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#### Letter of Interest

Thank you for reviewing Calvary Chapel Belfast's proposal for the purchase and use of the Hutchinson Center. Established in 2008, Calvary Chapel Belfast has grown from a small gathering to a full functioning church that serves hundreds of people each week for the city of Belfast and the surrounding towns. As we've grown, so has our facility needs— our rapid growth required us to sample different rental facilities over the years. One such location we utilized was the Hutchinson Center from 2017–2020. We are very familiar with the facility and its potential for our church and the community. The 3 years we gathered there helped outline the resources we would need to achieve our ambitions for this community. Our vision is to use the building as a place of worship and education, as well as a community–focused center.

Our approach when it comes to interacting with the faith community, as well as the larger community, is to build outreach programs that fill the need for under-served groups and bolster existing programs via partnership. Some of the areas we are actively servicing are the homeschooling families of Waldo County and addiction recovery. Other areas we are looking to contribute toward are the shortage of childcare in the Belfast area and the potential to partner with local after-school programs.



# **General Assembly**

We are a church comprised of hundreds of families that meet regularly twice a week year-round to practice our faith. The majority of our congregation resides in Waldo County, with several families that travel from the Bangor and Rocklandareas. We have a robust Kids Church that provides services to children 0-12 years of age, as well as a youth group for teenagers and a young adults group for ages 18-30.

We supply our out-of-state attendees with a live-stream and radio option for our gatherings on Sundays and Thursdays. These options are also heavily utilized with the local community who are unable to make it into service.

Additionally, we hold a yearly Harvest Festival to gather as a church and invite the community to participate. Activities and food are provided to adults and children at no cost.

#### Towns represented\*

Morril

Northport

Searsport

Belfast

Belmont

Waldo

Lincolnville

#### Average kids per week in attendance

Our kids church program is broken up into four age groups.

· Nursery ages 0-2

Preschool ages 3-5

• Elementary young kids ages 6-8

• Elementary older kids ages 9-12

<sup>\*</sup>these towns represent majority. Actual representation is 22 towns.

# Addiction Recovery

Calvary Chapel Belfast seeks to aid men and women suffering from addiction in all of its forms, as well as support the family members of these addicts through education and counseling. Addiction recovery through Calvary Chapel is a statewide effort, and our local implementation in the Belfast area is Arise. Arise meets once a week for those who need support, counseling, and prayer through their addiction recovery. This is a well-attended meeting with an average of 16 individuals throughout Belfast and the surrounding towns. When the appropriate facilities are available, a family-focused testimonial night can be continued which used to see the attendance of 100 people.

Calvary Belfast has also both sent and received individuals to the Arise Addiction Recovery program in Machias, which provides residential treatment for those struggling with addiction.

# A real problem

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Mid-coast Maine which comprises of 4 counties (Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc, Waldo) has 8.64% of Drug users above the age of 12

Our addiction recovery ministry address is actively addressing Alcoholism, Sex addictions, Soft and Hardcore Drug use

More information can be found at www.ariseaddictionrecovery.com



# Calvary Belfast Academy

Calvary Belfast Academy was established in 2023 as a homeschool co-op. The co-op provides an opportunity for children and their parents to gather and learn in a group setting with families that are like-minded. Our school provides Physical Education, Art, and Life Skills (Finance, Cooking, Gardening, First Aid, etc.) Our general approach to class selection is to offer classes that work best in a group setting or that may be cost-prohibitive to individual families. Our funding model is built to service Waldo County with a sliding scale discount depending on the size of the family. Through fundraising, donations, and fees we have been able to meet the financial cost of running the co-op.

Since our launch in Fall 2023, we have taught 72 students, had 34 volunteers, and have taught 7 subjects. We provide end-of-semester assessments and documentation so parents can use this information in the students' end-of-year portfolios. While we are founded on religious principles we welcome any homeschooling family that wants to participate.

We also provide opportunities for families who have nursery to preschool-aged children to come and socialize even if they don't have school-aged children. Aiding and supporting new moms in their parenting journey is important to our mission.

Future goals include expanding to a Hybrid model, which would allow homeschooling students to take core classes up to twice a week in a group setting. These classes would ideally be taught by professional teachers (retired or part-time) to alleviate parents of difficult subjects or subjects that are not their forte.

Since January of 2023, there are currently 6 members in the core group of CBA to oversee Marketing, Fundraising, Technology, Curriculum Selection, and Co-op Daily Operations.

# Churches Represented Student Enrollment Calvary Belfast Veracity Chapel Cornerstone Baptist Garland Christian Fellowship Calvary Chapel Bangor The Anchor Church Central Church - China KRBC

# Community Support

Calvary Chapel Belfast has a heart to serve the community and respect the nature in which the Hutchinson Center was built on. Our desire is to continue the community focused impact the center has had on Belfast and the surrounding towns. Our plans include opening the center for various emergency response units to come and use the facility freely. We've been in contact with a Fire Chief to help facilitate the use of the facility for training and planning for both individual departments as well as the county Disaster Preparedness group. We strongly believe in the example and ongoing operations of the Belfast Soup Kitchen and look to partner in efforts to address the community needs.

The business model of facility rental to a wide range of groups for conferences and exhibits will be maintained and encouraged. While we are a faith based organization we hope to fill practical needs and desires of the community when mutually beneficial.

#### Organizations we seek to partner with











## **Our Future**

All of the ministries Calvary Chapel Belfast provides are about dual-impact to meet a spiritual and practical need. We've grown to the point that our ability to improve our current offerings is stifled by the nature of being a tenant and not an owner of a building. There are a number of needs our church has that can be fulfilled through this facility- ample space for gatherings in any capacity, education-focused rooms, and a centralized location to reach the entire county.

The next building Calvary Chapel Belfast inhabits will need to have specific features to grow some of the vital services we offer. They are outlined below but not limited to:

#### **Additional Space**

- · To facilitate a larger congregation
- Expand the school head count
- Add a library

#### Purpose-built Facilities

- · A kitchen and assembly area
  - Serve our culinary class
  - Return to community nights for the Arise ministry
- Science and technology rooms
  - Expand class offerings for the school
  - Establish a learning center open to the community

#### Land to Expand

- Build a playground
- Addition of gym

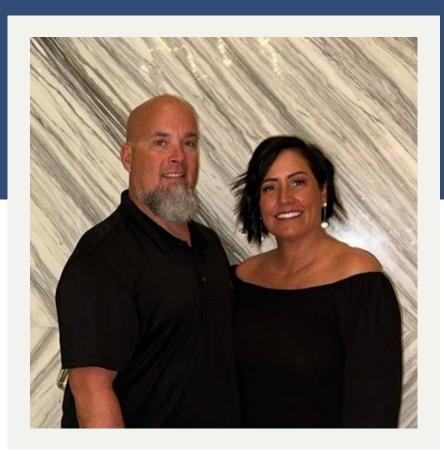
## **Gregory and Briana Huston**



**Lead Pastor** 

Pastor Greg and his wife, Briana have been a part of Calvary Chapel Belfast since 2017. Pastor Greg is the lead pastor and teaches multiple Bible studies per week and is responsible for the spiritual health of hundreds families who attend Calvary Chapel Belfast. Greg has been a lead pastor since 2010. Together they provide family counseling to those in crisis. Briana is the Worship and Media Director. She manages the church website, radio program and app. Briana also leads the worship team of 8+ people including weekly band practices and teaches monthly studies for the women of the church.

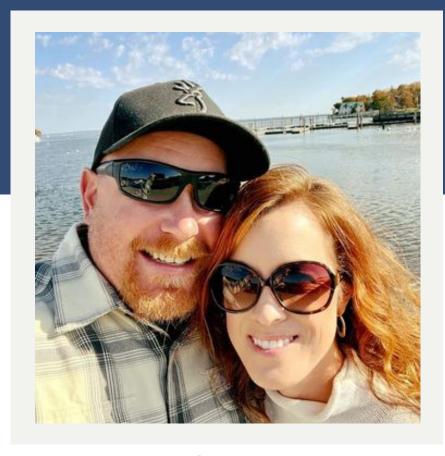
## Ken and Angel Richards



**Leader of Arise** 

Overseer of Arise Addiction Recovery meetings, Ken is an assistant pastor to Greg Huston and also oversees the Arise meetings which happen on a weekly basis for those struggling with addiction and for their families. It provides the support that these people need to overcome addiction. Ken and Angel have attended Calvary Chapel Belfast since 2014 where they have been faithfully serving ever since.

## Matt and Haily Rawley



**Head Deacon/Manager of Facility** 

Matt Rawley is Head Deacon and Manager of Facility Needs. Matt has been with Calvary Chapel Belfast since July of 2019. His role includes overseeing the deacons, managing the physical needs of the church property, and assisting the pastor in various duties- from caring for church families to assisting the church's trustees in financial matters.

### Mark and Brianna Velez



**Leader of Calvary Belfast Academy** 

Mark and Brianna have been attendees of Calvary Chapel Belfast since 2017. They currently lead the school ministry (Calvary Belfast Academy) and Kids Church. Calvary Belfast Academy (CBA) was created when they saw the need for homeschool support and different options for schooling in the church and community. Their mission is to support and connect with parents in their homeschooling journey, as well as create programs for children that will provide socialization and education.

## Thank you

We want to thank you for allowing us to share our vision, and your consideration of the possibilities we can achieve together. We are excited to partner with you to create a lasting positive impact for Waldo County. The need is great and the opportunities are many. This will take a collective effort to see change and we are eager to start with your help.



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