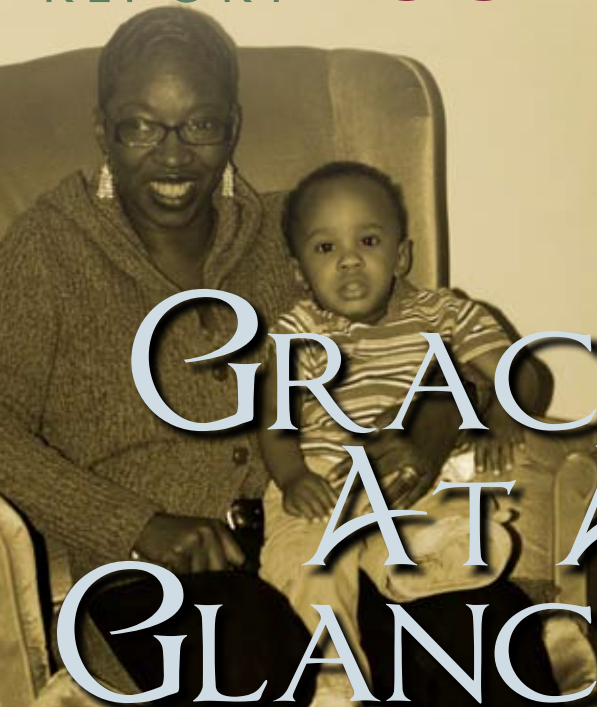




Grace  
Centers  
of Hope

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



# GRACE AT A GLANCE



[www.gracecentersofhope.org](http://www.gracecentersofhope.org)



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Saving A Life...  
 Saving The Family...  
 Saving Our Nation.



## ...People Helping People...

### A Message From Pastor Kent Clark

Dear Friend,

The vast successes and changes that you will read about in this 2007 Annual Report are in no small part due to your generosity and kindness.

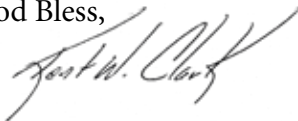
2007 was a year of enormous accomplishments and overwhelming triumphs. As you will see when you read through our Report, many lives were transformed by the love of Jesus Christ and supported through services such as the Men, Women, and Children's ministries, the Hopeful Haven Project, After Care Program, and much more. These services and the ability for us to minister to the lost are made possible through you and others like you who seek to reach out to the hopeless.

As you look upon the faces of the men, women, and children of Grace Centers of Hope and read of their victories, please know that you played a major role in their lives. Although you may have never met them personally, you are in their prayers and they are thanking God for the compassion that you have demonstrated by aiding Grace Centers of Hope's ministry.

"God is truly working wonders here at Grace Centers of Hope!"

If you haven't already, please come out and take a tour of our facilities and see first hand how your support is making a difference in the lives of our men, women, and children.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor W. Clark".

Pastor Kent Clark, CEO

Based on our 2007 Audit

Total Revenue: \$3,478,828

Total Expenses: \$3,496,443

Breakdown of Expenses:



Where does our money come from?

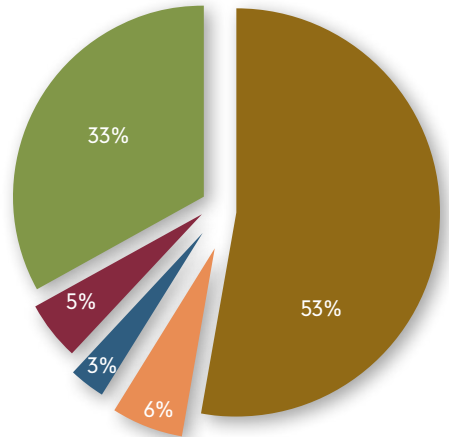
Individuals: 53%

Businesses: 6%

Foundations: 3%

Churches: 5%

Thrift Store Revenue: 33%



If donors have any questions about Grace Centers of Hope’s financial information, they may contact Grace Centers of Hope directly at 248.334.2187 and ask for Michelle Atwell, Director of Development or Kristin Khalifa, Director of Finance. Donors may also view and print a copy of our Form 990 by visiting: [www.gracecentersofhope.org/2007\\_990.pdf](http://www.gracecentersofhope.org/2007_990.pdf)

## Lisa Hughes Story

At just 23 years old, Lisa Hughes is unfortunately no stranger to the trials and tribulations that life can hold. Born into a middle class, Christian family, Lisa was blessed with a great childhood. However, during her high school years she



began to struggle with a growing problem among teens and adults alike: depression. In an effort to escape from her feelings of self hatred and disdain, Lisa began to experiment with drinking, drugs, and men. At age 19, she found herself pregnant and severely addicted to, among other drugs, OxyContin (an intense pain killer). Although clean during the course of her pregnancy, Lisa soon began to experiment with heroin and, again, found her life spiraling out of control. Her family soon intervened and convinced her to enter a rehabilitation facility. However, her stint in rehab did not offer any lasting change. Finally, after many years of an on again, off again relationship with drugs Lisa heard about Grace Centers of Hope.

Lisa has graduated from the One Year Life Skills Program and has this to say about life now. . .

“I have learned so much about myself and the world since coming to Grace Centers of Hope. I have learned how to be a good mother, daughter, and friend. My son is thriving. My relationship with God has grown. I have learned how to be thankful for what I have and, for the first time in my life, I am looking forward to the future.”

### STATS:

Despite the Women's Dorm being closed for seven months due to construction:

**8** Women enrolled in College

**17** Women graduated from the One Year Life Skills Program

**126** Women served through Emergency Shelter



As a shelter, Grace Centers of Hope has always offered a warm bed and living quarters for its destitute guests, but now, since the completion of the Hopeful Haven Project, Grace Centers also offers an inspiring and uplifting environment in which its female residents can dream. Thanks to the generosity and vision of Terry's Enchanted Cottage and other compassionate individuals and businesses, Grace Centers of Hope has completely renovated the women's dorm.

Although offering the necessities (bed, blankets, and drawers to hold the women's personal affects) the women's dorms lacked genuine warmth. In the past the dorm had been described as having "prison-like" bunk beds and a general dreariness. The dorm décor reflected the feelings of despair that encompass many of the women who seek refuge at shelters. However, in January of 2007 all of that changed.

Terry Grahl, owner of Terry's Enchanted Cottage, launched an ambitious project to give the dorms the look and feel of a spring country retreat. Says Terry, "I was determined to create a bedroom which would enable the women to awaken to a room which would remind them everyday;

'I am precious. I am worthy. I am not a victim. I have the power to stop the torch of abuse and addictions from being passed on to my children.'"

# WOMEN *helping* WOMEN

Our 9th Annual “Women Helping Women” Luncheon and Fashion Show proved to be a tremendous success! With the support of The Chrysler Foundation, our Presenting Sponsor, as well as many other generous sponsors, and over 500 attendees, Grace Centers of Hope was able to raise over \$120,000 to benefit our Women and Children Ministries!



Our annual Fashion Show supports the Women’s and Children’s Program here at Grace Centers of Hope. Our Women’s Program is the only one in Michigan where mothers and their children can stay together for a period longer than two weeks. The program provides a variety of services uniquely focused on the comprehensive needs of women and children in order to help rescue them from abusive and addictive environments.

Last years Fashion Show included professional and celebrity models strutting the runway alongside many Grace Centers of Hope women and children. All of our models donned the latest fashions offered by The Somerset Collection and Lord & Taylor of Novi. In addition, one of our One Year Life Skills Program graduates shared her testimony with the audience so that they could hear the effectiveness of the program first-hand. For the women and children in the Grace Center of Hope Women’s Program, this event proved to be a huge boost for morale and catalyst for them to turn their lives around. If you are interested in attending this phenomenal event please visit us at [www.gracecentersofhope.org/fashionshow.html](http://www.gracecentersofhope.org/fashionshow.html) for updated information.





*"The average homeless person is a 9 year old Boy"*

Former slave, Frederick Douglas once said "It is far easier to build strong children than to repair broken men".

Here at Grace Centers of Hope we are dedicated to building strong children through nurturing their minds, bodies, and souls. Minds are nourished in our state of the art learning facility in which volunteer tutors encourage and instruct them in their studies.

Bodies are strengthened through various outdoor activities and field trips. Last but surely not least, souls are renewed through the healing and peace that comes with learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The majority of the children who currently reside at Grace Centers of Hope have undergone some type of trauma before arriving. Be it from abuse, sexual assault, or abandonment these children struggle with powerful emotions and fears common in those who have suffered from severe tragedy. However, after living in the structured and loving environment of Grace Centers of Hope, many of these children begin to flourish. They achieve the rank of Honor Roll at school, form lasting friendships, and open up to the fact that Jesus loves them.

STATS:

76 Children Served

11 Mentors for Children

85% of Children on Honor Roll

For many, this is the first time they have experienced the kind of attention that demonstrates to them "I am special and someone loves me".



Among the most abused, desperate, and hurting children there is a simple desire: the freedom to play. Grace Centers of Hope recognizes that there is a fundamental need for children to escape the hardship and trials of homelessness and poverty through interacting with others their age in a safe and nurturing environment. For this reason Grace Centers of Hope launched the Grace Park & Playground Project in the spring of 2007.

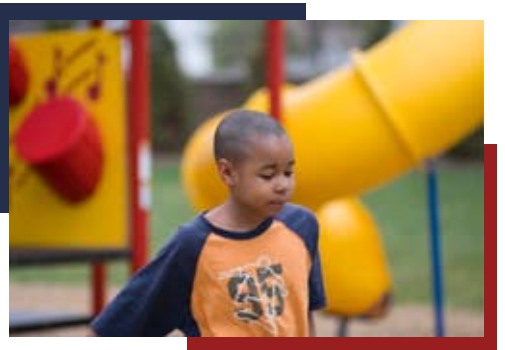
Thanks to the generosity of the DeGriek Family, many other generous donors, and more than 100 volunteers; Grace Centers of Hope was able to build a playground in the heart of Little Grace Village.

Says Jeff and Lisa DeGriek, major sponsors of the project,

“This playground will be a place where children can escape the walls of the shelter and just enjoy being a child”.

Many children of Grace Centers come from environments consisting of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. They are, unfortunately, used to dilapidated playgrounds, gang and drug ridden areas, and other harsh realities of life.

This new playground allows an escape for these children by allowing a safe, fun haven for them to imagine far off places and daring adventures. Expressing his love for the new playground, three year old Logan exclaims “It’s my castle”!



## *Joe Atwell* - Men's Program Director

As Joe will plainly tell you, happiness can not be based on material possessions. Blessed with a wonderful family, a gorgeous home, and a great job one would think that Joe was living the American dream. Instead, he was spiraling down a horrible nightmare of drug, alcohol, and narcotic abuse that nearly cost him his life and his family.

All of that changed with one phone call from his wife's boss, Pastor Kent Clark, CEO of Grace Centers of Hope. Pastor lovingly but sternly told Joe "You will never get sober unless you surrender to Jesus Christ". A few days later Joe entered the One Year Life Skills Program.



Joe, Michelle and Grace

Three years later, Joe now serves at Grace Centers of Hope with his wife, Michelle. Michelle is the Director of Development and Joe is a Men's Program Manager and sits on the Board of Directors. He is also seeking a Master's Degree from Reformed Theological Seminary.

### STATS:

**3** Men enrolled in College

**26** Men graduated from the One Year Life Skills Program

**767** Men received Emergency Shelter

Reunited with his wife and daughter, Joe humbly and gratefully praises the Lord stating

"God draws us in at our darkest hour and pulls us out of our madness. He is faithful and His grace truly is amazing".

Amen.

## *Community Is Key!*

Once graduated, the risk of relapse is always a possibility. For many, this may be the first time they will be on their own. The adjustment can be shocking and overwhelming, which undoubtedly increases their desire to resort to old habits that might offer a false sense of security. For this reason, Grace Centers of Hope began the After Care Program in order to ease the transition from a life inside the shelter to an environment similar to what they will face outside the mission walls.

The After Care Program allows graduates to remain connected to a healthy Christian community through continuation of counseling, tutoring, bible study, and low income housing.

Low income housing has been made available through the creation of **Little Grace Village**. Seneca Street, once a major location for prostitution and drugs, has now been transformed into a beautiful and safe housing community that is home to 90 Grace Centers of Hope graduates. Through the generosity of corporations, volunteers, and numerous supporters of the mission, Grace Centers of Hope has been able to purchase and completely refurbish **nine** homes on Seneca Street.

### STATS:

**90** Individuals/Families were served

**2** Homes renovated (70 & 74 Seneca St.)

**1** Grace Park and Playground was Built

**2400** Volunteers in Little Grace Village



64 Seneca "The Bird House"



69 Seneca



63 Seneca "Gracie House"



70 Seneca "Eugene Clark Memorial"



74 Seneca



79 Seneca



# Helping Hands

875 The Number of Volunteers Per Month  
10,500 The Average Number Volunteers Per Year

## Individual Volunteers:

John Wesley once stated “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can”. Bob Quiqley is a paradigm of this very quote.



Always seeking ways to serve, Mr. Quiqley, generously volunteers his time, money, and efforts to Grace Centers of Hope. In addition to running his own business, Bob volunteers in the kitchen every Tuesday out of the week. He relates well with the residents no doubt in part to his humble demeanor. Marilyn, Grace Centers of Hope’s Volunteer Director, states “Bob is so friendly. The residents love him because they can tell that he truly cares”. Bob is the type of guy who sees a need and then fills it. A quiet champion, Bob is not only a volunteer but also a part of the Grace family.

## Corporate Volunteer:



BorgWarner, located in Auburn Hills, MI, has proven time and again their dedication and faithfulness to Grace Centers of Hope. A true Champion for the downtrodden, BorgWarner has donated generously their time, resources, and efforts especially in regards to Seneca Street and our Little Grace Village housing community. In an effort to unite their employees and families with those of Grace Centers of Hope, BorgWarner has encouraged their staff



to make personal contributions of clothing, toys, food, furniture, household goods, or any other items that might be needed by the Center. Over the course of the year, and in addition to its other donations, BorgWarner and its employees have presented FOUR full size trailers filled to the brim with an array of gifts to Grace Centers of Hope! Their personal as well as corporate involvement in reaching out to the hurting is a shining example of the good that can be had when corporations, individuals, and nonprofit organizations partner together to address the needs of the lost.

## Grace Centers of Hope Education Center

In recent years, there have been many changes made to the state codes governing child care agencies. As a result, the state demanded that Grace Centers of Hope deny child care services to graduates of our One Year Life Skills Program who reside in our affordable housing community, Little Grace Village. As Grace Centers of Hope attempts to meet the new standards set forth by the state in obtaining its day care license, 25 children who once participated in our Christian child-care center are prohibited from taking part in any programs or services offered at the mission unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. The families who received child care services free of charge are now forced to apply for state-aid in order that they might send their children to a different day care. Unfortunately, these facilities do not offer the Christian values or quality of care that Grace Centers of Hope provided.

The Grace Centers of Hope Children's Director, Amber Weiss, reports that the change in the children's environment has had devastating consequences. For instance, one little girl who had finally become comfortable and safe at Grace Centers of Hope was pulled away from her familiar environment and forced to enter a different facility. The new environment proved to be too much for her and she began to act out in various ways. Upon seeing Mrs. Weiss, the little girl ran up to her and cried out ***"I promise I'll be good if I can come back!"*** This little girl had thought that it was her fault that she was "sent away" from the mission. This heartbreaking story is just one of the reasons why it is so necessary to quickly begin construction on this new Children's Education Center.

Our vision for the coming year is to launch a Capital Campaign to build a new, state-of-the-art Education Center. This new facility would meet the state's mandate requiring day care licensing and serve the needs of low income or no income families located in downtown Pontiac.

The expected construction date is planned for the start of 2009.

Please help us to allow for the return of our little ones to Grace Centers of Hope where they can grow in the love of Jesus Christ and be nurtured by friends and family. For more information on how you can aide in the funding of our new Child Education Center please contact the Director of Development, Michelle Atwell, at 248-334-2187 ext. 35 or at [atwellm@gracecentersofhope.org](mailto:atwellm@gracecentersofhope.org).

# LOOKING FORWARD

## MEN ON A MISSION: Visionary Report

For men in the throes of addiction and homelessness, hope for a new life is often an unattainable dream and met with one defeating challenge after another. The many men who enter the Grace Center of Hope's One Year Life Skills Program have many trials and deep rooted fears that they are encouraged to confront. They are often alone and have severed ties with most (or all) of their family members and friends. The feelings of isolation can, at times, be overwhelming.

For this reason, Grace Centers of Hope has envisioned a new Program, which will be implemented in 2008, designed specifically for the new male residents entering the One Year Life Skills Program. The new "Men on a Mission" Mentoring Program will partner graduates of our One Year Program with residents who are new on their journey of recovery. These mentors, who have walked the same paths as their "mentees", will help guide these lost souls through the most difficult parts of the One Year Program.

In return for their help, the mentors will be provided funding in order to pursue a college education or vocational training. These mentors have found that, once graduated, they are still faced with the reality of lower paying salaries due to a lack of education. Therefore, in an effort to increase their quality of living, the "Men on a Mission" Mentoring Program will help provide books, transportation, school supplies, and college or vocational training. Eagerly anticipating the new Program, Pastor Kent Clark states "We hope to see that dreams that were once long buried and thought to be unattainable will resurface, spreading excitement for a new and brighter future".

## ARTICLE: HEATING & COOLING

The summer of 2007 proved to be one of startling surprises. It began with the annual state inspection of Grace Center's boiler system. Everything was status quo until the boilers, which were actively being tested, blew up. Unfortunately, the cost of replacing the system would involve hundreds of thousands of dollars. To make matters worse, fall was fast approaching and winter would be, literally, at our door step.

God, always the provider and always faithful, would meet Grace Center of Hope's needs quite unexpectedly. While the boiler system was in the midst of being tested, Pastor Clark was giving a tour to an attorney who represented an anonymous foundation. The attorney spoke to Pastor Clark in regards to the heating system and immediately reported back to the foundation the particulars of the situation.

Not long after, Pastor Clark received word that this anonymous foundation would provide \$120,000 for the purchase and installation of a brand new boiler system! Work will be complete in 2008.



### **Our Board of Directors:**

Joe Atwell  
Kimberly L. Burton  
Kent W. Clark, Member at Large  
Robert E. Donohue, Jr., President  
Greg Guidice  
Jim Novell  
J. Paul Wagner  
Darin Weiss  
Rich Yeakey

### **Our Mission Statement:**

Grace Centers of Hope is a non-profit, Christian organization committed to positively changing the lives of the homeless, addicted, and unwanted through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, personal accountability, life skills education, and work-related programs. The foundation of change is the local church which encourages residents to become strong in faith and independence while it lovingly promotes a sense of belonging within a community that truly can be called "home".

### **Values:**

- Restoring Lives & Families
- The Gospel
- Time, Talent, and Treasure Partners
- Creating Community
- Integrity



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Please Contact Us If You  
Would Like Information

About:

- Scheduling a Tour
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Planned Giving Opportunities
- Special Events
- GCH Information
- Rescued Treasures Thrift Stores

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