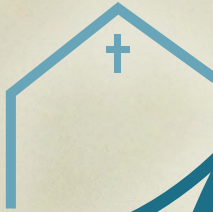


FALL 2025



Project Hope



**Mike is Mending Bridges,
Thanks to You**



THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT
A PLACE OF SHELTER AND HOPE



With your help, Mike says, “I’ve come a long way.”

At 59, Mike says, “I’ve burned a lot of bridges.” Raised by alcoholic parents, Mike began drinking while still in grade school. He later used cocaine as well. The drugs and alcohol left him a broken man, with badly damaged relationships.

Five years ago, Mike was stabbed and spent three weeks in a Lansing hospital. He had nowhere to go when he was released, but he heard about The Nehemiah Project from his brother in Petoskey. “I felt very welcome when I came here,” Mike remembers. He found housing just a week later, but his new life didn’t work out the way he’d hoped.

“I met a girl and she wanted to take over where I lived,” Mike says. She reported him for domestic violence. Mike was arrested and served nine months in jail. At the end of his term, he was homeless.

For the next three years, Mike worked at a fast-food restaurant and lived in a tent. Sometimes, especially during the winter, he came back to The Nehemiah Project. Brian Peters, who had just taken on the role of Executive Director, offered Mike a place at Grace House. Knowing someone saw his potential gave Mike the encouragement he needed.

“The Nehemiah Project helped me turn my life around,” Mike says.

Mike has been sober for more than three years. “My whole life had been cocaine and alcohol,” he admits. “I’ve come a long way.” For the first time in his life, Mike attends church and participates in Bible

studies. He takes care of the lawn and other maintenance at Grace House, and serves as an Innkeeper. “It’s my way of giving back,” he tells us.

Now enjoying healthy friendships with many at The Nehemiah Project, Mike understands the toll his addiction took on his loved ones and hopes to mend the bridges he had burned. In particular, he is working to establish a relationship with his teenage daughter. “I talk to her, but I have to build a lot of trust,” he says. With your continued support, Mike is confident he will succeed.

“I really appreciate what everybody does for this place. They’ve been a blessing.”





Join Us in Giving Thanks!



Thanksgiving is always a special time for everyone at The Nehemiah Project. You give us so much to be grateful for!

We'll celebrate the holiday just like you do, with a big, traditional turkey dinner. However, we'll host up to 75 guests in a church down the

street! That means we can use some extra hands to help prepare and serve dinner, clean up afterwards and just be present to the men, women and children who will join us. It will be a wonderful time for all.

If you're interested, please visit nehemiahshelters.org or call (231) 347-0363.



GIVE Christmas Comfort and Joy

From the tiniest tots to the greyest grandparents, everyone looks forward to opening presents at Christmas! Our guests are no exception.

You can help make their holiday bright by donating gifts to fill their Christmas stockings. When you go shopping, please pick up some of the following items:

- Long underwear
- Wool socks
- Power banks
- Gift cards
- Notebooks/Journals
- Expandable file folders for guests to store their documents

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.





A TIME FOR FAMILY

The holidays are a joyful time for families. For two months in a row—Thanksgiving and Christmas—we get to sit down to a wonderful dinner with people we love and share good will. I know I'm looking forward to that and I'll bet you are, too.

There's not a lot of joy, though, for our brothers and sisters who are homeless, hungry and struggling to get by. Many haven't seen or spoken to their loved ones in months or even years, and the holidays just make them feel even more isolated.

That's why The Nehemiah Project treats everyone who stays with us like family. Being family is God's purpose for us, to rely on one another's strength and encouragement to get through the hurdles in life. We share God's love with them, listen to them and guide them—whatever we can do through His grace.

We have room for every man, woman and child in need at our Thanksgiving table and around our Christmas tree. There's room for you, too, if you'd like to help us celebrate. You're family, too!

Finally, remember that while the holidays promise warmth, a Michigan winter is anything but that. Your support provides a safe, warm refuge for our neighbors struggling to make it through these harsh, dangerous months ahead. Please be generous toward those in need. God bless you!



Brian Peters
Executive Director



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OUR MISSION

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

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