

SUMMER 2025



Project Hope



THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT
A PLACE OF SHELTER AND HOPE

Kari was lost, hurt, broken and scared. Then you helped her.

When Kari lost everything else, she found God.

Kari first tried marijuana at age 11. It didn't seem like much at the time, but it led to 28 painful years of addiction, jail and homelessness. When she finally got sober, there was still something missing from her life. It took losing everything for her to find it.

After four years of sobriety, Kari says, "My life wasn't changing. I was away from everybody I knew. I didn't have any friends."

Kari felt even more alone when she fell on hard times,

losing her car and her job. It was the dead of winter. With eviction looming, she searched for help and found it at The Nehemiah Project.

"I ended up in a homeless shelter, but it was the best thing that ever happened to me," Kari says.

"When I got here, I was lost, hurt, broken and scared. I had no money, nothing but the clothes on my back. But the Innkeepers had this peace about them. They were so kind, and they treated me with respect."

Best of all, Kari was no longer alone. "I'd never had real friends before. The people here didn't want anything from me. They just wanted to tell

me about Jesus. They wanted me to have the peace that they had."

That was when Kari realized what had been missing from her life. It was God.

"One of the Innkeepers told me, 'God is always talking to you. You just have to listen.' So, I gave it all to God and I wasn't upset anymore. And slowly, things started to happen. I had a job and then I got a place to live. My church gave me a car," she tells us.

"God is real," Kari says. "All it took was for me to let Him lead."

Today, God is leading Kari back into a relationship with her daughters and grandchildren. Beyond that, she says, "I'm just going to trust that He will guide me in the right direction and follow what He wants for me."

Kari is grateful to God, The Nehemiah Project and to you. "Thank you so much for giving," she says. "The Nehemiah Project changed my life. I hope somehow through me, somebody else will get the gift that I got here. It's really special."



“Because He loved me first...”

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: RON FILA



Volunteers at The Nehemiah Project have many different reasons for serving. For retiree Ron Fila, it was simple: “Because He loved me first. As I grew in my faith, I realized being obedient to God by serving Him is very important. Jesus came to serve, and I think we should follow His example.”

An Innkeeper at the Nehemiah House, Ron says, “There are lots of ways to serve. It could be giving someone a ride, sharing a meal, taking them to church or even spending overnights like I do.”

Most of the time, Ron says, it's even easier. “All you need to do is lend a listening ear. You don't have to have all the answers, just be there. Realizing someone cares about them really helps people get back on their feet again. And if they come out of here with a relationship with Jesus, to me that's a big goal!”

We always need Innkeepers for our men's and women's shelters. Ron tells you, “Use your spiritual gifts and find joy while giving back to the kingdom. It's a response to what Jesus did for us first.”

Summer Needs

As we care for our guests, our needs change from week to week. Please visit our Facebook page for our most current updates.

VOLUNTEERS

- Preparing meals
- Evening and overnight shelter supervisors
- Warm Room attendants (cold weather months)
- Shelter maintenance and cleaning

MATERIAL NEEDS

- Sugar
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Household cleaning chemicals
- Paper products
- Laundry detergent

★ *No clothing donations, please.*

Items may be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at 36 Bridge Street, Petoskey. Or call (231) 347-0363 to arrange an alternate time.

If you feel called to
give back, visit
www.nehemiahshelters.org



THE WARMTH OF THE SON

Very often, those who come to The Nehemiah Project in search of restoration have lost everything, like Kari in this issue of *Project Hope*. Having hit rock bottom, there is nowhere left for them to go but up. Your support is a hand reached out in compassion, lifting them back to God, family and community.

Kari arrived at our doors in January 2024. On a late summer day like today, it can be hard to remember how brutal January in Petoskey can be! But when Kari had nowhere to go on that bitterly cold night, you gave her a warm place to live, discover her worth and get back on her feet.

But even in mid-August, our neighbors in homeless situations need warmth — the warmth of friendship with others and with Jesus Christ. Kindness and companionship turned Kari's life around when sobriety alone couldn't restore her peace. And for many, it makes all the difference between short-term gains and lasting stability.

We all need one another, whatever the time of year. When one falls, others are ready to pick them up and encourage them. And when one succeeds, we are all here to share the joy.

That's why I'm so pleased to bring stories like Kari's to you. You help every guest here enjoy the warmth of the Son, in every season of their life. Thank you!



Brian Peters
Executive Director

Therefore
ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER
and **BUILD EACH OTHER UP,**
just as in fact you are doing.

— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11



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OUR MISSION

To be the hands and feet of Jesus by providing critical services and the opportunity for life transformation.

CONTACT US

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