



REFUGE *of* HOPE  
MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 9361  
Canton, Ohio 44711

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**PAID**

CANTON, OH  
PERMIT #34

*Be devoted to one another  
in brotherly love.  
Romans: 12:10*



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MINISTRIES

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## STORIES *of* GIVING BACK

*from the Refuge of Hope Dinner Guests and Men in the Shelter*

*"One of the most humbling experiences I have ever known is when a person I have served and helped throughout the years approaches me with a donation," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager, "The following stories are examples of amazing acts of giving back."*

**ANGIE:** She was my first experience of "giving back" and I will be honest in saying I was hesitant to accept her offer and wanted to simply decline her gift. However, when I looked in her eyes and saw the sincere joy she had about giving this donation, I changed my mind completely. I did ask her if she was sure this money would not be needed in her future and she clearly stated I needed to buy food for others!

**CLYDE:** His story is a bit different and yet just as emotional. Clyde stayed with us almost a year. After he moved out and was financially secure, he came back and presented me with a generous check. He simply stated that he received love and hope in this dining room and wanted to be sure we moved into the new building so others may also receive that same hope.

*Some other quotes from people who "gave back."*

**BRETT:** "I would just like to give back and thank you for caring about us."

**JANDY:** "God has blessed me and this place is always feeding us and loving us."

**SALLY:** "You prayed for me, fed me, loved me and I am a part of this family."

Did you know that several men who are former clients of the shelter volunteer over 100 hours each week at Refuge of Hope? Think about that for a moment ... they come back to a place that is a reminder of some of the most broken and despairing times in their lives.

Why would they do this? I believe it is because they were accepted into the Refuge of Hope family when they were broken and loved when they thought they were unlovable. Volunteering gives them purpose every day to keep the hope they originally found here. It is also a way to share that hope with others by the work they do preparing meals and more.

*continued on page 4*



**Listening to prayer request before a meal.**



# Hall of Fame FIREWORKS NIGHT

WHEN THE HALL OF FAME  
COMMITTEE MOVED THE  
FIREWORKS DOWNTOWN, IT PUT  
REFUGE OF HOPE IN A FRONT  
ROW SEAT TO VIEW THE  
SPECTACULAR SHOW.

For the past couple of years we have enhanced our Thursday evening meal to make this a special event for our dinner guests and the men staying in our shelter.

This year the fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 28. Refuge of Hope will be open from 5:00 p.m. until after the event to provide an evening meal, ice cream treats along with other refreshments and activities for the Refuge of Hope family. Canton Baptist Motorcycle group will be volunteering to serve the meal and also bring their motorcycles down for a mini bike show.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to expand the services in the Meal Ministry for this evening to those who could not afford to purchase food at the vendors or who may otherwise not attend the fireworks at all," said Duane Wykoff, Executive Director. "Our guests can join in the city's festivities through the efforts of our Meal Ministry's volunteers and staff."



## Scott Schnyders Runs Canton Marathon for Refuge of Hope

Scott, who will soon be moving out of the state recently resigned his position as Men's Shelter Manager. He devoted his last five years to homeless men, going the extra mile to help them find hope in hopeless situations.

"We were not surprised when he decided to run the 26.2 miles and raise money for Refuge of Hope through sponsorships," said Board Member Mickey Lawver. "Once again Scott went many extra miles to support Refuge of Hope. He even inspired me to run as well. It was my first marathon."

"The spirit of a marathon represents individuals setting and achieving personal goals and breaking through barriers for greater triumph," said Scott. "This is what we do every day at Refuge of Hope. We help our clients set in motion structured plans to assist them as they overcome the obstacles that led them to be homeless, allowing them to transform their lives through hope."

Through his efforts Scott raised over \$5,000 for Refuge of Hope.

## New Van For Refuge of Hope

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation, a partner of The World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational. Thanks to them, Refuge of Hope is the proud owner of a new 12-passenger, all-purpose Chevrolet van.

Don Padgett III, Executive Director, Bridgestone Invitational, said "We're grateful for the work that Refuge of Hope does in our community and are happy to support that work through Bridgestone Invitational proceeds."

The new vehicle is an incredible blessing and could not have arrived at a better time. Despite talk of an improving economy, the numbers of people being served at Refuge of Hope remain very high. This much needed van provides an effective way to transport people as well as to move the food, clothing, furniture and supplies necessary for the most efficient day-to-day operation of our ministries.



Kevin Spitzer left, and Jim Kieffer of Spitzer Chevrolet  
Thank ROH Accounting Manager Jeff McDonald



# New Hires for Refuge of Hope



Simon Horn

Simon has an undergraduate degree in Pastoral Ministries and is currently working on a master's degree (Chaplain/Psychology) at Liberty University. He previously served as Pastor for the Wildwood Chapel in East Canton, OH, and has also served as a volunteer chaplain at Aultman Hospital.

Milo's path to employment at Refuge of Hope is interesting if not a bit unusual. His first contact with our organization was as a client in early 2010. Abused as a child and struggling with drug and alcohol addiction most of his life, Milo has been able to find the spiritual, emotional and physical support at Refuge of Hope that he needed to transform his life and get a fresh start.



Milo Blanchard

Please join with the Refuge of Hope Board and staff in keeping Scott Schnyders and his wife, Christina, in your thoughts and prayers as they move to new jobs in Tennessee. Scott did an outstanding job of leading Refuge of Hope's Men's Shelter for five years and his experience and compassion for serving will be sorely missed.

## Summertime Request

Don't forget Refuge of Hope in the midst of vacations, ball games, cook outs and other fun summer activities. While giving typically drops dramatically in the summer, the needs of men, women and children who find themselves in dire circumstances are not seasonal. The fact is that your help and generous support is needed in summer more than any other time of the year.

The bad news is that crisis situations...extended unemployment, poverty, lack of healthy food and safe shelter and the list goes on and on...continue to plague people in our community. The good news is YOU can be a change agent. It only takes a minute to make a generous donation that can help transform lives of those in need. Your gift provides hot, nutritious meals, safe shelter, medical care, clothing and other needed vital essentials. What a blessing!

*Please add support Refuge of Hope to your summer "to do" list.  
Wishing you a blessed, safe and fun summer with family and friends.*

**Yes!! I want to help men, women and children this summer!! Please use my gift to provide hot, nutritious meals and safe shelter to our neighbors in Stark County.**

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.*

# MEAL MINISTRY

## EXPERIENCES RAPID GROWTH

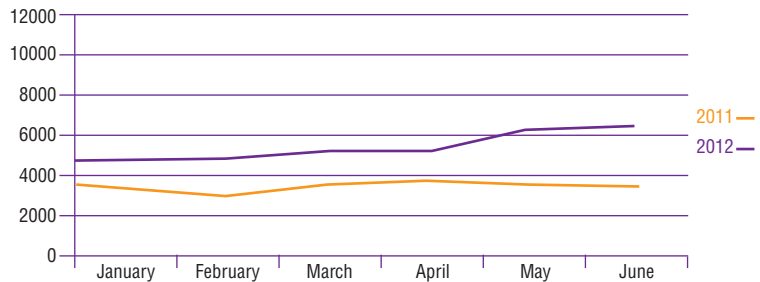
Several recent news reports have indicated the economy may be picking up in Ohio. While that may be true for the state, the numbers at Refuge of Hope don't project quite the same rosy forecast for the local community.

### MEALS SERVED

2008.....	14,500 meals served
2009.....	21,500 meals served
2010.....	36,335 meals served
2011.....	46,331 meals served
2012 thru June.....	31,713 meals served



### 2011 & 2012 MEALS SERVED BY MONTH



It has never been Refuge of Hope's intent to provide this many meals nor was such rapid growth anticipated. Yet, while the dramatic increase in the number of meals being served has certainly brought new challenges, the Meal Ministry's focus remains the same -- to serve hot, nutritious meals with love, compassion and respect to those who are hungry and hurting.



**78 cents of every dollar donated to Refuge of Hope goes directly into the services we provide for those in need.**



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



## STORIES *of* GIVING BACK

So why did I feel the need to relate these stories to you? Many times people in need get a bad reputation for being users and abusers of the system. Granted, that could happen but it is a minority behavior while the stories I just shared are the majority. Quite frankly, when you love people, they return love and when treated with respect they respond appropriately. And they “give back” anyway they can, like with a lamp shade hat, (yes, this was an actual gift one day!) flowers they pick on their way to a meal, an apron, poems, trinkets found and yes, sometimes, with a little cash from their pockets.

We are all children of God, made in His image. He loves us unconditionally and we are a part of His family. I hope these stories of “giving back” encourage you and show you the great joy and blessings we experience daily at Refuge of Hope. Please continue to pray for us as we reach out to offer hope, love and respect to hurting and hungry men, women and children in our community.

### REFUGE *of* HOPE Is Your Local Stark County Rescue Mission

We are here to serve hot nourishing meals to your neighbors! We provide safe warm shelter to homeless men in your county.

Daily hundreds of people in Stark County face the prospect of going hungry if families with incomes so low they must decide whether to put food on their table or pay the rent and utilities. Refuge of Hope annually provides thousands of free meals to help our community. We also house homeless men in our emergency/transitional shelter.

If you would like a staff member to speak at your church, civic organization, business, school or club, please contact Jo Ann Carpenter at 330-453-1785. We have an informative 4 minute video about our Ministry and would love to share information about the work we are doing locally in Stark County.

### Current Needs List for



REFUGE *of* HOPE  
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#### MEN'S SHELTER:

toothbrushes, deodorant and flip flops  
(shower shoes)

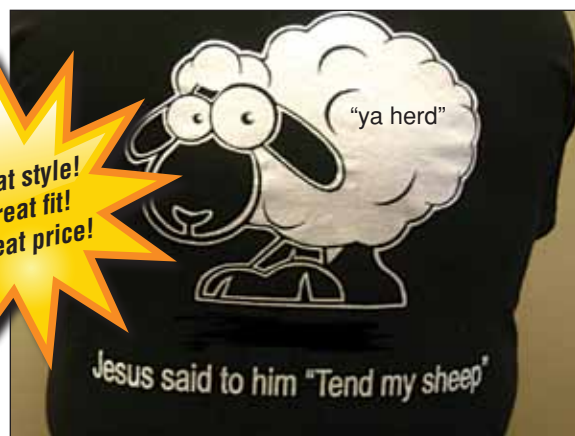
#### MEAL MINISTRY:

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



## 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 a limited time only with a \$15.00 suggested donation, 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.

## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

**Terry Seeberger**  
Partner, Litigation  
& Employment Group  
Stark & Knoll  
Member since 2007

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**Marybeth Hinds**  
Business Owner  
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Buxton Corporation  
Member since 2008

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Funeral Homes  
Member since 2011

### Randy Smith

Senior Vice President/Market  
Lender, Westfield Bank  
Member since 2012

### Duane Wykoff

Executive Director,  
Refuge of Hope  
Member since 2012

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