

Once Upon a Time...

HELEN



WILLIAM



JANE

...AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER. THE END.

We have all read fairy tales where characters in the stories are happy, then experience trouble and finally end up in a place much better than they could have ever imagined. Helen, William and Jane are living lives that will hopefully have a true fairy tale ending but for now, each one is on a real life journey that is different, special and unique.

As you read their stories please pray for the path they are walking and for how ROH can be a haven for them in this stage of their respective journeys.

HELEN has only been coming to ROH for a few weeks. She was employed but when her car broke down, she had no transportation to get to work and was fired. She also lost her housing. Getting the rug pulled out from under you, just plain bad luck or whatever phrase you want to you use, the fact is Helen's life has taken a serious turn for the worst.

Under such circumstances, giving up or feeling sorry for yourself and about your situation may be options for some but not for Helen. Determined, Helen has set out down the path to

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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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WORDS TO LIVE BY



One person can make a difference. In fact, it's not only possible for one person to make a difference, it's essential for one person to make a difference. And, believe it or not, that one person is you."

– Bob Riley, former Governor of Alabama

Lovin'

COMMUNITY  HARVEST, INC



Community Harvest recently delivered over 850 pounds of food they had received from the Hall of Fame volunteer appreciation event to ROH. The excess food from the event consisted of chicken, hot dogs, buns, pasta, fruit and much more.

"Collecting food after the Hall of Fame appreciation party each year is the epitome of how our program is designed to work and why it is so efficient," commented Faith Barbato, Executive Director of Community Harvest.



For the past 6 years, ROH has been the beneficiary of this donation. It provides many meals for our hungry neighbors in Stark County. In less than two hours, with the help of faithful volunteers and the men residing in the shelter, this donation was packaged, labeled and stored in the freezer to be used for hot, nutritious dinners in the coming weeks.

Thank you Faith and Community Harvest for partnering with ROH as we provide meals for hungry and hurting families and individuals!

You Do Make a Difference

To the Staff of Refuge of Hope,

In the mail recently was a letter from a man who had previously stayed in ROH's shelter. Though addressed to ROH's staff, the heartfelt sentiments expressed really are directed toward you, our donors.

I was a long-time resident at The Refuge of Hope and cannot express enough gratitude for your patience and kindness.

Before I became homeless, I had no idea that the Refuge existed. When I abruptly became homeless in March 2014 I was referred to the Refuge by my former parole officer whom I had not seen for about three years before and have not seen since. When I told her of my situation, she immediately called Scott (Scott Schnyders, ROH's Director, Men's Ministry) and secured a bed for me. I think it must have been Divine intervention because nothing could be that coincidental.

When I arrived at the Refuge I had no idea what to expect. I imagined the worst (a preconceived idea of what homeless people were like). But one of the first questions anyone asked me was "Are you hungry?"

Although I explained that I had eaten not long before arriving, this gentleman insisted that I have a sandwich and a glass of milk. That simple act of kindness by one stranger to another immediately changed my perception.

I want to thank the staff of the Refuge for their extreme kindness. One example of many is Christmas 2014 when JoAnn (JoAnn Carpenter, ROH's Director of Development) came in early and cooked a wonderful breakfast and the volunteers served us that breakfast. It made us feel like we weren't so lost nor forgotten at that special time of the year. Although some of us had no family or means to getting to see them if we did, we were made to feel that someone cared.

When I (finally) moved into my own apartment Scott made sure that I had everything I needed to get a good start and helped me move it. By the time he and our fellow resident who came along to help left my apartment, it looked already lived-in.

I have been a witness to countless acts of kindness shown by the Refuge of Hope. The entire staff extend these acts happily as if it were second nature to each of them – so much so that it seems to go unnoticed. However, it has not gone unnoticed. I want to thank you for taking a "broken" man in over a year ago, and help him put his life back together without compromising his dignity. It is a gift I cannot repay, and a priceless experience I would not trade.

*Again, thank you so much for what you have done for me,
JH Smith*

When you donate to ROH, you are truly changing lives by helping people when they need it most. We feel each and every ROH donor makes a difference.

Hunger in Stark County

DON'T GET ENOUGH TO EAT EVERY DAY? IF YOU LIVE IN STARK COUNTY, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Nearly 60,000 people, or one in six in our community, go to bed hungry every night. This number includes one in four children and one in 10 senior citizens. Unfortunately, hunger not only exists but it thrives!

The fact is many men, women and children in Stark County are food insecure which means they don't have regular access to nutritional, affordable food. What you and I often take for granted, like the ability to make a sandwich or pour a glass of cold milk any time we want, is not an available option for thousands of people in our community.

The severe impact of hunger is displayed by the dramatic growth in the number of meals served annually through ROH's Meal Ministry. In 2009, we served 21,500 meals; last year, just under 85,000. Through August of this year, 59,056 meals have been served and in July, we topped 8,000 meals provided in a month for only the second time in our history.

It must be noted hunger is not solely a ROH concern but rather is a societal issue that takes a community working together to solve. One way you can help is to prayerfully consider becoming a regular monthly financial supporter of ROH to help us feed hungry and hurting local men, women and children.

There are two reasons why your support is crucial. First, dealing with hunger is a day-to-day ministry with no breaks. Second, providing meals 365 days a year is expensive. Consider the cost to provide a family of four with three meals a day for a year (4,380 meals annually). Add another 80,573 meals and you have the number of meals served at ROH in 2014. There is food and supplies to buy, rent, utilities, and taxes to pay, and much more... the same expenses you pay in your household only for considerably more people.

One last point - rest assured your donations will be used wisely. We work very hard to be good stewards of every contribution. Currently, 83 percent of all we receive goes directly into services for our clients to provide a helping hand up and, most importantly, hope to those with so little.

Partying in the Parking Lot

Thanks to Fred and Sandy Muffet and volunteers from The Chapel, Green Campus, for hosting a parking lot cookout and party for ROH dinner guests and shelter residents. The menu included hot and savory Italian sausage sandwiches and all the fixings – baked beans, fresh fruit, chips and ice cream. Kids had fun with face painting and balloons. The weather was beautiful and 259 meals were served.



Check Out ROH's New Website

HOW EXCITING! ROH HAS A NEW LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE!

We are pleased to announce that our new site is up and running. "This fresh, new website was designed to provide more information with an easier format to navigate within the site," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Director of Development for ROH. "In addition we also added a new donation page and donors will have more options for giving with just a few clicks of the mouse."

Cassel Bear, Inc. has been leading ROH's team through this project. Staying current with technology is vital as we strive to raise friends and funds necessary to serve our community through safe shelter for homeless men and hot meals to men, women and children.

We believe our new website will give us many advantages in brining awareness to the major concerns of poverty, hunger and homeless in Stark County. In addition it also gives opportunities for anyone to join us in being part of the solution to those issues! Please visit our site today www.refugeofhope.org.

Yes, I want to support people like Helen, William, Jane 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: _____

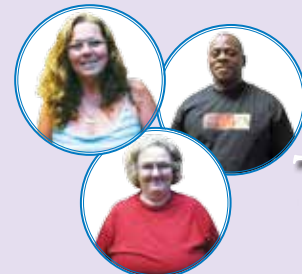
Credit Card: Visa Master Card Expiration date: ____ / ____ / ____

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, Secure on-line donations are accepted on our website www.refugeofhope.org

Once Upon a Time...continued

find housing and employment. "I am down but not out," Helen remarked.

While searching for a job, Helen heard about ROH's Meal Ministry. "I was ashamed when I first walked in the door," Helen said. "How did I end up here?" But she was greeted by a smiling volunteer who poured her a steaming cup of coffee and, according to Helen, she was soon served the best chicken casserole she had ever eaten.

"They even have a pharmacist here who gave me cream and band aids for the blisters on my feet from walking so much," Helen explained. "They are good people and provide a safe haven! And, I have re-connected with God."

Helen received nourishing food and medical attention but, most of all, a spiritual refreshing which is life changing! Please pray for Helen and her upcoming job interview.

WILLIAM first came to ROH's men's shelter in 2014. He had experienced several really bad winters on the street and times were hard for him.

Scott Schnyders, ROH's Men's Shelter Director, has played a big part in helping William through his transition from living on the street to adjusting to shelter life to recently moving into his own apartment.

"This is a place of hope," William commented. "I was encouraged and remained focused to achieve my goals with Scott's guidance. I am so grateful to everyone here for giving me a second chance. God is the reason and this place is a blessing."

JANE is able to come to ROH's Meal Ministry a few times each week and it really helps her stretch her monthly budget. Living just a few blocks away, Jane can easily walk to the mission for her meals.

When she moved back to this area a couple years ago, Jane remembered ROH served meals. "I thought it was just food but it is so much more now. Faith, Food, Fellowship and Family, that is what I found here," Jane explained.

"Most days they have bread on the give-a-way shelf but one day they had these wonderful books and I was able to take a few," Jane said. "This place just exceeds your expectations. They have faith in God and I can spend time with Him here."

Three lives, three stories, three journeys with a common thread of faith woven through the fabric of each, faith which provides hope for a better life. Like Helen, William and Jane, we are all on our own faith journeys which cause us to fall into valleys and allow us to climb mountains. ROH is here to help restore hope when it is lost and faith when it is hidden by fear.

You often see ROH's logo along with Meals, Shelter, and Hope. These are not just hollow words to the hundreds of men, women and children we serve every day. Rather, they speak to the possibility of changing lives, new opportunities and fresh beginnings.



Refuge of Hope

Holiday Gala

Kent State University Stark Conference Center

Saturday, November 21, 2015

6 pm

PLEASE R.S.V.P. ONLINE AT:

www.refugeofhope.org or via phone: 330.453.1785, Ext. 207

Kindly respond by November 5, 2015

Tickets are \$100 per person.

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