

# Fall/Winter 2019

## THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



As the director of Hope4Healing, it is always an encouragement to hear success stories like this one. I am humbled that God uses our ministry to help those who are hurting, and that we continue to make a difference in people's lives. It is my hope and prayer that we will all become more caring, compassionate, and willing to help those in need. Ryan

"Have you ever looked into the eyes of a hurting child to see true heartbreak, fear, hurt, and anger? What started out as a normal day of work as a part-time daycare worker,



turned out to be a life-changing experience for myself. As I entered the daycare, I heard a new child ("Drew"), sobbing uncontrollably. "Drew" grabbed my leg and would not let go

even when I tried to calm him talking about animals, and colors, so out of desperation I grabbed the bottle of "magic" bubbles, and blew bubbles in the air. 4-year old "Drew" smiled, the tears dried up, and I had made a new friend, that followed me everywhere.

The daycare staff as a whole struggled to care for "Drew", as he was constantly in tears, exhibited fear when transitioning activities (changing classrooms, lunchtime, playtime, naptime, etc). "Drew" also had difficulty sharing toys, and taking turns on the playground. It was very clear that this child had undergone trauma in his past, as we would later find out that hurt, anger, confusion, were understandably part of the puzzle.



*by Ryan Keller, Executive Director  
Hope4Healing Resource Assistance Network*

One evening as I closed the center, "Drew" was the last child there and his mother "Mary" came to pick him up. I was hoping to meet her as "Drew" was upset that his only pair of shoes (cheap flip-flops) had broken on the playground that afternoon. "Mary" cried and shook her head and began to share her story with me. She had recently escaped from a terrible domestic violence situation, leaving only with "Drew". Without a highschool diploma/GED, she had been unable to find a job and had been homeless. She had moved to a new town and found a job as a waitress, and things were looking up, but after leaving the domestic situation, she found out that she was pregnant, and didn't know how she could handle taking care of two children. "Mary" was out of options, she needed food for the weekend, and now a new pair of shoes for her son. So remembering the Hope4Healing cards in our daycare hallway, I gave her one and "Mary" called right away.

Hope4Healing helped "Drew" and "Mary" with their difficult situation, and the transformation that followed was amazing. Hope4Healing found the physical resources they needed (food, clothing, shoes, toys, books, better affordable housing), but they didn't stop there, as they also helped her find a support system of encouragement in the community-- a local church that also had a single mom's program. Slowly, Mary began to see a way out and a path forward, and although not perfect, their situation improved, and with counseling so did "Drew's" behavior.

Hope4Healing truly lived up to their name, and I saw first-hand how "Drew and Mary's" lives were changed." Glimpsing life through the eyes of this hurting child, was a life-changing "aha" moment for me because after this

experience; I realized that I wanted to do more, so I began volunteering to take phone calls for Hope4Healing. Hope4Healing regularly helps many people throughout Iowa, with all sorts of requests, but just like "Mary and Drew", there are many single moms

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