

MOHMS Place



Pastor Harry Wahler from Messengers of Hope Ministry (MOHMs) spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 20. He started feeding the homeless 17 years ago and they have not missed a meal feeding the hungry during that time. He started in a bus with a kitchen, then moved under the viaduct in Council Bluffs for 10 years, before moving to the new location three years ago. The new address is 1435 North 15th Street in Council Bluffs.

MOHMS Place is the only men's shelter in Southwest Iowa. They serve 6000 meals a month, including serving 1000 children, 650 women, and 350 family units. They serve more near-homeless than homeless, where near-homeless people have a job but not enough money for both food and housing.

MOHMS serves everyone who comes. They seat people, then take the food to them at the table. They serve 20,000 pounds of food each month.

MOHMS now has a full medical clinic to treat many of the medical conditions homeless people suffer from. It is staffed by nursing students and Visiting Nurses. They work closely with law enforcement and a variety of agencies.

The Joshua House on the New Visions campus is a men's shelter attached to MOHMS. It is a 62 bed shelter, but they sleep about 85 homeless each night. Everyone staying there is expected to help with volunteer work. The Joshua House is staffed 24 hours a day. They have rigid rules, including showering before sleeping in a bed. Check in is 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and those staying cannot leave for the night after check in. The beds all have homemade quilts on them.

The Timothy House is a 26 bed transitional unit. It is for single men and women. It is an 18-24 month Transitional Living Program with the sole purpose of helping people get back on their feet and become productive citizens again. The goal is to help them become completely self sufficient before they leave and includes individual bedrooms. The Timothy House has programming each week that consists of small groups, therapy, Alcoholics Anonymous, Overcomer's Group, to name a few.

Pastor Wahler is involved in New Visions of Omaha at 1417 N. 18th Street in Omaha. It will be a \$6 million, two-building complex. One building will have 26 transitional housing apartments for homeless veterans. The other will have 14 apartments for homeless individuals.

MOHMs place is funded one third by grants, one third by donations, and one third by businesses they own. They receive enough food through donations, but their main challenge is operating costs. They have seven paid staff and utilize another eleven from Senior Aid. They also use about 3000 volunteer hours each month. For more information, see their website, www.mohmsplace.org.