more children with customized mobility solutions.

HHIM is also partnering with Double HH Manufacturing in Rock Valley, who assisted in both the design of the TiS chair and the new shop layout. Double HH will produce key components locally for the first 100 chairs to be assembled in Sioux Center—marking HHIM's first physical presence in the community.

The Sioux Center shop represents the next step in HHIM's mission to bring mobility to people around the world.

As production begins, HHIM is seeking volunteers from the Sioux Center area to help assemble the new chairs. Those interested can contact Joe Vander Zee at [jvanderzee@hopehaven.org](mailto:jvanderzee@hopehaven.org).



## 2025 FALL SPIRITUAL RETREATS

“Following Faithful Footsteps” was the theme of this year’s Fall Spiritual Retreats for members of our programs in Minnesota and northwest Iowa. Over three consecutive Saturdays in October, more than 130 participants gathered across our three locations—Worthington, MN; Milford, IA; and Sioux Center, IA.



Throughout the retreat, we explored what it means to follow God with courage and trust. Abraham reminded us that obedience sometimes means stepping into the unknown. Esther showed us how bold faith can protect and uplift others. Paul’s story revealed how encountering Jesus can transform a life from the inside out. And Priscilla taught us that God delights in using ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference.

With the support of our staff and volunteers, participants spent the days singing, praying, learning, and celebrating God’s goodness—fueled, of course, by plenty of pizza and ice cream bars. By the end, many participants shared that they are already looking forward to the spring retreat.

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**  
DECEMBER 2

This GivingTuesday, our supporters showed up in a big way for accessibility for Spirit Lake My Day. Together, we **exceeded** our goal and raised \$8,600 to fund a Pressalit 2100 adult changing table, creating a safe, height-adjustable, private space for dignified personal care.

Thanks to a matching gift, many donations were doubled, multiplying the impact. This upgrade will allow us to serve more individuals with higher support needs and provide greater comfort, privacy, and safety. Thank you to everyone for helping ensure dignity is never out of reach!



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## 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.



**FEB  
13** **DUELING DUO'S: WE ARE ROLLIN'**  
7:30 PM Show | The District | Sioux Falls, SD

Join us for our 4th Annual Dueling Piano Show featuring Andy and Ryno! Get ready for a night of high-energy music, audience-requested favorites, and unforgettable fun. Bring your friends, enjoy an incredible show, and support the mission of Hope Haven!

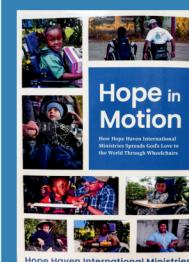
**APR  
11** **ROCK & ROLL FOR HOPE**  
6 PM Show | The Country Club | Sioux Falls, SD

Save the date for Rock & Roll for Hope on Saturday, April 11 at The Country Club in Sioux Falls! Rotary West of Sioux Falls is hosting an energetic dinner-and-dance fundraiser featuring music by DNR Showband & Revue, with all proceeds helping provide wheelchairs to individuals in need around the world through Hope Haven International Ministries.

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

**MAR  
27** **ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION**  
5:30 PM Live Auction | Te Slaa Trucking | Hull, IA

Hope Haven's biggest fundraiser of the year is back! For twenty years, this community favorite has brought people together for an unforgettable night of fun, fellowship, and hundreds of incredible auction items for all ages.



We're excited to share that a book about Hope Haven International Ministries has just been published. It traces the remarkable journey of how our wheelchair ministry began, the people who helped shape it, and the global impact it continues to make today. If you'd like to dive deeper into the story behind the mission, the book is now available for purchase on Amazon!

## 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.

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN MEMORY OF	DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Nelvia Vander Vugte	Phyllis Van De Griend	Hope Reformed Church-George	Lucille Smit	Florence Van Roekel	Cheryl Koerselman
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