

https://www.beloitdailynews.com/uncategorized/hands-of-faith-is-home-to-new-van-thanks-to-donors/article_25df8157-5ff4-57bd-86ec-b48b284f4c0b.html

Hands of Faith is home to new van thanks to donors

Hillary Gavan
Jan 17, 2017



Hillary Gavan/Beloit Daily News Hands of Faith Board of Directors President Beth Giebe and Executive Director Jeff Hoyt stand by Hands of Faith's new van. The van was obtained thanks to donations from individuals and corporate donors.

BELOIT — Hands of Faith is home to a new van. The 2016 Chevrolet Express 15-seater arrived on Jan. 7 thanks to \$25,000 in donations from generous community members and corporate donors.



“We had significant individual donations as well as corporate donations. They all came together to make it a reality. It was a community-wide effort. I’m really proud of everyone who took part in it,” said Executive Director Jeff Hoyt.

The van can bring guests to and from Hands of Faith’s daytime shelter to its overnight host sites. Hands of Faith is a 14-bed emergency shelter for homeless families. Eleven churches rotate as host congregations and a similar number of churches provide additional volunteers and contributions.

With the previous van being a 2001 Dodge, it was time for an upgrade to ensure reliability for those in need.

“It’s part of the fabric of how we deliver services,” Hoyt said.

Hoyt said the fundraising drive began with the organization seeking individual contributions through area church congregations and from previous donors. Soon, corporate donors also stepped up to help with donations.

The biggest contributor was the Hendricks Family Foundation. There were also significant contributions from the Ecolab Foundation and the Regal Beloit Charitable Foundation.

“We couldn’t have done it without the support of individuals and corporate sponsors,” said Board President Beth Gliebe.

Hoyt noted Bud Weiser Motors worked to help keep the sale process smooth.

He explained how those needing shelter can stay 30 to 60 days at Hands of Faith.

“It's all possible because of the adoption of this mission by area churches. The faith community in Beloit makes this a reality for people who are who are homeless. We are thankful and grateful for their participation and support,” Hoyt said.

In 2016, Hands of Faith had 25 families and 94 individuals in its care. The numbers were slightly up from 2015, although the amount of people using the shelter has stayed somewhat steady over the years.

In addition to temporary shelter, Hoyt said Hands of Faith gives clients the opportunity to make positive changes in their lives. The volunteers often serve as mentors to the guests and loving supporters to their children staying at the shelter.

“The children are surrounded by people who have open arms and are willing to spend time with them, care for them and give their parents a bit of respite,” Hoyt said.