

hands *of* HOPE

MEALS for the hungry, SHELTER for homeless men, and HOPE for those in need.

“HOPE is the power of being cheerful in circumstances which we know to be desperate. G. K. Chesterton

Marlon's story

“I've slept in dumpsters with snow falling on my head.”

A story of renewal and hope.

According to Marlon, it all started five years ago, in February, 2006. He had lost his job, was drinking heavily and had family problems. Life was bleak. Then came the final straw...his mother died and, to make matters worse, he was the one who found her body.

“It led to a breakdown. I began drinking daily and didn't care about my health or the consequences,” Marlon said. “I slept on railroad tracks, in doorways and the back seat of cars, even in dumpsters with snow falling on my head. It didn't matter. All I cared about was not thinking about my problems.”

Marlon admits that he has been in and out of Refuge of Hope several times but something happened when he returned again last October. At the time, he was drinking so heavily that he almost died from internal bleeding. With no insurance, the doctors wouldn't operate on him.

“That caused me to stop drinking. Fortunately Scott (Scott Schnyders, ROH men's shelter manager) allowed me back in the shelter and walked me through the steps to get the assistance I so desperately needed. If it wasn't for the help I received from Refuge of Hope and their partnership agencies in town, I probably wouldn't be alive today,” Marlon noted.

Marlon currently has three social workers helping him gain stability in his life once and for all. He recently moved out of the shelter into an apartment Scott helped him find. “It's beautiful!” Marlon said. But, he also knows the road ahead of him will not be

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Men, women and children are homeless and hungry so partner with us

Fight

What a great day May 17th was for Refuge of Hope!

Nearly 200 guests helped us dedicate our new facility at 405 Third Street, NE in Canton. Even the cold and rainy day could not dampen the atmosphere of praise, hope and enthusiasm created by those in attendance.

John Ashmen, President of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions challenged each of us to reflect on our personal legacy on earth.



Christine Boyd, sang the inspirational song "God of the City" to set a positive, upbeat tone for the celebration.



RiverTree Christian Church Executive Pastor, Gary Dolan, highlighted the crucial role Refuge of Hope continues to play in serving the less fortunate of our community.



Thanks to Toni Altmore, caterer & owner of Dishes by Design, all in attendance enjoyed a beautifully arranged and tasty luncheon.



We were honored to have Canton Mayor William Healy present ROH with a Proclamation from the City and personally cut the ribbon while surrounded by the ROH Board of Directors.

nt Poverty!

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easy and asks for people reading his story to keep him in their prayers.



"I want to stay sober and remain focused," Marlon said. "I haven't seen my brothers and sisters for quite a while and I'm fearful of our first interaction. There are a lot of burned bridges to mend. I also need my driver's license back and to get a car. I forget what it's like to drive."

Marlon tells his story in an effort to help others. Every Tuesday, he joins several other men who have had their own life-changing experiences by living in the ROH shelter and together they share their life journeys with a group of local young men who have made bad choices and are heading down the wrong path. Together, they help out at ROH doing whatever is needed that particular day. And they talk about everything... what's happening in their lives, family problems, peer pressure, getting involved in a church and how important spiritual role models are in the life of young people.

Marlon wonders how different his life would have been had someone been there for him when he was a teen. "But I am grateful that Scott and ROH came along side me just when I needed them. Now I am able to share with others the new joy in life that I have found," Marlon said.

Gifts in Memory & Honor

In Memory of Martha Notter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Horn
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dougherty
Sharon Albrecht

In Memory of Douglas Francis Bowling
Michael & Carol Wasara

In Honor of John Strauss of Elemental Arts
Gehani Lavin

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person or mark a special occasion, please mail your financial gift to: Refuge of Hope * P O Box 9361 * Canton, Ohio 44711

Time is running out!

The deadline to submit your application and payment for an engraved brick to be part of our phase II brick project is August 31st. Visit our website www.refugeofhope.org and download the brick application. Don't Delay!

Take the Survey Challenge!

Log on to our homepage and click Survey. The survey is brief and your answers confidential. As an added bonus, ROH receives a charitable contribution of \$3.00 for each completed survey returned. Thanks for your help!

Volunteer Receptionist Needed!

Join our volunteer administrative staff with light typing, assisting callers, and basic computer work. Help needed Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Contact Mary at mvivo@refugeofhope.org

Material Gifts Needed

PERSONAL HYGIENE/FIRST AID
Deodorant, non-alcoholic mouth-wash, cold/sinus tablets (no liquids), Tylenol

BUS TICKETS - We are always in need of 31-day bus passes.

SETTING UP HOUSE

Everything from new or slightly used furniture to cooking items is needed for men moving into permanent housing.

Please visit our website for a detailed list of specific items needed.

Get Involved!

Numerous obstacles in preparing our new building for occupancy had to be overcome and the dedication ceremony again proved to be a positive reminder of the faithfulness of a gracious and loving God to those who follow and serve Him.

Financial donations to non-profit organizations such as ROH tend to dry up during the summer months. We call it the "summer slump." We need your help now because unfortunately, poverty never takes a summer vacation.

Please prayerfully consider a financial gift so we can continue meeting the needs of the hungry and homeless in our community this summer. A remittance envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

In advance, thank you for your support. We remain ever grateful for your continued prayers, contributions and partnerships which are so crucial to our ministry.

To learn more about current work projects, please visit our website www.refugeofhope.org and click on How You Can Help.

Initiatives

Sponsor a Fundraiser through a Community Initiative Project



Ashley Roberts, left, and Jen Tucker pick carrots in the Hope Garden located on the property of First Friends Church.

Ashley's dream of establishing a garden to benefit Refuge of Hope became a reality in 2010. Jen, a leadership member, oversees church youth in garden maintenance and delivery of this year's bountiful harvest. The produce turns up in Refuge of Hope salads, sauces and creative vegetables dishes!

Interested in hosting an initiative project through your church or business? We actively seek ways to build involvement, community

awareness and support through fundraising events to benefit Refuge of Hope. Many groups outside of Refuge of Hope host events to raise money on their own with financial proceeds benefitting Refuge of Hope. All of these efforts are greatly appreciated by Refuge of Hope. Please visit our website www.refugeofhope.org and click on Sponsor an Event.



Shack-A-Thon is an event that will bring the facts of homelessness to life in ways that will recognize the humanity of those struggling to find food and shelter. On August 19th First Friends Church is hosting this "night-in-a-box"

experience to promote community awareness. All proceeds will benefit Refuge of Hope. To learn more about this event click on the SHACK icon web link to the SHACK web page.

Lyons Den Golf Course teams up with Refuge of Hope. During the week of August 14th through 20th, Lyons Den owner Andy Lyons will donate a portion of all golf, food and beverage fees when you Tee Up with you Refuge of Hope golf certificate. Visit our website www.refugeofhope.org to download your golf certificate and learn more about this event!



Upcoming Events

Mark your Holiday Calendar – Don't miss the second annual Christmas Gala at Glenmoor. Mark your calendar – Saturday, December 3, 2011. To learn more about how you can become a sponsor or donate an auction item, please visit our website www.refugeofhope.org.

Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner – October 25, 2011 at the Hartville Kitchen. Visit our website for details.

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Simon Horn
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New logo unveiled
May 17, 2011
Designed by Matt Graber



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MINISTRIES

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