



CHRONICLES OF HOPE

March – April 2010

Volume 4 Issue 2

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

Our Hope . . .

Easter Greetings! We rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and the knowledge that His blood covers us. Easter is a time of reflection and gratitude and Hope House has much to be grateful for. We rejoice in the many donors who faithfully contribute to the work we're doing every day for those less fortunate.

In this issue you'll meet the Case Management team, a group of dedicated individuals charged with diagnosing and documenting the deep-seated issues that plague many of our residents and keep them in bondage to poverty. Hope House is so much more than a place to sleep or to receive a warm meal. Our staff is committed to creating long-term self sufficiency, and our case management team is a key component in assuring that residents receive holistic care.

The Center of Hope for Women and Children continues to progress. We've raised close to 75% of the funding necessary to complete the project and are working diligently to close the gap. The Center of Hope will provide an additional 50+ beds for homeless women and children in Middletown. Our city has been especially hard hit by the economy and few shelters exist in Butler County that accept children. In 2009 we turned away over 1000 individuals seeking shelter. The new Center of Hope will offer classes on parenting, budgeting, life skills, addiction recovery, job search skills and self esteem building all within a faith-based environment.

We're grateful to every supporter of this important endeavor. Beyond the generosity of our individual donors, several local corporations have lent a hand in the development of the facility. Churches and local retailers have offered to build vegetable gardens, donate phone systems, provide landscaping and even give a swing-set for the kids who will call the Center of Hope home this spring. Rejoice with us as we move closer to the construction commencement. Your generosity makes a difference. Donations are still being accepted for the Center of Hope, and your prayers are the greatest gift of all.

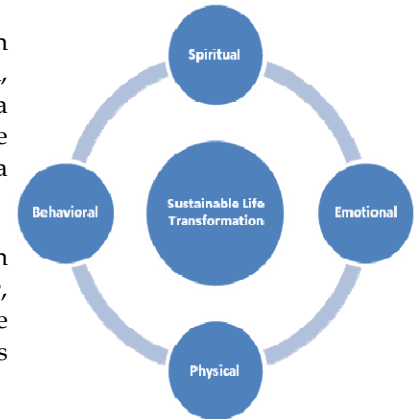
But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him." Mark 16:6



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Visit our website at hopehouserescuemission.com

Meet the Case Management Team . . .

Hope House Rescue Mission is often mistaken as simply an emergency shelter. In reality it offers comprehensive programs and services designed to promote long-term, sustainable life transformation. Breaking the cycle of poverty requires more than a warm meal and a bed for the night. While providing shelter is a critical part of the mission, Hope House understands that long-term success is only achieved when a combination of emotional, physical, behavioral and spiritual support is provided.



Diagnosis of underlying, and often generational, issues is the foundation for action plans and goals designed to promote overall health and well-being. Over the past year, Hope House has increased its emphasis on emotional and behavioral health. Under the leadership of Executive Director Dr. Mitchell Foster, the case management process has developed into a comprehensive intake, documentation, and goal planning initiative.

Melissa Schwarber joined the Hope House case management team in August 2009. Her passion for the homeless stems from being homeless herself. Melissa states that the Lord lifted her out of her own personal darkness. "His mercy and grace was unending, and His love was more than I could understand. I view the homeless as lost treasure *not* yet found, and how honored I am that the Lord would use me to help "RECOVER" it." Melissa believes that being called "for such a time as this," and being used to lead hurting men and women out of deadly entrapments of abusive relationships, addictions, and victimizations, into health and wholeness is a privilege. For nine years prior to joining the Hope House team, Melissa helped countless clients transition into self-sufficiency. The role is huge because it entails listening to the needs of the individual and advising the resident on the best course of action. These include but are not limited to:

- Securing birth certificates and picture identification cards
- Working with Child Protective Services to regain custody of children
- Obtaining public assistance or subsidized housing
- Attending court hearings with the resident and scheduling a payment plan for settling fines
- Helping residents enter college or GED classes
- Transporting individuals to important appointments
- Anything necessary to promote life change

The initiative also includes tapping into eager interns from Miami University and Rets College. Working under the direction of Dr. Foster, interns get the opportunity to complete their practicum while making a significant impact in their lives, as well as the lives of residents.

Currently four interns are assisting in the case management duties under the direction of Dr. Mitchell Foster and Melissa Schwarber. The interns are learning the importance of good record keeping, confidentiality, performing drug tests, and observing the assessment process. Their fears, misconceptions, and prejudices regarding homelessness have disappeared as they now more fully understand the experiences that cause the underlying issues. They are learning not to judge or to use stereotypes, but to view each individual as unique. Their combined passion, backgrounds and hopes and dreams have been a great asset to the case management team.



Dr. Mitchell Foster

Melissa Schwarber



Lakaba Silas

Danielle Wilburn



Darrin Davis

Sherrean Murray



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**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
Coordinator
Barbara Reeves at
513-424-4673 or
via e-mail at
outreachservices@
fuse.net.**

Evelyn's Story . . .

Evelyn came to Hope House Rescue Mission from Walton, Kentucky, by way of Monroe, Ohio. She never expected to end up in a homeless shelter. In fact, the thought had never even entered her mind.

Evelyn is a young mother of two beautiful boys, ages three and five, one of whom exhibits signs of autism. Four years ago, her husband abandoned them, leaving Evelyn to shoulder the responsibilities of a single parent and provider on her own. She struggled to work full time for four years to pay for the trailer that was their home, while raising her sons on her own.

During this time, she sensed that God had a new direction for her life, but continued to ignore His voice. In August 2009, everything fell apart when her car broke down. In a chain reaction of events, she lost her job and the ability to provide for her boys. Everything that she had worked so hard for over the past four years disappeared overnight. One night, as she lay in an empty trailer, she cried out to God, laid all her struggles at His feet, and committed to trust Him completely.

An old friend opened her home in Monroe to Evelyn and her two children. During her stay, she realized that she could not qualify for any resources available to single mothers while living with a friend. It was then, in November 2009, that she moved into Hope House Rescue Mission.

Evelyn enrolled her five year old son into school and plugged into a local church. Because of her endless patience, she has become a role model for the other mothers in the shelter demonstrating love by reading and playing with the children, and by giving examples of how to handle, teach and love their children during difficult situations. She believes that there is no situation that is too big for God to handle, even homelessness.

Evelyn has also worked closely with Hope House's case manager and will soon be moving into her new home. She is grateful for the guidance, care and insight that she and her sons have received while they have stayed in the shelter. She has also learned life management skills. She recently discovered that there is a job waiting for her locally at the same retailer with whom she had previously worked.

Evelyn attributes her steps toward self-sufficiency and the joy that she feels every day to the power of God working in her life. Her prayer is that she continues to trust that God is truly in control of her life and the lives of her children. She vows to praise Him all the days of her life.

OOOPS! We made a mistake in the last newsletter. These are the correct statistics:

<u>Number of Persons Housed - 390</u>	Of the 390 Persons Housed There Were:
Single Individuals - 286	36 - Veterans
Female Single Parents - 26	233 - Males
Two-Parent Families - 5	157 - Females
Count for Other Parent - 5	284 - White
Couples, No Children - 7	86 - African American
Count for Other Spouse - 7	5 - Native American
Children - 54	12 - Multi-Racial of Which 4 Were Hispanic

The number of individuals served by Hope House Rescue Mission in 2009 was reduced by approximately 30 people from 2008, not 100. Our apologies for the error.

Please Help With Our Needs As You Are Able

- **Toilet Paper, Paper Towels**
- **55 Gallon Trash Bags**
- **Fresh Green Salad Material**
- **Salad Dressings**
- **Milk, Juice, Creamer & Sugar**
- **Pancake Syrup**
- **Men's T-Shirts - XL, 2XL**
- **Women's Underware - Medium**
- **Pocket-Sized Tissue Packets**

Center of Hope for Women & Children

- **Twin-Sized Sheet Sets & Blankets**
- **Towels & Washcloths**
- **Silverware**
- **Pillows**
- **Small Appliances; Toasters, Microwave, Blender, Mixer, Can Opener, etc.**
- **Garden Hose and Sprinkler**
- **New Office Furniture, Filing Cabinets, Fax Machine, Fireproof Medium Locking Safe**

Special thanks goes to Mary Eichholz who passed away last year and named Hope House in her estate. Hope House is almost entirely funded through the generosity of individual donors. In death, Ms. Eichholz was able to provide funds that will making a lasting impact on the lives of homeless individuals in our community.

If you'd like more information on how to include Hope House in your estate planning please contact us to discuss options.