

Eric, (call me "Gunny") was born and raised in Canton and graduated from Fairless HS in 1992 before being shipped off to what became a long successful tour in the Marine Corp. He did four (4) tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and one (1) tour in Desert Storm. He got his nickname from his rank as a Gunnery Sergeant and the name stuck.

Each man who walks through ROH's doors has his own unique story. Here is Gunny's...

MEN'S SHELTER SUCCESS STORY:

"Gunny"

"When I came back home re-adjusting from the war, I had a place to live that turned into a bad situation and chose to leave. Living on the streets for two weeks, I went to the library and heard about Refuge of Hope," he said.

"Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) when I first got back was really bad. I wasn't able to adjust to civilian life; it was hard to interact with civilians as the Marines have their own language. Serving in war, the experiences, the nightmares and panic attacks, I don't like to be around too many people so I was barricading myself in my house for my own protection."

Gunny commented that the VA did help through group counseling with other vets with PTSD, sharing their experiences. Another help for Gunny was working at ROH. Gunny was a shelter resident and quickly became a Resident Assistant running the donation and supply system. The donation/supply room quickly took on a complete transformation of order under his care.

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"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

REFUGE *of* HOPE
MINISTRIES

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN ROH

Please welcome four new members to ROH's Board of Directors. They include:

- **Diane Baum:** X-ray technician, Aultman Hospital
- **Craig Kirkpatrick:** consultant, Hammond Construction Company
- **Jacqueline Polnik:** Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
- **Greg Wolfe:** Flight Attendant, United Airlines

ROH is blessed to have four highly qualified, Christian individuals join the Board of Directors according to current Board President Terry L. Seeberger. "These are high integrity, compassionate individuals who have hearts for serving those who deal with hunger, homelessness and poverty in the local community. Our 12-member Board includes a diversity of backgrounds, skills and experience essential in the governance of ROH especially as we look to expand to serve a greater number of people in need."

ROH Board members are eligible to serve two, three-year terms after which they must be off the Board for a minimum of one year.



THE SUMMER BLAH S

SUMMERTIME...FUN IN THE SUN! WE WISH IT WOULD NEVER END!

Unfortunately, summer is often not the best of times for rescue missions like ROH. Financial support tends to drop off, often at a considerable rate, as people are more focused on vacations and the many other appealing summer activities.

It's too bad that hunger, homelessness, and poverty don't also take a three month break each year but that never happens. In fact, hunger in summertime is often worse than the rest of the year because school lunch programs that help sustain so many children are not operational. That's a problem because currently, one in four children in Stark County goes to bed each night hungry.

And, it's not just about children. One in six people in Stark County are "food insecure." That means they do not have access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food on a regular basis. And, one in 10 senior citizens - grandma and grandpa - goes to bed hungry every night.

Because hunger, homelessness and poverty are of such serious concern in our community, ROH operates every day during the year. We don't shut down for holidays, don't close due to bad weather or stop serving for any reason. We realize the significance of having our doors open every day of the year to provide hot meals for area men, women and children who are hungry and safe, sober shelter for homeless men. The local shelter situation becomes even more problematic as the recent American Rescue Workers closure means ROH is now operating the only men's emergency shelter in Stark County.

So, please keep ROH in your prayers and thoughts this summer. By the time you read this, we will have served over 40,000 meals this year and our shelter will have been occupied at over 135% of capacity. Your donations provide food for those with little or nothing to eat, shelter when none is available and most importantly, hope where it is needed most. You do make a difference.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. - Unknown



83% of all donations goes to client services



Sources of Revenue

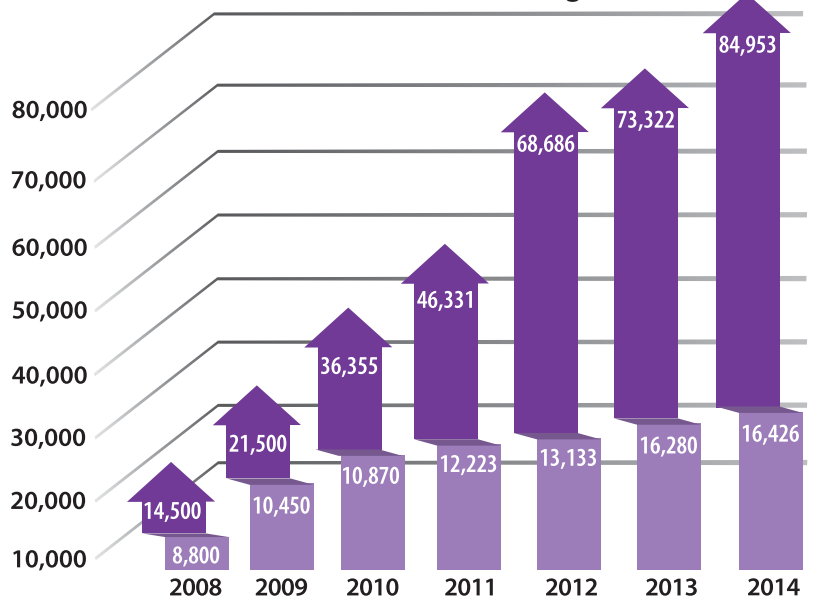
Private Support 45%

Businesses & Organizations 40%

Local Church Outreach 10%

Grants & Foundations 5% Refuge of Hope is a 501(C)3 organization.

Meals & Bedded Nights



REFUGE OF HOPE • 405 Third St NE, Canton OH 44702 • (330) 453-1785 • www.refugeofhope.org



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEAVING YOUR LEGACY THROUGH A WILL OR TRUST TO REFUGE OF HOPE?

By establishing your legacy to ROH, you will help ensure the programs and services for hurting and hungry men, women and children will continue with your lasting contribution.

Please consider having this conversation with your attorney or professional financial consultant. For more information you can contact ROH's Director of Development, Jo Ann Carpenter, at jcarpenter@refugeofhope.org or call her at 330-280-2153.

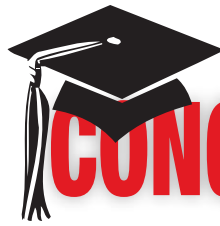
WAY TO GO JOSH!

High school can be quite challenging for many youths; being homeless an added layer of challenge. Josh Davis graduated from Life Skills Centers (LSC) of Canton last month when he was a resident at ROH's men's emergency shelter. "Josh was struggling at his current high school when I had the opportunity to advocate for him and let him know he does have a choice when it comes to his education. After a tour through LSC Canton, he was enrolled and quickly graduated," commented Dawn Bowman, Director of ROH's Meal Ministry.



Josh Davis

Josh is making positive strides this last month including graduation from high school, securing a new job, and moving out of our Men's Shelter.



CONGRATULATIONS JOSH!

ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF AT ROH, WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



Residents and Volunteers Beautify ROH

Thank you!



Yes, I want to support men like Josh and 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.



REFUGE of HOPE
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THANK YOU!

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

“Gunny”...continued

“Working here, I interact a lot more with people and not just the guys who stay here, but also the staff and the public. For me, it’s helped me overcome PTSD, which is a real big step. I am able to cope with problems better, my anger issues are going away, and the nightmares are not as bad. The nightmares and flashbacks make you think you are in war time and it takes a long time to get over them. But, I’m starting to control them better,” Gunny noted.

Regardless of your circumstances, there are programs and people who point you in the right direction Gunny stated. “Scott (Scott Schnyders, ROH’s Men’s Shelter Director) offered programs on the civilian side as well as the veteran side. There are so many opportunities that many are not aware of when something bad happens in their lives and they end up on the streets. People should be aware that ROH is not just a homeless shelter but there are so many different facets of help offered here.

“You meet a lot of different people at ROH in every walk of life each unique in his own way. For me it’s satisfying because part of my job in the Marines was taking care of Marines by getting them involved in encouraging programs and this has carried over to ROH. I am still encouraging guys staying in the shelter and it feels good to see the appreciation on their faces when I am able to help them in some way. It has also really helped me out a lot with PTSD; it isn’t as bad as it was. I’m a happier person now.”

Gunny continues working in donation and supply for ROH. He puts in many hours in this role, often working six days a week from 0800 to 1830 (8:30am to 6:30pm) each day. “I get a feeling of accomplishment by what I contribute at ROH. Helping out and making a difference, I take a lot of pride in that,” Gunny said.

Summer Nutrition Program

ROH is proud to work with The Ohio State University Extension to offer a FREE 8-week Summer Nutrition Education Program to dinner guests and shelter residents beginning June 1st.



The purpose of this program is to educate on the importance of good nutrition, how to eat healthy on a very limited budget, as well as healthy, quick & easy meal recipes for the many challenges our dinner guests face, such as only owning one pan.

Free gifts are earned for each week of attendance. Participants receive a food tasting as well as increased skills in decision making related to nutrition, stretching food dollars, increasing physical activity, food safety and resource management. A graduation certificate and a recipe book will be provided to active participants.

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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