



**Mission**—HOPE provides safe and judgement-free shelter, innovative programs and public advocacy to end homelessness.  
**Vision**—HOPE envisions a community where all have the opportunity to move from homelessness to safe housing, gain access to resources and develop the skills to enhance their quality of life.

## HOPE Shelter Dates:

February 11, 13, 25, 27 and March 11, 13, 25, 27

HOPE, Inc. was founded in 1998 as a community response to a homeless person freezing to death in downtown Pontiac. HOPE now serves Oakland County's homeless population through two distinct yet complementary programs: the Adult Shelter Program and the Recuperative Care Center (for homeless individuals just released from the hospital who still need follow-up medical care).

HOPE provides safe and judgment-free shelter, innovative programs, and public advocacy to end homelessness. HOPE is committed to helping each guest overcome homelessness—providing temporary shelter, food, and toiletries; as well as mental health case management and onsite housing counseling.

Since covid began, the shelter guests have been staying in the shelter day and night—and record numbers have found permanent housing! Plexi walls were installed to separate sleeping quarters, and the guests began eating in shifts. There have been no covid cases in the shelter since the pandemic began!

There are currently about 45 guests in the main shelter, ten in the Recuperative Care Center, and 25 in the 'overflow.' Guests who have jobs or need to quarantine before entering the shelter stay in the 'overflow'—which is an area motel—just like the SOS families we served. This year, we will not be able to interact with guests on-site, but will prepare and package 80 meals here at St. Irenaeus, then drop them off at the shelters and motel.

**Sign-ups for February dates begin this week! Visit: [www.stirenaeus.org/serve](http://www.stirenaeus.org/serve)**

You may sign up online to [donate food](#) or [volunteer your time](#) ... or call HOPE Team member Denise Armstrong at (248-651-9595, ext 803). Watch for March sign-ups at the end of February.

General questions? Contact Colleen Steyer at 248-651-9595, ext 415.

### How can you help?

- Sign up to donate food, paper products or other needed items. Keep checking back as items will continue to be added!
- Prepare dessert on a Thursday in our parish kitchen from 10:00 am -12:00 pm.
- Prepare dinner in our Parish Hall and kitchen from 2:30 pm -4:30 pm.
- Roll silverware and package meals in individual containers from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm.
- Meet in our St. Irenaeus parking lot at 4:45 pm to transport food and drop meals curbside at the HOPE Shelter, Recuperative Care Center or local motel.

### Why do we help?

"A basic moral test of society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation."

—Catholic Social Teaching

"Effective witness to Jesus has these attractive qualities: joy, hospitality and generous service to the poor and marginalized."

—Unleash the Gospel

"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

—Jesus

