

DNA. These are not attributes of our key leaders, but rather markers in our organization's DNA. They will long out last anyone's tenure here and keep us grounded in a culture reflecting the ways our Farmer God prunes, nourishes and grows us all. We disrupt when needed, we return authority, and we always look for "the other" and love them.

To do so comes with a cost — emotional, spiritual and physical for sure but also financial. We want to continue providing the best staff for our members, the best facility and the best opportunity to be obedient. To do so we need you.



AS WE END ANOTHER YEAR, WOULD YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR BEST GIFT TO HOPE STREET? IT IS YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS THAT ARE WOVEN INTO OUR DNA. THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING TO CONTINUE ON THE JOURNEY WITH US.

Obediently on the move,

ASHLEY THOMAS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hope Street Staff



WHAT MAKES UNIQUENESS IDENTIFIABLE AT HOPE STREET IS OUR DNA

HOPE STREET **DNA** =



DISRUPTION

In order to innovate you must be willing to do more than tweak and make adjustments. We blew up our old model when we saw the need for families to heal from brokenness in a community of broken families.



WE ARE A NO "NEED TO" ZONE

We are not directive, we listen to our members' concerns and give them options to assist them in making good choices. We believe they have the best answers and our job is to ask enough questions so that we can find the answers together.



AMALGAMATION

White, Black, Rich, Poor, Men, Women, Rural, Suburban, Ghetto, Hipster, Hillbilly. We don't believe we are going to flourish unless we look for the "other" and love them.

DISRUPTION



Innovation requires thick skin. Throughout the years Hope Street has learned that time and time again. It started with seeing the need for families to heal from brokenness - even when we were told not to. In other, tangible ways we needed to disrupt the “norm” for transitional living. We don’t just provide space that is “good enough” but the best it can possibly be, tough when you continually are forced to look at the bottom line. We aren’t a program that cranks out statistical data, we don’t have a long list of do’s and don’t’s; instead we build a nurturing culture, we choose to return authority in people’s lives (turns out we aren’t the greatest authority anyway), and we simply show up each day. We are present and willing to be inconvenienced. Disruption is not a foreign obstacle, but a welcomed neighbor that we are willing to engage. Disruption and innovation are what make Hope Street unique.

So we welcome the questions, concerns and eyebrow raises. We want feedback, we want to be better, to

love better, to be more obedient. Every once in awhile I get a glimpse into how basketball prepared me to lead Hope Street in this season. I am used to being critiqued and trained. I am used to spending countless hours outside of “practice” to reach goals (individual and collective). I am used to not allowing the mundane of the every day to cloud the bigger picture. I dream, I do my part, I dream some more and then I enter in and take advantage of opportunities. Instead of seeking after a championship, myself and the team of people beside me have chosen to chase obedience. Even when it doesn’t seem to make sense. The cost is too great to do otherwise.

So we find ourselves at another crossroads. We want to continue investing in our members long after they have been transplanted back into the community. We want to provide an on ramp for members to be integrated back into the community alongside fellow community members. This won’t be easy, it will be messy, we will have to make adjustments. However, if there is one thing our history has proved, we are willing and able to make the necessary adjustments at the right time, in the right ways because obedience demands this.

“In the end, what needs to get disrupted will find its disruption in our solidarity and in our intimate kinship with the outcast - who too infrequently know the peace of a white dove resting on a shoulder”
- Father Greg Boyle

ASHLEY THOMAS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

drugs, alcohol, an abuser, prison, jail, treatment, a PO, mental health. For years those authority “figures” have told them what they need to do. Hope Street is a No Need To Zone. Return.

One of the most important things that I have learned while being at Hope Street is to listen. Our members desire with desire for someone to listen to them. Quietly. Straight listening. Don’t think about you. Don’t think about giving advice. Listen. Time and time and time again. When I am listening and drinking my coffee at 9a, they talk, I nod, I utter “hummm”, and eventually they figure out on their own what they “need to do”. Return.

The concept of return of authority is a tricky one to grasp. We are so accustomed to saying phrases like Rhonda’s and Linda’s. For the most part we tell our kids what they need to do. We give our friends sound advice in the form of what they need to do. We shout at the TV, Facebook, and Instagram telling people

what they need to do. When did we become the authority? Who gave us authority over the lives of others? Return.

Everything we do at Hope Street is viewed through the lens of Greenhouse for People. Am I creating a safe place where members can live, learn, and develop? Am I pointing back to the big picture, the bigger story the one where God is the main character, where God heals, God transforms, where God redeems, and where GOD is the authority? Am I returning authority or am I trying to be the authority? Yeah, some days I am like Rhonda and Linda. I echo (in my mind and occasionally to fellow staff) the same phrases, “What she needs to do is (X) why can’t she see that?! What he needs to learn is...” The beauty in all of this is our members have authority and have always had authority. They just don’t see it, yet. No Need To Zone. Return.

RACHAEL STRICKER - MINISTRY DIRECTOR

AMALGAMATION

“He replied to them, ‘Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?’”

Our differences are obvious, aren’t they? I mean, they are right there, out in the open for everyone to see - race, sex, the way we dress (or can afford to), how we speak, the things we talk about, the people we spend time with. Look around a room of your closest friends, and you might start to notice something: homogeneity, sameness, and commonality. We tend to be drawn to those who look like us, were raised like us, believe like us, and like the same things as us. In and of itself this is not a bad thing, only, what about the others? How do we react to the tensions of difference?

Fifty years ago - 1967 - we saw a confrontation between “others” as Vel Phillips and Father Groppi led protest marches through Milwaukee’s streets for 200 nights in search of fair housing, for the desegregation of a city with racial lines determining who lived where. Fifty years later, and we still live this tension. Yes, the borders were admonished, but new ones, unwritten and unspoken ones were redrawn; because the truth is, no matter how “fair” we make things a rule never changed the heart.

Amalgamation is the key to breaking down these borders within the heart. It is born through proximity, by doing life together; black, white, rich, poor, man, woman, or child, suburban, urban, ghetto, hipster, or



hillbilly - we can see these external markers of tribe in a glance, and it is easy to say, “No thanks, not my crew.” But let me ask again: Who is my brother? My sister? My friends? My family?

Inside of Hope Street I find the answer to these questions expanding rapidly, and these singular images of other based on skin, age, or economies fades as I see the reality of God’s image being bigger, encompassing more than my small-mindedness could ever hope to grasp. In this Greenhouse for People I see my family for more than the tribe I was born into, my friends for more than shared interests, and my community for more than those that look like me, because each resides within these walls and beyond. In the process I, too, see my Father for more than I can imagine Him to be, because I see Him reflected in new and different ways through those who are different, but bear that same image.

BRIAN COOPER - ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NO NEED TO ZONE

I know it is going to be a busy day when a member opens the door for me. All...”Hey Ms. Rachael!” or when I walk into Apt 7, coat on, bag in hand, pour a cup of coffee and hear “Ms. Rachael, I need to talk to you.” 8:50a. While I sip my hot coffee, Rhonda shares the struggles she is having with her adult child. Phrases like, “She needs to... If only she would just.. I’ve told her to.. When is she going to...” Linda also shares the same struggles with her adult daughter, “She needs to see... She needs to learn how to...” Rhonda? Linda? Who told you what you “need to do”? How did you respond? (insert shoulder shrug) You might be right Ms. Rachael. Return.

Our members are clearly aware of how their choices have negatively affected their lives. They live with the emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual consequences every day. Most of their lives have been lived under the authority of someone or something;

