

Andrew's Story...



Sorting donated shoes and clothes was one of many ways Andrew "gave back" while staying at ROH.

Can you imagine living in the woods in the middle of winter, sleeping in a tent on the cold, hard snow covered ground every night?

If you want to know what that's like, ask Andrew. For three years, he slept outside in the woods in every kind of weather imaginable. And, that is only one chapter in what Andrew describes as a "very hard life."

As a child, Andrew was abused in numerous ways by his adoptive father. At age five, Andrew didn't want to eat his soup. His stepfather shoved a funnel in his mouth and poured boiling chicken noodle soup down his throat burning his vocal cords so severely that he had major problems speaking until he was over 30-years-old. Andrew recalls that he spent much of his time as a child locked up in a room and is thankful he didn't die from the abuse.

Andrew moved out of the house at 14 and lived on the streets until he was 18. He did, however, continue his education and graduated from high school after which he

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Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6

REFUGE *of* HOPE
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Prayer & Praise Reports

REFUGE OF HOPE HAS A

Prayer Request

PAGE ON
OUR WEBSITE!

WWW.REFUGEOFHOPE.ORG

GOT PRAYER TEAMS?

- Pray with us for our residents and dinner guests
- Post a prayer request and receive prayers from thousands of Christians.

*Pray continually. –
1 Thessalonians 5:17*



THANK YOU JOHN SYPEK

For the past few years the Men's Shelter and Meal Ministry have been sharing one vehicle, a 12 passenger van. While this vehicle has served us well to transport men and to pick up donations, scheduling between the two ministries soon became a concern.

Thank you to John Sypek, President and CEO of Area Wide Protective, who recently made it possible for Refuge of Hope to secure a used truck from them! "I am moving 5 men into their own housing this week," said Scott Schnyders, Shelter Director. "The truck is much more conducive for hauling furniture than a van and we don't have to remove and replace the seats constantly. This truck is a true blessing for both ministries!"

The truck will soon receive the Refuge of Hope logo and signage to match the van. When you see either vehicle around town know they are being used to help meet the needs of the people we serve at Refuge of Hope every single day!



Dawn Bowman and Scott Schnyders standing in front of ROH's new pick-up truck.

REFUGE OF HOPE PARTNERS WITH WALSH UNIVERSITY



THE
CAMPUS
KITCHENS
PROJECTSM

The Campus Kitchens Project is a nationwide organization that works to redistribute excess food from university dining halls in order to serve in-need populations in local communities.

Walsh University is the 44th university and second in the state to officially join the national network of The Campus Kitchens Project. They have chosen Refuge of Hope as their local community partner to provide a minimum of 25 pounds of food per week for meals served in the Meal Ministry.

"It is a blessing they chose us and the experience is just the tip of the iceberg," Dawn Bowman, Director of Meal Ministry, commented. She noted that conversations are expanding in regards to working together to tackle the root issues of hunger. "It's not just feeding people, but it's getting in there and finding out how do we put an end to hunger...how do we break the cycle? We're united to utilize and redistribute leftover food to feed the hungry in our community," said Bowman.

WHO KNEW \$2.00 COULD DO SO MUCH

A very perceptive 10-year old boy* was attending his grandmother's funeral and overheard his family's discussion regarding the lack of resources to pay for all the burial expenses. Losing his grandmother was already hard enough, but now he felt there was not enough money to bury her.

The problem was weighing heavy on this young man because he loved his grandmother. So he approached the funeral director and handed him the \$2.00 bill pictured here. The boy said, "I would like to help my family pay you. Here is my money."

The funeral director was very touched and explained to the child that the family all went in together to pay the expenses for the funeral. The boy then looked up to the funeral director and said, "You must know a lot of people who would need this money. Can you give it to someone who really needs it?"

A meal at Refuge of Hope costs about \$1.85. Even though he did not know it this special 10-year old provided a meal for a man, woman or child in our Meal Ministry. Perhaps it was a meal for a grandmother, a child or a homeless person, but his heartfelt gift made a difference in the life of someone who was hungry and needed help!

**this is a true story as told by the funeral director – no names were used to protect the privacy of the family.*



WORDS TO LIVE BY



The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.
 – Vince Lombardi



Dawn Bowman, Director of Refuge of Hope's Meal Ministry, showing a "toss off" sweatshirt at the Hall of Fame Marathon Expo.

The "toss off" warm clothing was then picked up by ROH staff and volunteers after the race began. All of the clothing was brought back to the mission, laundered and will be used to keep homeless and needy men, women and children warm!

"We talked with hundreds of people about ROH and the many ways we are serving God by serving others," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Director of Development for ROH. "We provided a service for the runners, they donated to help the mission and then we brought back all the clothing to distribute through the shelter and meal ministry. It was a win/win for everyone!"

THANK YOU

Thank you 2015 Hall of Fame Marathon runners and Race Director, Jim Chaney, for helping Refuge of Hope raise over \$900.00! During the 2-day expo before the marathon, we gave runners warm clothing to wear before the race for a small donation.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Refuge of Hope recently celebrated the 4th Anniversary of its current facility with a dinner at The Hartville Kitchen.



- Please note as the warm weather approaches, ROH will never solicit money or donations door to door.
- The Canton Charge donated several hundred tickets to our guests and residents during the 2014-2015 season.
- Since January, 2014, 135 men have moved from ROH's shelter into their own apartments.



Yes, I want to help Refuge of Hope provide hot, nutritious meals and safe, sober shelter to our hungry and hurting Stark County neighbors!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How you can contribute to Refuge of Hope Ministries:

\$50.00 \$150.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

Credit Card: Visa Master Card Expiration date: ____ / ____ / ____

Card Number: _____ Signature: _____

Thank you on behalf of those who benefit from the work of Refuge of Hope Ministries made possible through your generous gift. Tax deductible information will be mailed with your donation receipt.



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THANK YOU!

For your convenience, Pay-Pal on-line donations are accepted on our website www.refugeofhope.org

Andrew's Story...continued

joined the Army, fighting in Operation Desert Storm. After getting out of the military, Andrew spent several years playing in a band, Element Z, calling it "the most fun I've ever had in my life."

Andrew got married and had a daughter, Cheyenne, currently a senior and honor student in high school. Andrew and his daughter remain in touch. "She contacted me recently to say she loved me. I can't even begin to explain how proud I am of her," Andrew said.

Arrested for domestic abuse, his 13-year marriage ended in divorce. "I was on medication and decided I didn't need to take it any longer. Big mistake. I don't honestly remember exactly what happened but I ended up in jail," Andrew said. Once released, he decided to get away by living in the woods on property his grandfather had left him. He slept in a tent and hunted for his food; rabbits, squirrels or whatever he could catch. Eventually, through his daughter and Parole Officer, Andrew ended up at ROH.

Andrew attributes God and ROH to helping him change his outlook on life. As a person who didn't make friends easily and who always felt like an outsider, Andrew said it is becoming easier for him to build relationships while staying at ROH's shelter. "The guys here are great. They have shown me true friendship, stand with me when I have a problem and never judge me. This is the first time in my life I feel absolutely accepted by everyone," Andrew said.

Even though Andrew's life seems to be heading in a more positive direction today, he realizes the road forward won't always be smooth. Andrew faces numerous health issues including suffering from multiple personalities. He faces these problems with a sense of humor joking that "even by myself, I'm never alone." Recent tests show Andrew also suffering from stage one Parkinson's disease.

As this story was being written, Andrew moved from ROH's shelter into his own apartment. His focus is on a fresh start and becoming self-sufficient again. "I'm just now trying to look out for myself. It's hard to love someone else when you don't love yourself...but I'm learning. I want to be the man I know I can be but have always been afraid to be," Andrew said.

The odds look promising that this is one chapter of Andrew's life that will end on a positive note.

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SAVE THE DATE!



Refuge of Hope

Holiday Gala

Kent State University Stark Conference Center

Saturday, November 21, 2015

6 o'clock

- Formal Dinner
- Surprise Live Entertainment
- Fabulous Auction Items & a Rescue Mission Christmas Catalog

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW



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