

Keeping hope alive at . . .

# THE NEW HOPE CENTER

It's often easy to find excuses and ways to explain away our personal failures. I know because I used to find new ways to fail on a daily basis, rather than face the reality of success.

Success doesn't come without responsibilities, hard work and commitment. Many people just want life to be parties and festivals, and want everything handed to them on a silver platter. They want to live the dream, but it's really a nightmare. Reality comes as a slap in the face.

I came to The Salvation Army New Hope Center because I needed help, but for a long time, my pride kept me looking for temporary fixes. Who would listen to me? Why would they care? They're just one of those places that thinks they know what life is like for me. What difference would it make to them if another low-life fell through the cracks of society?

Well I would like to apologize for ever thinking that about The Salvation Army. Inside the walls of The New Hope Center are people who really do care about the homeless and want to help the forgotten.

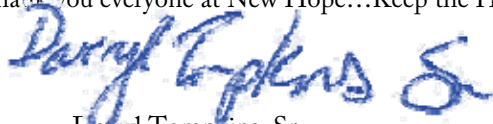
My negative outlook almost cost me a positive outcome. I had come to a raging river with no way to cross to the other side, and was about to drown trying to swim across on my own. But New Hope gave me a bridge and helped me cross it.

The New Hope Staff proved themselves to be lifesavers. They want to help through positive fellowship and broke through my "you owe me!" attitude.

I am one of their success stories because they provided me with gentle yet firm direction. They refused to let me follow the path of self-destruction and kept me focused on the positive things.

Life is loaded with adverse conditions and potholes filled with grief, and in the end, we are the sum total of choices we make. Today I am a success story and love the responsibilities that come with it.

Thank you everyone at New Hope...Keep the Hope Alive!



Larry Tompkins, Sr.  
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DOING  
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GOOD<sup>SM</sup>