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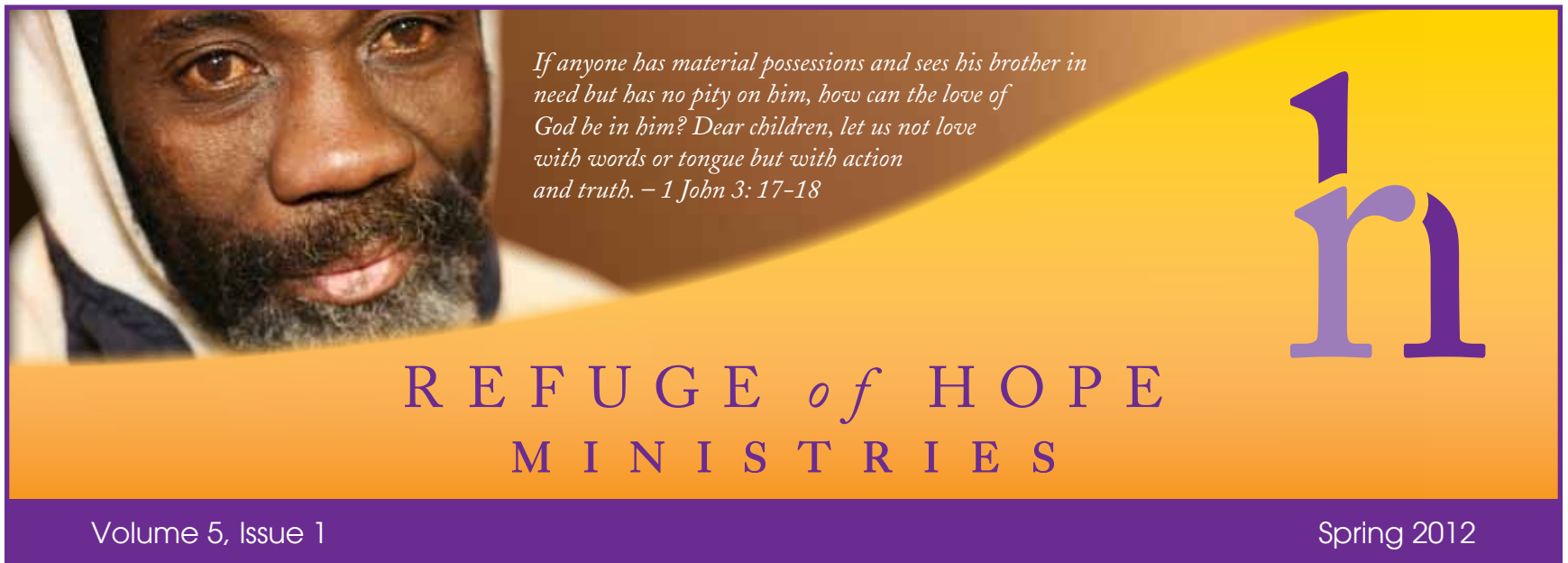
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CANTON, OH  
PERMIT #34

REFUGE *of* HOPE  
MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 9361  
Canton, Ohio 44711



*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with action and truth. – 1 John 3: 17-18*

REFUGE *of* HOPE  
MINISTRIES

Volume 5, Issue 1 Spring 2012

## MEASUREMENTS *of* SUCCESS

**Success is defined as the “achievement of something planned or attempted.”**

With help from the staff at Refuge of Hope, Milo and Brian each envisioned a plan, set it in motion and achieved success. Currently both are employed and living in their own housing. This is a measurement of success for two men who recently experienced hopelessness and homelessness.



Milo

You first met Milo two years ago when he was featured in our newsletter. Milo’s background was one of abuse as a child, drug addiction, a failed marriage, loss of a business he built and his attempt to take his own life. This road of destruction led him to Refuge of Hope where he found desperately needed physical, emotional and spiritual support. That encouraged him to transform his life. When faced with problems, Milo met them head on and broke through his barriers to achieve success.

Brian’s troubles were different. He came to Refuge of Hope because of situational poverty. After 18 years with a company, Brian suddenly found himself without employment due to the economic downturn. Soon his savings were gone and with no employment opportunities in sight, he came to Refuge of Hope homeless and alone. A local businessman contacted Refuge of Hope asking if we had a reliable man to work for him. Brian was recommended. Sixteen months later he is still employed, living in his own apartment and recently was

able to purchase a car. He is living a life now that at his lowest point seemed highly improbable.

Has this road to success been smooth and without bumps for either of these men? Of course not, but there is a big difference this time around. Milo knows the Lord is with him and that his support team, of which Refuge of Hope remains a huge part, is in place to love and care for him. Milo has given his powerful testimony several times to church congregations, speaking to strangers about his life struggles and the amazing changes that occurred while he was staying at Refuge of Hope.

Brian volunteers every week at Refuge of Hope’s Meal Ministry, giving his testimony to the volunteer groups that serve our dining room guests. Brian is always the first to offer his services as a way to give back to a community that so gracefully cared for and watched over him during a difficult time in his life.



Brian

Milo and Brian are examples of how our services extend beyond our walls. Caring and compassion can help give men like Milo and Brian a second chance at life. Strong foundations assist our clients getting back on their feet to continue their life’s journey. Your prayers and donations are powerful blessings that help us influence change in the lives of these much deserving men.

# 2012 Refuge of Hope Blessings...

*What do guests have to say about our meal ministry? When in doubt, ask. So Meal Ministry Manager Jo Ann Carpenter recently sought feedback and received some very nice replies.*



**Russell:** "They treat you well, have good food, and it's so nice to be with everyone."



**Alicia:** "Good food, good friends, good times!"



**Sheryl:** "Fun to see all your friends, helpful church services, and good food."



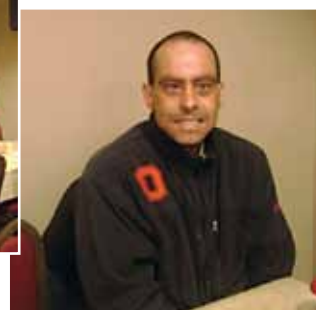
**Deborah:** "Such a great atmosphere and joyful place to be, could not ask for better food or company."



**Harold:** "So much love, peace, and happiness you find here."



**Richardson Family:** "Such a blessing knowing that my children are able to eat and to know that our prayers are being heard. Cannot ask for a better environment to be with my family and meet new people."



**John:** "Seeing everyone and their loving faces."

## Canton Charge PLAYERS & STAFF

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Several Canton Charge basketball players and staff recently visited Refuge of Hope to help serve the evening meal. This team truly has a heart for the community and enjoys fellowship with the dinner guests and men who live in Refuge of Hope's shelter.

"It is a joy to see the smiles on the faces of our dinner guests when the players arrive," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager. "When the meal is over and the work is done, the team stays to talk with fans, especially the children!"



**Canton Charge players autograph basketballs for young fans at Refuge of Hope**

## Anniversary Fundraising Event



**HOW TIMES FLIES!!** It has been one year since the ribbon cutting celebration for our new building. A very special event is planned on May 17 at First Christian Church in Canton to commemorate this milestone in Refuge of Hope's history.

Please join us on this very special evening from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats with a short program to follow.

**WE NEED TABLE HOSTS!** If you're interested, there is no financial commitment. Just round up seven friends to join you at our event. **If you would like to attend without hosting a table that's fine too.** Either way, please contact Jo Ann Carpenter at [jcarpenter@refugeofhope.org](mailto:jcarpenter@refugeofhope.org) or 330-453-1785 ext. 203 to RSVP.

## Current Needs List for REFUGE of HOPE

**Men's Shelter:** toothbrushes, deodorant and flip flops (shower shoes)

**Meal Ministry:** urgent need for meat; please call Jo Ann Carpenter (330-453-1785) to see what the most immediate need is for the week.







## Refuge of Hope Men's Shelter Manager Seeks Sponsors for 26.2 Mile Race.

Scott Schnyders, Manager of Refuge of Hope's Men's Shelter, and his wife, Christina, will leave the area shortly for new jobs in Tennessee. Scott wants to leave a parting gift for the organization that he has served faithfully for the past five years. To accomplish this goal, Scott will lead a team of runners in the first annual Canton Marathon to be run on June 17th of this year and is seeking financial sponsors for the 26.2 mile race.

"The spirit of a marathon represents individuals setting and achieving personal goals and breaking through barriers for greater triumph," Scott said. "This is what we do every day at Refuge of Hope. We help our clients overcome obstacles that led to their homelessness by setting structured plans that allow them to transform their lives."

You can help Scott achieve his goal by signing up to sponsor him and his team for this big run. Running in the Marathon yourself or know someone who is participating – why not get sponsors and donate the proceeds to Refuge of Hope? By doing so, you will help provide safe shelter for homeless men and hot nutritious meals for hungry men, women and children in your community. **Please visit our website at [www.refugeofhope.org](http://www.refugeofhope.org) or call Jo Ann Carpenter 330-453-1785 ext. 203 for additional information.**

## GARY PARSONS, JR.

### D O N A T I O N

Gary Parsons Jr. owns W Construction Supply, a North Canton company that supplies masonry and concrete as well as renting concrete forming, shoring and scaffolding to contractors. Gary recently had an open house at his business and decided to raffle off his Harley-Davidson motorcycle as part of the festivities. He pledged the difference between the bike's appraised value and the money he collected selling raffle tickets to Refuge of Hope. The result was a most generous gift (and true blessing) of \$8,500.



Gary Parsons Jr. (far right) and W Construction Supply employees with the motorcycle raffled off to benefit Refuge of Hope.

**YES! I do want to help men like Brian and Milo achieve success by transforming their lives through the services provided by Refuge of Hope.**

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.*



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



## SUSAN SLEIGHTER



It is a pleasure to introduce Susan Sleighter and welcome her to Refuge of Hope. She has accepted the position of Office Manager and began work on April 11. Among her responsibilities will be event planning, fundraising and donor development.

Susan has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business (Marketing) from Walsh University and brings a strong background in marketing, public relations and event planning. She has previously worked as Event/Marketing Manager for the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Director of Sales/Events for Walsh University and Director of Sales/Marketing for the Atwood Lake Resort & Conference Center.

## HAVE EWE HERD?

**Refuge of Hope  
“Tend My Sheep” T-shirts  
are now available and “ewe”  
have first chance to own one.**



*Thank ewe for your support of  
Refuge of Hope.*

The perfect combination of comfort and style, these 100% cotton, short-sleeved T-shirts have Refuge of Hope's name and logo on the front with Sandy the Sheep prominently displayed on the back. Available for the low price of \$15.00, these casual and fun T-shirts can only be purchased through Refuge of Hope. You can order the shirt in black or purple in sizes ranging from small to X-large (2 X-large are available for \$16.75 each).



You can order from our website at [www.refugeofhope.org](http://www.refugeofhope.org) or by calling Susan Sleighter at 330-453-1785 ext. 202.

*A Salute to the kids of two third grade classes from*

## FRAZER & BARR Elementary Schools

*(Plain Local School District)*

Students from these schools raised over \$800 for a local charity with the class from each school that raised the most being rewarded with a pizza party. Both victorious classes decided to donate their winnings to Refuge of Hope so someone less fortunate could enjoy a pizza party. Frazer Elementary Principal Beth Kline said, "I am confident that if we give our young students opportunities to serve they will grow to be strong community members with hearts for others." To the benefit of Refuge of Hope, it looks like these compassionate kids are quick learners.



Generous donors: Mrs. Raga and her third grade students at Frazer Elementary



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