

REFUGE of HOPE

Is Your Stark County Christian Rescue Mission

We are here to serve hot nourishing meals to your neighbors! We provide safe warm shelter to homeless men in your county.

Daily hundreds of people in Stark County face the prospect of going hungry. There are families with incomes so low they must decide whether to put food on their table or pay the rent and utilities. Refuge of Hope monthly provides thousands of free meals to help our community. We also house homeless men in our emergency/transitional housing shelter.

If you would like a staff member to speak at your church, civic organization, business, school or club, please contact Jo Ann Carpenter at 330-453-1785. We have an informative 4 minute video about our Ministry and would love to share information about the work we are doing locally in Stark County.

Current Needs List



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We Need Your Help!



MEN'S SHELTER:

Socks, liquid laundry detergent, reading glasses, shower shoes, stick deodorant, men's underwear, and non-alcoholic cold & cough syrup

MEAL MINISTRY:

Please call Jo Ann Carpenter
330-453-1785
to see what the most immediate
need is for the week.

Russell Milbrodt Story...

continued from cover page

Living on a limited Social Security income, Russell really appreciates how he is able to stretch his monthly budget by receiving meals at Refuge of Hope. He especially likes the give-a-way shelves where he looks for muffins and "goodies."

In the Refuge of Hope dining room, you will find families with children, homeless individuals and many seniors over 60 years old. Russell appreciates the meals of course, but he also comes here for the social interaction with the other guests, staff and volunteers. He always sat across the table from Annie, and they talked while sharing their meal together. Annie is now homebound due to illness and Refuge of Hope sends meals to her through a resident in her apartment building.

While the meals served at Refuge of Hope are vital to nourish the body, individuals have other needs that must also be filled according to Meal Ministry Manager Jo Ann Carpenter.

"We attempt to serve all those in our dining room with love, compassion and respect as these are crucial elements in meeting the emotional needs we all have," she said. "The Refuge of Hope family, made up of dinner guests, volunteers, donors and shelter residents, is a special group. We eat and pray together, sometimes have disagreements, but at every meal you can feel the love and care we have for each other."

Being treated with love and kindness plus "you will get your belly full..." what's not to like about that combination!

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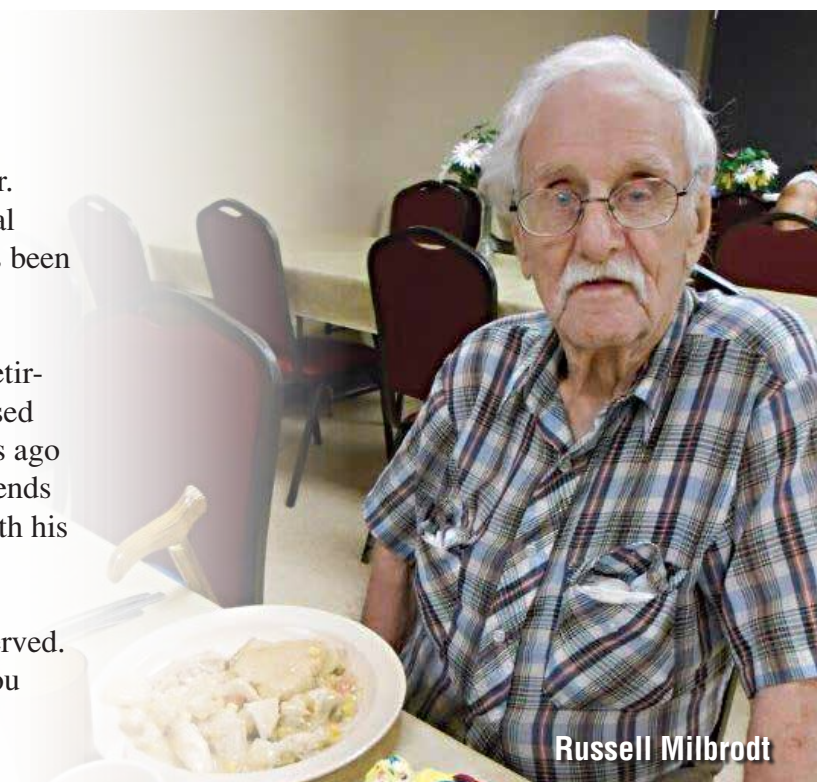
“...you get your belly full,” says Russell.

Almost every day, Refuge of Hope welcomes a special guest for dinner. Russell Milbrodt, a 94 year old veteran, drives ten miles to share a meal with our Refuge of Hope family. He is our oldest dinner guest and has been coming to our dining room for over four years.

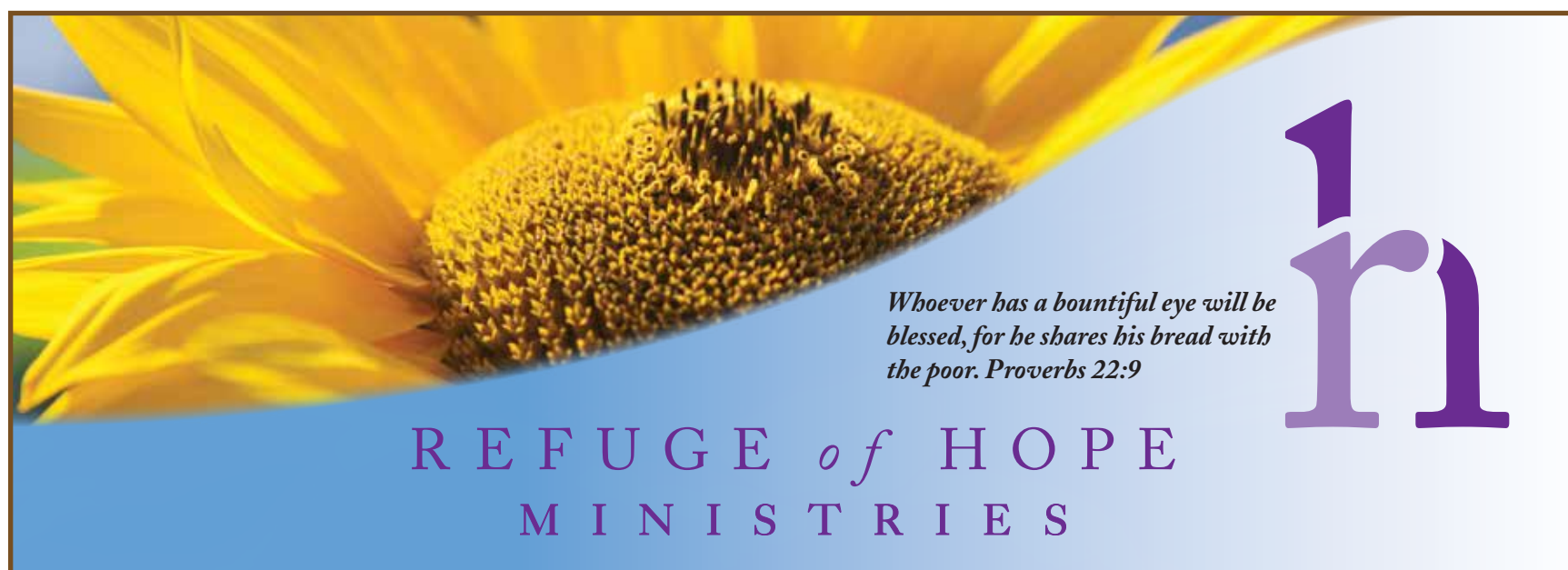
Born and raised in Canton, Russell worked hard all of his life before retiring from Ohio Grating. Russell and his wife, Marlene, of 32 years raised five boys in the Stark County area. His wife passed away several years ago and one of his sons has also gone to be with the Lord. Russell now spends weekends with his biological family and weekdays enjoying dinner with his Refuge of Hope family.

“Sometimes the people who come here are in bad shape,” Russell observed. “But they get treated well at Refuge of Hope. The food is great and you get your belly full!”

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Russell Milbrodt



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DID YOU KNOW?



Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager, recently spoke at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Network Summit.

- Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM), of which ROH is a member, is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year.
- Our fourth annual Christmas Ball will be Saturday, December 14, at the new "Piazza" Banquet Center.
- Newpointe Community Church members gave their time and services painting ROH's interior foyer.



Volunteer Stephani Ramos volunteered her time to create over 50 flower pots for our residents and guests to enjoy. ROH resident Dave Dettweiler pictured above arranged them on each dining table.

The Chapel in North Canton recently presented ROH with a check in the amount of \$13,537.00! Meal Ministry Manager, Jo Ann Carpenter accepts check from Pastor Jim Colledge



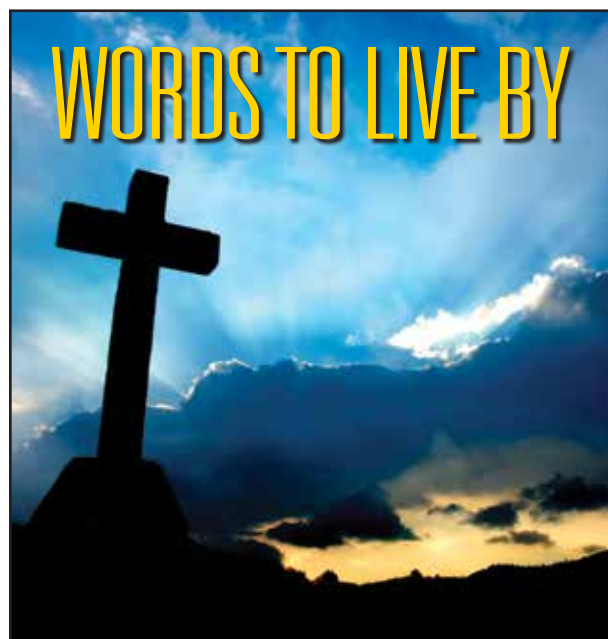
Our shelter residents were treated to their third annual fishing trip hosted by Merle and Tee Pearson at their private lake. Lots of fish were caught while Canton Baptist Temple volunteers provided a picnic lunch. A good time was had by all!

YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT

Are you a servant?

Though servant would probably not be a popular career choice in today's world, Jesus made it clear that He came not to be served but rather to serve.

A familiar Bible story recorded in Luke has Jesus talking to a large crowd in the wilderness. Late in the day, Jesus' disciples urge Him to send the people to nearby villages to find food and lodging. Jesus replies, "You give them something to eat." (Luke 9:13) His directive was a teaching moment, an effort to help his disciples better understand the servant's role that Jesus followers are to fulfill in ministering to others.



*"We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give".
- Winston Churchill*

Ephesians 2:10 states: "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

If Jesus was physically present today, we, as Christians, would undoubtedly receive the exact same message He gave His disciples over 2,000 years ago.

John Wesley summed up the kind of servant all Christ followers should aspire to be when he said: "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." As we are blessed, so should we be a blessing to others.

Please join Refuge of Hope in our mission to serve the less fortunate. Your financial gift helps feed the hungry, shelter homeless men and minister to and provide hope to those living in poverty. As servants, together we can make a positive difference in the lives of so many in desperate need in Stark County.





HUNGER REMAINS BIG ISSUE IN STARK COUNTY

Have you ever been hungry? Not just “missed lunch hungry” but haven’t had anything to eat for a day or more and no idea when you will get to eat again hungry.

According to the Stark County Hunger Task Force, many people in Stark County fit into that not sure from where my next meal is coming category. They are called “food insecure.” The United States Department of Agriculture defines food insecure as “consistent access to adequate food is limited by lack of money and other resources at times during the year.”

The Task Force reported that “the county’s overall food insecurity rate stands at 15.3%, and alarmingly, the county’s child food insecurity rate is 23.8%, leaving more than 57,000 Stark County neighbors in food insecure households.” The report also stated 25% of Stark County children live at or below the poverty level and 10% of our senior citizens are food insecure. It should also be noted that about 30% of Canton residents live at or below the poverty level.

The Task Force report is not news at Refuge of Hope. We have seen the number of meals served annually in our Meal Ministry rise from 14,500 in 2008 to nearly 69,000 in 2012. At our current pace, we will eclipse the 70,000 meals served mark this year.

Mother Teresa said “When a poor person dies of hunger, it did not happen because God did not care for him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed.” Hunger is a complex issue but, as Mother Teresa recognized, the solution is actually simple. It’s you and me.

HAVE A HAPPY & SAFE AUTUMN SEASON!



from
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REFUGE OF HOPE CELEBRATES PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME FESTIVAL FAMILY STYLE!

There’s no more enthusiastic way to celebrate than with the **BOOM, BOOM, BOOM** of a fireworks show!

For the second consecutive year, Refuge of Hope residents, guests and staff celebrated the Professional Football Hall of Fame festival fireworks as one big family! On Saturday, July 27, a crowd gathered at Refuge of Hope to celebrate part of football’s greatest weekend.

Special sack lunches, 206, were provided so our guests could stroll and delight in the free concert and additional activities in the area.

Free bottled water, snacks and ice cream treats were also offered while chairs placed in front of the mission allowed visitors to relax and revel in the evening’s festivities.

This year, Milo Blanchard, weekend shelter manager, and 15 of our current and former residents volunteered their time to clean up the Millennium Parking Deck where the fireworks display took place.

Sincere thanks to Community Harvest of Stark County who distributed all HOFF food donations to local hot meal sites including Refuge of Hope.

Yes, I want to help people like Russell this Fall Season! Please use my gift to provide hot, nutritious meals, safe shelter and hope to our neighbors in Stark County.

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 donation receipt.



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