



**Make this summer  
a season of HOPE!**

*Help your Stark County Neighbors*

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REFUGE *of* HOPE  
MINISTRIES

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WWW.REFUGEOFHOPES.ORG

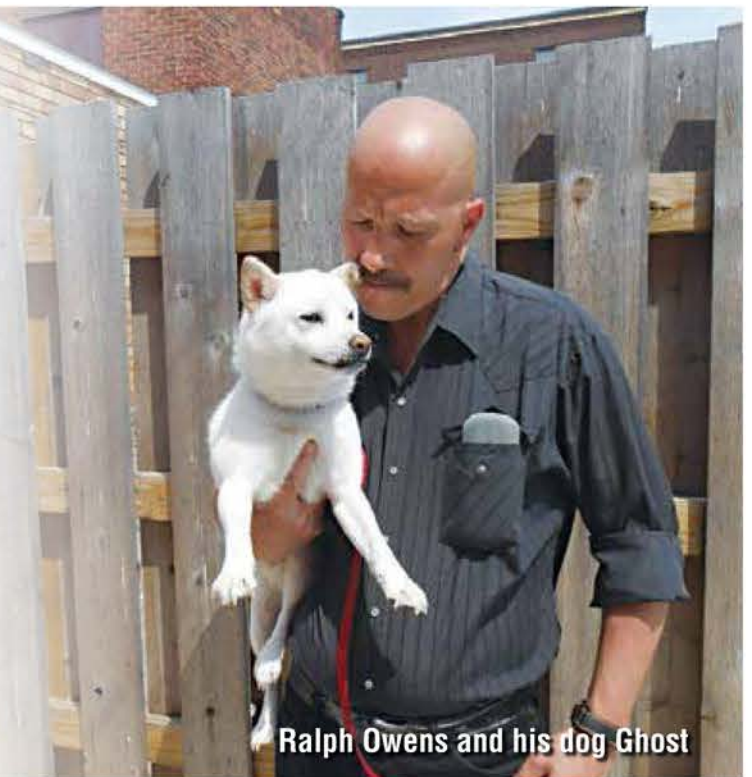
## **“I thank God every day for the things He has taken away from me!”**

Ralph Owens used to be filled with anger, hatred and resentment. God released Ralph from those self-destructive feelings and he is no longer that bitter man. In prison, Ralph found the Lord, was saved and then baptized. When he was released, Refuge of Hope offered him the encouragement needed to continue his walk with God.

Arriving at the Refuge of Hope Shelter in 2011, Ralph was immediately connected to local agencies to help him with several mental illness disorders. When he began taking medications, Ralph realized how disturbing his past life had been and vowed never to allow his violent emotions take over his feelings again.

Ralph was blessed to find truly loving and caring staff working at Refuge of Hope and, after 6 months, was living in his own apartment. On his 45th birthday, his Aunt Edna gave him a Shiba Inu puppy which he named Ghost. Because his therapist agreed it would help Ralph with anxiety, the apartment complex where he lived agreed the dog could stay with Ralph.

*continued on page 4*



**Ralph Owens and his dog Ghost**

# DID YOU KNOW...?

- It took more than 18,000 volunteer hours to operate ROH in 2012
- In 2012, we served 68,799 meals compared to 46,311 in 2011
- You can view our 2012 annual report card at [www.refugeofhope.org](http://www.refugeofhope.org)
- Our fourth annual Christmas Gala will be December 14 at the new "Piazza" Banquet Center



- Russell, a military veteran and our oldest dinner guest, just turned 94 and is here for almost every meal!



- Our ministry recently celebrated its 2nd anniversary fundraiser at The Hartville Kitchen

# Mayor OF CANTON FOR A DAY

Ten year old Christian Conrad of Canton recently won an essay contest to be Mayor of Canton for a day.

As part of his duties of serving in the community, Christian and his mentor, City of Canton Mayor William J. Healy II, came to Refuge of Hope to set tables before lunch.



**Christian setting tables for lunch at ROH**



**City of Canton Mayor William J. Healy II speaking with Mayor for the Day Christian Conrad**

## CHILDHOOD HUNGER DURING THE SUMMER

With your support, Refuge of Hope (ROH) is working hard to ensure that families, and especially children, have access to free, nutritious meals during the summer months.

A recent report released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) painted a grim picture regarding the impact of hunger on children. Nearly one in five children in Ohio under age 18 experiences hunger. This is often compounded during the summer months when children are out of school.



Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. According to the USDA, lack of nutrition during summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once the school year begins again. Hunger may also make children more prone to illness and other health issues.

*(Thanks to Community Harvest for information on childhood hunger)*

## WORDS TO LIVE BY



*Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work. - Mother Teresa*

# ROH CURRENT HAPPENINGS...



Meet our new interns  
Elizabeth Fach & Chad Webster

The Aultman WOW van and nurses provide free health screenings and education to our residents and meal guests.



2013 Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Queen, Claire Kendig and her court, serve dinner guests during a recent visit to ROH.



Susan Bodnar, Canton Fire Department paramedic, recently certified ROH's staff in CPR, First Aid and AED. Our shelter is currently in need of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Please contact us if you are able to provide this vital piece of equipment.

HAVE A  
HAPPY & SAFE  
SUMMER!



from  
REFUGE of HOPE  
MINISTRIES

Yes, I want to help people like Ralph this Summer Season! Please use my gift to provide hot, nutritious meals and safe shelter 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 upon donation receipt.*



REFUGE of HOPE  
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For your convenience, Pay-Pal on-line donations are accepted on our website  
[www.refugeofhope.org](http://www.refugeofhope.org)



# 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



REFUGE of HOPE  
MINISTRIES

**We  
Need  
Your  
Help!**



### MEN'S SHELTER:

Socks, blankets, bed linens, wash cloths, shower shoes, stick deodorant, and men's underwear

### MEAL MINISTRY:

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

## Ralph Owen and his dog Ghost *continued from cover page*

For a man who feels isolated even around people, having Ghost in his apartment has saved his life more than once. Ralph explains, *"One night I was struggling with a severe depression episode. Suicide seemed like the only way to escape the voices in my head. I walked over to my pills and picked up the first bottle. Something made me look down and I saw Ghost watching me and I stopped. Who would take care of him if I was gone? I put the bottle back on the shelf, hugged my dog and prayed for God to take away those feelings and to help me be strong."*

Even under a doctor's care and while still on his medication, Ralph's mental issues can still negatively affect his life. However, Ralph stays strong in his faith in the Lord, prays regularly, and takes good care of Ghost. Ralph understands his accountability day to day is to the Lord.

In the Meal Ministry at Refuge of Hope, you will see Ralph eating with the other dinner guests and he will often lift up a prayer request for strength. As a volunteer serving a meal to Ralph, you might describe him as a quiet, soft spoken man with a great smile, never realizing his past violent life, or how dramatically his life has been transformed.

"It is such a joy to see Ralph and Ghost out walking or running for exercise in the community," says Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager. "When I ask Ralph about Ghost, a smile immediately comes to his face and I know they are doing fine."

Ralph has plans for his future. His five year goal is to attend Culinary Arts School, get his business degree in restaurant management, and open his own establishment. Ralph loves to cook and is excited to pursue his career choice. Refuge of Hope was able to help Ralph, to love and inspire him, and now he is moving on with school and a renewed life.

"When I found out this organization was based on Christ and I felt the people who worked here believed in God, I knew I was in the right place," Ralph said. "My eyes were opened when I found the Lord and Refuge of Hope played a big part in helping me start my life over and do things right this time."

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