



Refuge of Hope

recently experienced the loss of a dear family member who attended the Meal Ministry for over 6 years. Turn to page 3 to read more about how through our ministries we bond together to form the Refuge of Hope

Family!



Open thy mouth, judge righteously and plead the cause of the poor and needy. Prov. 31:9 KJV

REFUGE *of* HOPE
MINISTRIES

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Helping the Homeless

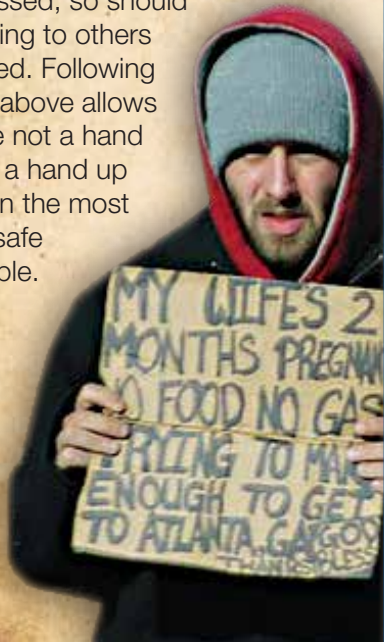
Be Careful, Be Safe, Be Effective

Many feel the urge, especially in winter, to financially help people on the street who claim to be hungry or homeless. But, how can you know where that money will be spent? The fact is the money you give with great intentions is often spent on alcohol, drugs or crime related activities. At ROH, we have developed a brochure that focuses on how to safely and effectively help people who are indeed hungry and/or homeless. The key points include:

- Treat the homeless with compassion and respect
- Recognize that all homeless people and their problems are not the same
- Share the love of God whenever possible
- Pray for the homeless
- Encourage the homeless to get professional help
- Be aware of your surroundings and intentional about your safety
- Don't give cash to a homeless person

We strongly believe the most effective way to help people in need is to financially support rescue missions like ROH and local social services agencies that serve the hungry and homeless. ROH never closes and our services are free. We feed the hungry with seven hot meals a week. Last year, nearly 85,000 meals were served to hurting men, women and children. We are also the only men's emergency shelter in Stark County and provide transitional housing as well. ROH provided 16,000 bedded nights of safe and sober housing in addition to helping over 90 men move out of our shelter and into housing of their own.

As we are blessed, so should we be a blessing to others who are in need. Following the tips listed above allows you to provide not a hand out but rather a hand up and to do so in the most effective and safe manner possible.



Current Needs List



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We Need Your Help!



MEN'S SHELTER:

SARTA single day bus passes,
reading glasses, shower shoes,
men's underwear and long underwear,
men's and women's winter coats
(in sizes 1x to 4x)
men's and women's winter boots

MEAL MINISTRY:

Please contact
Dawn Bowman 330-453-1785 x 207
for immediate needs

REGISTER NOW!

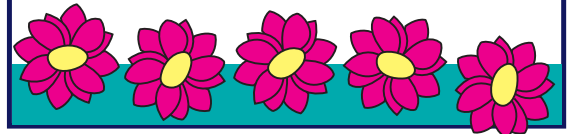
Fourth Anniversary

Spring

Fundraiser
Banquet

**TUESDAY,
APRIL 14, 2015**
The Hartville Kitchen
Doors open at 5:30

Please call Susan at
330-453-1785
for further details



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT REFUGE OF HOPE

Students partnering with various other local ministries are a major focus for Chad Salle, group leader of middle school students from Rivertree Christian Church. Chad expressed that view, along with his belief that ROH was an ideal partnership candidate, during a phone call to ROH Executive Director, Duane Wykoff. From that conversation has grown a monthly visit to ROH from Chad with several of his students and often some of their parents in tow.

Chad's ministry, called NRG, is open to all middle school students and currently has a core group of about 100 students. "Our goal is to help students understand that they are part of a bigger picture. We want them to discover what they are passionate about and how to turn that passion into effective community service," Chad explained.

Each month, Chad usually brings seven or eight different students to tour ROH and to meet with Scott Schnyders, Men's Emergency Shelter Director, and Walt Ackerman, Weekend Shelter Supervisor, and a former ROH client. Walt, who turned to ROH during a period of struggling with alcohol and drugs, gives the students a frank and in-depth look at his life. Explaining that bad choices he made almost cost him his life and did, in fact, cause him to lose his family, friends, two homes and motorcycle collection. Thankfully, Walt's story is also powerful testimony to the restoring power of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Walt's testimony provides an education that is priceless according to Chad. "We have amazing conversations with students and parents after leaving our monthly session at



Wyatt Wright

continued on page 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT REFUGE OF HOPE... CONTINUED

ROH,” he said. “It is amazing to them that hunger, homelessness and poverty are dramatically altering peoples’ lives only a few minutes away from their own homes.”

One eighth grade student, Wyatt Wright, left after his visit to ROH feeling he had to do something to help men who stayed in the shelter. When he discovered socks were needed, Wyatt set up a sock drive with the goal of obtaining 100 pair. Two and one-half weeks later, Wyatt delivered 419 pairs of socks to ROH. “This is what I felt Jesus was telling me to do,” Wyatt said. “I can’t imagine not having socks.” Due to his efforts, the men staying at ROH’s shelter and dinner guests will not be without socks for some time.

Thanks to Chad’s vision and persistence, many local middle school students are receiving a unique educational opportunity - a firsthand look at not only the destructive reality of addiction but, more importantly, God’s redemptive power through Jesus Christ.

F•A•M•I•L•Y

FAMILY is not always related through blood lines. It is obvious in the ROH dining room that people are connecting in a very special way. It is most evident during the prayer requests when others are lifted up in prayer more than individual needs.

AND if one of our guests is missing for more than a couple meals, we make a concerted effort to locate them. Should he/she be hospitalized, visits are made, cards sent and that person is lifted up in prayer until they are back with us.

MEN, women, and children, infants, adolescents, teens, adults and senior citizens make up ROH’s family.

IRONICALLY this seemingly dysfunctional group comes together each meal as one really large family. Staff, volunteers, dinner guests and men residing in the shelter are all considered family members.

LOVE is the bond that holds us all together. The love of Christ is evident in the atmosphere during any meal that is served.



YES! It really is a family! If you would like to see for yourself, please call Jo Ann Carpenter, Director of Development, at 330-280-2153 to schedule a visit. Our hope is once you visit you will want to come back to become a ROH family member yourself!

Special prayer request! Please pray for the family of Roger who passed away a few weeks ago. We are still grieving for him, Harold, Big John, Regina and several others who are no longer with us. Loss of a family member is difficult but we know God provides the peace and comfort necessary to help families through all storms of life.

Thank you for your prayers for this rather large and wonderful group known as Refuge of Hope Family!

WORDS TO LIVE BY



Each new year, we have before us a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year – the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show and the charity we forgot to offer.
 – Peggy Horton

Yes, I want to help Refuge of Hope provide hot, nutritious meals and safe 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

ROH Welcomes: U-LONDA HICKS, JAMES DANIELS & JULIE MOLDVAY

U-LONDA HICKS, MEAL MINISTRY ASSISTANT

U-londa began as a kitchen worker in the Meal Ministry in 2012 through an outside program. In July, 2014, her time in the program ended but she continued working her hours faithfully volunteering so the impact of her leaving wasn't felt by the kitchen team. Her role and experience in the Meal Ministry are highly valued leading to U-londa being hired to ROH's staff in August, 2014.

"I've grown tremendously in my role as the Meal Ministry Assistant and I am most surprised with the positive impact I can have one-on-one with those we serve. "I help meet many needs beyond a hot meal. Those who walk through our door often come in troubled but leave ROH in a better way. My job has become personal now," U-londa said.



JAMES DANIELS KITCHEN MANAGER

James, who has worked in food service for the majority of his life, previously served in Meal Ministry through Mature Services. His strengths are many and his interaction with staff workers, shelter residents, and those who walk through our doors leaves a positive impact.

James feels he is truly blessed to work at ROH. "My life has come full circle as I was a resident in our Men's Shelter for some time," James said. "I leave that door open to remember and encourage. I use my spiritual growth from past experience to extend help to others."

MEET JULIE MOLDVAY

A warm welcome to Julie Moldvay, ROH's new Financial Manager. Julie began her new job on February 16 and will be responsible for planning, managing, implementing, and leading all accounting and financial related activities at ROH.

A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Julie graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Akron. She has over 19 years of providing financial consulting services to clients in a variety of industries including non-profits, manufacturing and distribution. She was most recently Senior Manager/Manager, Assurance Services, for Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Company in Akron, OH.



A special thank you to previous ROH Finance Manager, Jeff McDonald, who stepped in on an interim basis to fill the void until Julie was able to start her employment.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- The ROH **NEVER** asks individuals to collect donations door-to-door. Please call ROH at 330-453-1785 if you are so approached at your home or business.
- A number of area corporations will match your financial donation to Refuge of Hope. Please check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program.

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