

h REFUGE of HOPE MINISTRIES

Food Insecurity, Severe Hunger, Starvation *YOU can make a lifesaving difference!*



"I would have starved without the meals at Refuge of Hope."

How many times in your life have you said, "Boy I am starving!"?

But the question is: were you really starving?

Hungry certainly, but starving, hardly. You knew there were plans for dinner or the next time you would eat. The point is you understood there is a meal just around the corner for you. Whew! Starvation averted!

This is not the case for many of the people we serve at Refuge of Hope at all. Kenneth said, "I would have starved without the meals at Refuge of Hope." He literally meant he had no resources for his next meal. Recently out of prison he received some social security which paid for a rented room and his utilities but not much more. Food was a luxury Kenneth simply could not afford.

There was no money to set up a proper kitchen with pots and pans, or even a can opener. Searching for a meal, Kenneth was told that Refuge of Hope can provide a hot meal, encouragement and much more. Even during the coldest of days, he walks to our dining room to share a hot meal with us.

Rachel and her five children escaped from a very abusive family situation and were relocated to Canton. They left with just the clothes on their backs. She had no food, no kitchen set up, and five hungry children; were they going to starve? Someone suggested trying Refuge of Hope because we served hot meals to families. "I not only found meals for my family but a wonderful support of love and concern for me and my children," Rachel said.

During those first few months Rachel was emotionally drained as she tried

to establish the children in school, set up a house and connect with agencies to help her financially. Her situation seemed overwhelming. Refuge of Hope was the stability in her life providing hot meals each night and lunch on Saturday.

This is why Refuge of Hope makes people like Kenneth, Rachel and hundreds of others, a priority when we prepare and serve hot nutritious meals *seven times every week, 52 weeks a year.*

While there are several food pantries in the area, they just were not a viable solution for Kenneth, Rachel and many others in our community living in dire circumstances. **If there were only food pantries in Canton, a whole segment of the county's population would go hungry!** There has to be a balance with both food distribution and the availability for hot, nutritious meal sites, like Refuge of Hope, in our community.

Refuge of Hope is steadfast as we minister to the physical need of hunger, the emotional need for encouragement and the spiritual need of hope for men, women and children. Each hot meal is complemented with extra helpings of love, compassion and respect. All of this is possible because of your prayers, donations and financial support. Kenneth, Rachel and many more people like them thank you from the bottom of their hearts!

"I not only found meals for my family but a wonderful support of love and concern for me and my family."



From the Desk of Duane Wykoff, CEO

Things I've been thinking about recently...

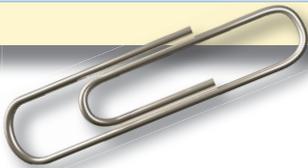


> STARK COUNTY MAN GOES FROM HOMELESS TO BUSINESS OWNER read the headline in a recent edition of *The Canton Repository*. Recent publicity about ex ROH shelter client Frank Wilkinson has been abundant. But, that headline is only possible because you gave Frank a chance to relaunch his life. Without your support of ROH, Frank, and so many others in need, most likely never get a second chance. We all need a hand up at times. Thanks to all of you who offered one to Frank.

> With the staggering number of decisions we make in a lifetime, isn't it remarkable then, in the end, only one really matters...do we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior? Jesus makes it plain that only a personal relationship with Him will reserve our place in God's kingdom. Don't be fooled or misled by those who try to tell you differently. If you have not yet asked Jesus into your life, why not do so right now? This decision is the most important one you or I will ever make because the consequences are eternal.



> Volunteers are truly unsung heroes/heroines. Take ROH's Meal Ministry for example. In my time at ROH, we have gone from serving 21,000 meals annually to just under 90,000 last year. With our staff of 10 (half are part-time), there is little chance we alone could adequately serve such increasing numbers. We are truly blessed to have such a cadre of great men and women who give so generously of their time and resources to help us help others in need. We may not say it as often as we should but please know all of us at ROH appreciate and thank each and every one of our volunteers for all you do.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.



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For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. — Matthew 18:20



Angie Wright and the Ladies of the Tuesday Bible study

Last fall, Angie Wright felt led to begin a ladies Bible study for the women who come to Refuge of Hope's meal ministry. They meet every Tuesday at 4:00 before the doors open for the meal.

“We are sowing seeds of hope with these exceptional ladies,” said Angie. “Those seeds may not blossom for weeks, months or even years. But my prayer is that every woman who comes in broken and hurting, that through God’s word and fellowship with other women, they will know how deeply they are loved.”

Each week Ann, Victoria, Holly and others meet with Angie. They are beginning to understand when they face challenges in life they can seek God through it all. They are learning to

trust God as He reveals His plan for their lives.

“I feel encouraged after we meet,” said Ann. “I look forward to next week to pray with my friends and learn more about God. I don’t feel so alone now.”

Sharing God’s Word with everyone who is part of the Refuge of Hope family is what we strive to accomplish. Small groups, reading scripture before the meal, or praying with prayer partners, is all part of our ministry. If you feel led like Angie and desire to share God’s love with hurting people please contact Dawn Bowman at dbowman@refugeofhope.org.

Yes! I want to help struggling people like Kenneth, Rachel’s family and others by providing hot meals, additional vital needs and HOPE for a better life! Your gift today will make a difference to hurting men, women and children in Stark County!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How you can contribute to Refuge of Hope Ministries

\$50.00 \$100.00 \$150.00 Other: \$ _____

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard 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.



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**For your convenience, on-line donations are accepted on our website:
www.refugeofhope.org**

Inspired by the success of our Olympic Athletes this summer in Rio, Refuge of Hope would like to honor our faithful volunteers with this gold medal. You have provided almost 20,000 hours of service to the men, women and children at Refuge of Hope, through August of 2016. May God bless you for your faithfulness!

