



Living Sober: A Christ-Centered Solution

Over the last couple of years, the crisis of those experiencing homelessness in Wausau is drawing the attention of government leaders and the general community. As the numbers have grown, so has concern for public safety as well as how to help those in need. Last season, the local warming shelter operated by Catholic Charities saw 150 unduplicated individuals stay with them. A point in time count in the summer of 2019 documented 30 chronically homeless on the streets. These numbers do not include those who are “couch surfing” or residing in programs like ours or the Salvation Army’s. They have also likely grown over the last 6 months.



According to the homeless task force, being led by the United Way of Marathon County, untreated addiction and mental health issues are one of the key issues in addressing chronic homelessness. Another is the need for mentors and case managers to become involved in the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

Bridge Street Mission is positioned to address those specific issues through its Sober Living Center. Sober living is a safeguard against chronic homelessness. At the Sober Living Center, we provide the support, accountability and skills needed to live a sober, stable and productive life. Over 30 men are being encouraged, challenged, mentored and assisted by a caring team of staff and volunteers. As a Christian discipleship program, they are receiving more than just our help—they are being introduced to a relationship with God that will transform their lives from the inside out!

Our desire is to do more. We are close to implementing a 30– day program that will serve as an introduction to our extended stay programs, opening the door to reach more of those in need. We are seeking scholarships and 3rd party partnerships to make the program more affordable. We are in the beginnings of formulating a more comprehensive program that will address vocational, emotional, relational and educational needs as well as the practical and spiritual.

What a privilege it is to be addressing the needs of the community while at the same time seeing God transform individual lives!

Craig Vincent

Craig Vincent / Executive Director

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:18

Five Foundational Agreements at the Sober Living Center

1. **I agree to live sober and free from drugs and alcohol**
2. **I agree to live clean in my personal hygiene, private room and common areas**
3. **I agree to honor my peers with respect and dignity**
4. **I agree to be a reasonably active member of Bridge Street Mission**
5. **I agree to honor the Christian-based policy**

“I’m so grateful for my room at the Sober Living Center. It makes me feel like a human being again. I am finding out as I get to know people, I can get along with them. I want to learn to walk with Christ,”



Visit us at www.bridgestreetmission.org to like and share us on your favorite platforms!

Please make plans to join us on the following dates...



⇒ **Saturday, January 23, 2021: Urban Street Project Open House**

The completed house at 2106 Meadow Brook Way as well as the Outreach Center (115 W Bridge St.) and Sober Living Center (1140 W. Bridge St.) will be open for tours.

⇒ **Thursday, February 23, 2021: Faces of Hope Fundraising Banquet**

Join us from 6:00—8:00 PM at Rothschild Pavilion for great food and coffee to learn more about Bridge Street Mission



Friend of the Mission Individual and Group Projects

- * Set Up Rooms for 30 Day Program
- * Social Media Sales

Church Partner Volunteers

- * Cook or Provide Meals
- * Donation Sorter
- * Donation Pick Up Driver

Volunteer Staff

- * Facility Management Instructor
- * Housekeeping Instructor
- * 30 day Program Intake



Bridge Street Mission is in need of...

- ◆ **Large commercial locking freezer (\$6,000)**
- ◆ **VoIP Phone system (\$800)**
- ◆ **Thermal Remediation System (\$4,000)**

*Donate physical item or money toward purchase

What are the holidays without food? Shout out to those who provided special holiday meals for both Food Together and the Sober Living Center.

- * Heath Tappe Family
- * Homestead Catering
- * American Family Insurance and The Mint



We are grateful for how the Wausau community gives to those we serve. A couple recent examples include Thrivent Financial Impact Advisors



who provided a chili lunch and Peyton's Promise who stocked us up with staples needed from Lamb's Fresh Market. Both these generous gifts impact those experiencing hunger and come for Food Together at our Outreach Center.

Christ-Centered Solutions for Central Wisconsin