



# CHRONICLES OF HOPE

December 2008

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## Mission Statement

**The purpose of Hope House Rescue Mission is to serve those less fortunate who come to us for help with compassion and love. We, at the mission, help provide for their needs; whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual, regardless of their race, color, creed or social status.**

**Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.**

Psalm 82:3

## Christmas Traditions

Traditions are an integral part of many individual's and family's Christmas celebrations. Baking cookies with children, a visit to the Christmas tree farm to select the perfect tree, attending a Christmas Eve candlelight service or collecting presents for a local family in need are just a few of the traditions that your family might observe.

Several friends of Hope House Rescue Mission have established Christmas traditions that benefit the men, women and children staying in our shelter during the holiday season.

The proceeds from the Blue Christmas concert have benefited Hope House Rescue Mission for the past 16 years. All of the musicians and performers have donated their time and talents for a night of entertaining blues music.

Mt. Ida C. S. I. Outreach ministry has donated Christmas gifts each year for every person and family staying at the mission.

The Karicia family of five have volunteered in a variety of ways during the 12 days before Christmas.

Lacy Keith collects thousands of much-needed items for the homeless at Hope House Rescue Mission and delivered them during the month of December. Beginning three months before Christmas, she has contacted area businesses to complete this task.

Couple Julie and John have hosted a Christmas party each year. Instead of exchanging presents with each other, their guests are invited to bring gifts for Hope House.

Businesses, churches, families, former residents, foundations, groups, individuals, scout troops and schools have collected food, baked cookies and donated funds raised through bazaars and special projects. The community has blessed the residents of Hope House year after year, and we are truly grateful for your faithful support.

On behalf of the board and staff and all those who receive our services, may God bless you and your family with a joy-filled Christmas and peace in the coming year!!



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



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**Phone: 513-424-HOPE**  
**Visit Our Web Site At:**  
**[www.hopehouserescuemission.com](http://www.hopehouserescuemission.com)**

## Notes from the Board of Directors . . .

As I look back over the choices that brought me to the position as President of Hope House Rescue Mission's Board of Directors, I realize how slim a thread guides who we become.

Why do I invest my time and energy here? Hope House holds for me the humbling truth, that except for the grace of God, I could be homeless or a victim of abuse. I did not choose whose family I was born to or the part of town where I was raised; God chose that for me.

But He calls me to choose to give to those who need the resources, talents and skills I have to offer, and I am thankful to have something to give. What about you? What do you have to give?

Emily Harris, Board President

For as long as I can remember I have, like so many others, had a concern for the plight of the homeless and wondered and prayed about what I could do to help.

One day out of the blue, I received a call from Nancy Caudill, Director of Hope House, asking if I would be willing to serve on the board. There was no doubt in my mind that God was leading me to accept this assignment. I told Nancy that I would be happy to serve and mentioned to her that I had been thinking about Hope House that very week. She responded that my name had popped into her head during that same time frame! Some may say that was a coincidence, but I know that it was the prompting and leading of the Holy Spirit.

I have been serving on the board for 10 years, and during that time, have seen lives changed from despair to hope and indeed sometimes success because of the unique services that we at Hope House can provide. We are able to provide this help because of the generosity that we receive from this community for which we are so grateful.

Fay Smillie, Secretary

I was looking to volunteer somewhere in the community, and worked with a Board Member of Hope House. God's timing is always perfect. When my co-worker approached me to be a possible board member, I thought this was God's way for me to give back to the community. The timing was perfect since the treasurer was not able to continue volunteering, and Hope House was in the market for a replacement. That's when I knew this board position was where I belonged.

Hope House has a special place in my heart since I have had family members live there in the past.

I believe in the programs Hope House offers and see daily the difference they make in resident's lives. What a blessing Hope House is to our community.

Barb Bradley, Treasurer

I can still remember the first time I visited Hope House: United Way took some of the campaign staff on a tour of the mission. What an education! It was a cold, rainy day and a young mother and her children were leaving for the day. She had no coat to shelter her from the cold and rain. I gave her my coat. I knew I had more at home and a warm car waiting for me outside. She had neither.

That started my service and support of Hope House. Over the last 11 years, Hope House has seen some rough times, but I always knew our faith in the community and supporters would pull us through. I volunteer on the board so I can make a difference in someone's life. To see a mother and her children safe and secure at the shelter is all I need to reconfirm my commitment. Please remember the homeless and needy at Christmas. And please keep the staff and volunteers in your prayers.

Lee Hartman, Vice President

Hope House holds a large part in my heart because of the grace God has shown me. We all need to be thankful for what we have and show others His grace.

I have a passion for the women and children of Hope House and ways to show them that we are all God's children and just how much he loves them. I feel one good gesture can make someone feel loved, and that can change a life.

Melissa Flohn, Board Member

I gave my life to Christ ten years ago and God gave me a heart for the “hungry, hurting and homeless.” Prior to my salvation, I was “focused on accumulating worldly things.” I also confess that I said many unkind things about the homeless. I think God has a sense of humor because He took a man who was unkind to the hungry and homeless and placed those same people in my heart. That’s a heart change that can only come from the Spirit of God.

I joined the Board of Directors “to help the ministry grow financially and provide security” to the residents of Hope House. The board recognizes the need to obtain a separate, safe environment for our women and women with children. The Mission urgently needs to expand our facility and services to meet this goal. Please join me in making this goal a reality.

Dr. Tom Knox, Board Member

### **Upcoming Events**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – Blue Christmas concert will be held at the Manchester Inn on Sunday evening at 7:30. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased at Flowers by Roger or the Manchester Inn. Tables of 8 may be purchased for \$160 through United Way**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> – A Christmas Dinner will be held at Hope House on Tuesday from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Gifts for children will be handed out after dinner.**

**February 20<sup>th</sup> – Please reserve Friday at 7:00 p.m. for Hope House Rescue Mission’s *Have a Heart for Hope Banquet* a celebration of 20 years as Middletown’s emergency shelter.**

### **Please Help With Our Needs As You Are Able**

#### **Non-Perishable Food Items Needed**

- Canned Fruit**
- Canned Tuna**
- Canned Soup**
- Fresh Fruit**
- Fresh Vegetables**
- Orange Juice**
- Grape Juice**
- Sugar**
- Creamer**
- Garlic Powder**
- Mrs. Dash**

#### **Perishable Food Items Needed**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Milk</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chicken</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cheese</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pork</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Butter</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Beef</b>    |

- Paper Plates and Cups**
- Napkins**
- Dish & Dishwasher Soap**
- Laundry Detergent**
- 55 Gallon Trash Bags**

- Christmas wrapping paper for adults and children**
- Clothing Racks for Free Store**
- Shelving Units for Kitchen and Free Store**
- Large Plastic Storage Tubs**

#### **Volunteers Needed**

- Computer Tech**
- Receptionists**
- Office Workers**
- Web Design**
- Grant Writing**

- Diapers – Sizes 3, 4 & 5**
- Baby Wipes**
- Hairspray**
- Shampoo**
- Conditioner**

## **“REAL” Change Comes to Hope House Rescue Mission**

Christmas is a time of new life. Jesus’ new life at Christmas brings REAL life to those who receive His gift of salvation. New life has also come to Hope House Rescue Mission through Pastor Foster. Not only is he a pastor of Tried Stone Baptist Church, he is also the assistant school psychologist at Life Skills and the chaplain for the Middletown High School athletic department.

Because Pastor Foster has many connections with the community, God is using him greatly to network with agencies, people in authority, and the court systems of Middletown. At the request of the board, Pastor Foster stepped down from being a board member and began working as an advisor and consultant to the board. We are grateful for the spiritual guidance and wise council he brings to us. Pastor Foster has brought renewed energy and enthusiasm to the staff, residents and board.



**Pastor Foster**

**Hope House administrative staff and board of directors are available for presentations to talk with your church or organization about the work God is doing at the Mission and how you can help.**

**For more information or to schedule a presentation, contact Outreach Services Director Barbara Reeves at 513-424-4673 or via [outreachservices@fuse.net](mailto:outreachservices@fuse.net).**