

## Hope Street cont...

There was much anticipation leading up to the grand opening in August of 2022. We watched our vision come to life. We celebrated with those who helped make it happen. And now, we welcome hundreds of men, women, and children each week into our new space. The building had been the focus of the hype over the last decade. Now, we celebrate new names, stories, dreams, and accomplishments of the people who frequent our space. The building was the means to an end, and our end has always been creating a safe space for people to be in community together-the beginning for so many!

In our first months of being open, being HERE has looked like:

**Monthly events with our District Police.** So far we have gone bowling, made gingerbread houses, played basketball and more. This is an important relationship for our community to foster.

**After-school programming.** It is important for us to be a place where kids know they are expected, welcomed, and supported. Whether it's homework, a snack, a fun activity, or someone to talk to - after school programming has been a consistent space for our community to gather.

**Created to Create.** A time set aside for arts and crafts. We have enjoyed watching our community try new things, hone in on skill sets, and show off their work. You don't have to be an expert to enjoy this creative space.

**New partnerships.** This space has empowered us to work alongside other great organizations. We have been able to provide hip hop class from Above the Clouds, exercise classes from Milwaukee Rec, community resources through DWD, and a place for basketball practice for Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy. These are just a few of the ways we have been able to better support our community.

One of our kiddos recently said it best, "I came to play basketball, but I have found a group of people that truly cares about how I am doing. I have made new friends here, but more than that I know I can always come here to escape the drama that is too easy to become a part of."

Shechem is more than a building, but because of that building, men, women, and children have a safe environment to begin to explore how life can look different. Not just for themselves, but for the greater community as a whole.

Now that Shechem is HERE, there are lots of ways you can continue to make an 'impact' as we faithfully invest in our community through programming, events, and simply showing up. Our website ([www.hopestreetministry.org](http://www.hopestreetministry.org)) is always a great place to start whether you are looking to volunteer, attend an event, or read the latest update. Beyond that, you now know about our ministry, and our 'ask' is that you share our story with someone new. Awareness is huge - and good stories coming out of Milwaukee are needed.

Thank you Impact100 Greater Milwaukee for helping our dream come true, thank you for providing a safe space where men, women and children can grow and thrive.