



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Ebenezer Stone Ministries and God Touch Milwaukee have a long and meaningful history together, both serving the south side of Milwaukee with passion and dedication. Our missions align closely as we strive to transform lives and build strong communities through faith, stability, and resources. Our commitment to delivering exceptional service quality has been the driving force behind our decision to merge. By joining forces, we can make an even more significant impact and expand our footprint within the community, which is at the heart of everything we do.

*What exactly do we do?*

Ebenezer Stone Ministries (ESM) has been a community ministry located in the inner city of Milwaukee, specifically serving the 35<sup>th</sup> and Scott area, as well as operating a warehouse at 12<sup>th</sup> and Bruce. The warehouse operation has enabled a greatly increased supply of fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, and eggs. ESM has been committed to creating sustainable change by offering ongoing support, respect, and hope in Christ. The comprehensive programming of ESM includes life skills training, job readiness initiatives, and the provision of food and household items to meet the basic needs of under-resourced families and individuals within Milwaukee.

God Touch Milwaukee (GTM) has been a transformative residential program dedicated to empowering men in challenging circumstances (incarceration, addiction, etc.). Through a faith-based recovery approach, GTM has provided a safe and sober living environment, emphasizing accountability, responsibility, and personal growth.

As one merged entity the combined programs and services will operate as a single organization, Ebenezer Stone Ministries. The name "Ebenezer" carries a profound meaning, representing a "stone of help" and a strong foundation. Like a solid stone that provides stability and support, we aspire to be pillars of strength in our community. As Matthew 25:40 reminds us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". This verse reinforces our divine calling to serve those in need, acknowledging that every act of kindness and support is a testament to our faith and love for Christ, just as He loves us. As we embark on this new chapter, we are filled with enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose.

Under this merged entity, a new mission statement has been adopted that embodies the core values of our combined organizations:

**"Ebenezer Stone Ministries believes faith in Christ is the cornerstone for renewing, restoring, and transforming individuals and families through stability, resources, and building strong communities."**

With this renewed focus and mission, we are inspired to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Programming will be based out of three Community Centers, with a focus on pillars based in Food Pantries, Warehouse, and Housing. These centers will provide comprehensive service models that include classes, community investments, and case managers to connect individuals with other needed resources.

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If you have previously volunteered or financially supported either organization, thank you! Rest assured that each of the sites in which you have invested will continue to provide the same essential resources as were provided before, along with some new additions.

One of the exciting developments resulting from this merger is the opening of a women's home, aimed at providing support to individuals in various stages of recovery and/or those who have experienced incarceration. This much-anticipated facility is on track to open in early August of 2023, and will provide a safe and supportive environment for women in need.

An additional development of note is the restructuring of leadership roles within the organization. Michael Haas will serve as the Executive Director, bringing his expertise, drive, and vision to guide us forward. Nick Hackbarth will take on the role of Operations Director, focusing on our housing services, leveraging his skills to ensure the smooth functioning of our programs and services.

We also want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Craig Thacker, the Board President of Ebenezer Stone Ministries, and Jim Witkowiak, former Board President of God Touch Milwaukee, along with the board members of both organizations. Their exceptional dedication and guidance have been instrumental in this journey. We are delighted to announce that Craig Thacker will continue serving as the Board President of the merged organization, providing his valuable experience and steadfast commitment to our shared mission.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone and the countless lives that will be positively impacted. We have several expectations and plans in store for the coming months. We will continue to send quarterly newsletters to keep you updated on our progress and the impact we are making together. Additionally, our Fall event will feature Jonathan Evans (son of Tony Evans), and current chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys. This event will not only serve as a platform to celebrate our merger but also as a means to strengthen unity within our organizations and the wider community.

Thank you for your unwavering support during this transition period, and for your belief in our mission. Your continued generosity and involvement are crucial to our success. We are excited to journey together, transforming lives and building a brighter future for our community.

With sincere gratitude,

*Michael Haas*  
Executive Director  
Ebenezer Stone Ministries

*Nick Hackbarth*  
Operations Director  
Ebenezer Stone Ministries



**Donate Online**

To stay updated on our progress and find opportunities to volunteer or contribute, please visit our website at [www.ebenezerstoneministries.org](http://www.ebenezerstoneministries.org).

**Ebenezer Stone Ministries - 2023 Board of Directors**

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