



FORGOTTEN OF HOPE

December 2009

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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

Merry Christmas!

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Amidst the frenzy of the holidays, we pause to reflect on the dilemma Mary and Joseph faced upon arrival in Bethlehem because there was no room in the inn. At Hope House we know the pain of having to tell someone we have no room in the inn. In 2008 we turned away more than 400 people, and sadly this year the number has escalated to 1000. We simply don't have enough room in the inn.

We're aggressively pursuing a multi-prong approach to this growing problem. Demolition has begun on the women and children's transitional living facility, a project that will expand our capacity by 50 individuals. Executive Director Mitchell Foster, Ph.D., and I got the opportunity to invest some sweat equity into the building by helping with the demolition of the interior of the building. We worked along side residents of Hope House, men who put in hours of back-breaking work to clear dry wall, remove walls, tear out old plumbing and rip out ceilings. We're eternally grateful for the help and savings it provides to our construction budget.

While this puts a small dent in the issue, an equally important facet is our continuous improvement effort in programs. Long-term success relies on proper evaluation, case management, job readiness skills and restoration of birth certificates and other documents necessary for work. We're committed to building strong program services to coincide with the building renovation to ensure that everyone who enters the mission without hope can regain a sense of purpose and have the necessary tools for success in the future.



As we prepare to expand the number of available rooms in the inn, we need your help. The majority of our funding comes from individual donors, people who generously give monthly or for special needs. We've been stewarding our finances in preparation for this opportunity, yet we still have a host of expenses and needs that will go unmet without your help. Please consider giving generously so that we can reverse the rising trend of homelessness in and around Middletown.

Carla R. Messer, Board President

If you would like to volunteer for the Family Center renovation, please contact outreachservices@fuse.net



**34 S. Main Street Middletown
Phone: 513-424-HOPE**

Visit our Website @ hopehouserescuemission.com

The Beginning of Hope . . .

Although it falls during one of the coldest months of the year, Christmas is an emotionally warm time for most of us. Family gatherings, holiday feasts and gift-giving reflect and reinforce bonds of love that we have experienced for many, many years. But for hungry, homeless people, Christmas can be a bitter time for reflecting on past failures and struggling to endure brutal living conditions.

The journey toward hope and a better life can begin with the first genuine smile or a hot meal that people receive when they enter a rescue mission like Hope House.

The donations you provide can mean the rebirth of hope, faith and self-reliance for someone longing to take that first, important step toward a new life.

Thank you for your faithful support, and blessings and peace to you and your families this holiday season!



Hope House Snapshot of Services

Most people understand, that as an emergency shelter, Hope House Rescue Mission provides food, clothing and safe shelter to meet an individual's most basic physical needs of life. But did you know . . .

Hope House Helps Several Diverse Groups of People:

- Single men
- Single women
- Mothers with children
- Two parent families
- Couples with no children
- Women and men recovering from drug and alcohol addictions

Hope House Rescue Mission's case managers assist resident individuals and families in obtaining identification cards, birth certificates, permanent housing, employment, and physical and mental health care.

Hope House serves lunch to the public every day, as well as to its residents.

Individuals on the 12-Step Transformation Program perform daily routine chores around the mission including cleaning, cooking, serving meals and organizing donations as part of their recovery process.

Because of a grant from the Ohio Department of Development, financial assistance for apartment or utility deposits is available to help Hope House residents moving into their own housing.

The intake procedure involves gathering basic demographic information, a police check and a drug test.

Every adult resident receives an assessment by a therapist.

Case management staff members network with other agencies designed to provide essential services by directing families and individuals to them.

Hope House operates a 3rd Floor Free Store that provides clothing to numerous residents and members of the community on a weekly basis.

Ongoing classes are held weekly by volunteers dealing with all aspects of employment, basic computer skills and resume writing.

Other classes are offered in goal setting, cooking, life management, balance, nutrition, healthy habits, self-worth, coping skills and more.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Thanksgiving Blessings . . .

Thanks to all of the donors and volunteers that blessed the lives of our residents and the needy in the community on Thanksgiving Day. We are truly grateful for your faithful support.



Holiday Affair on the Square

Hope House Rescue Mission Board President, Carla Messer and Executive Director, Dr. Mitchell Foster, had the privilege of lighting Middletown's Holiday Tree and blessing the city of Middletown on Sunday, November 22, 2009 at Governor's Square Park. This was just a small part of the opening ceremonies for the "Holiday Affair on the Square". The festivities featured an art exhibit by artist Sam Ashworth, *Homeless: Telling Our Own Stories* and an Art walk which included creations from many community members.

The purpose of the event is to not only share artistic talent but to bring awareness to the reality of homelessness in our community. The Exhibit has graciously put faces of men, women, and children to the homeless in the city of Middletown and surrounding communities. Hope House Rescue Mission is honored to be a part of such an event.



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.

Please Help With Our Needs As You Are Able

Items Needed

- Shaving Cream**
- Hairspray**
- Toilet Paper**
- Paper Towels**
- Industrial Paper Towel Rolls**
- Feminine Hygiene Products**
- Laundry Detergent**
- 45 - 55 Gallon Trash Bags**
- Large Plastic Storage Tubs**
- Large & Assorted Gift Bags**
- Grocery Store Gift Cards**

Clothing Needs

- Men's Underwear - S, M, L, XL**
- Men's T-Shirts-L, XL, 2X, 3X**
- Women's Underwear - S, M, L, XL**
- Sweatshirts & Sweatpants - All Sizes for Men, Women and Children esp. XL, 2X & 3X**

Kitchen Items Needed

- Milk**
- Sugar**
- Fresh Fruit**
- Canned Fruit**
- Orange Juice**
- Spaghetti Sauce**
- Fresh Vegetables**
- Canned Tomatoes**
- Cream of Mushroom,**
- Celery & Broccoli Soups**
- Creamer**
- Cheese**
- Butter**

A special thanks to all of the groups and individuals that conducted food drives for Hope House during the year.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!!

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HOPE HOUSE
RESCUE MISSION

