



JAMES DANIELS

# Timeline of a Transformed Life

**JAMES DANIELS...** has a story to share and is eager to do so. He has had to make difficult choices necessary to transform his life and hopes his story will encourage others to take the first step to recovery.

**2011** - James came to Refuge of Hope seeking not just a safe place to stay, but was ready to give up his addictions and begin a new life. He stayed in the men's shelter for about six months. During that time, he attended Narcotics Anonymous meetings, counseled with Scott Schnyders, Refuge of Hope's Shelter Manager, and began to feel the positive effects of living a clean and sober life.

James eventually moved into Basic Accommodations, a transitional housing unit. Refuge of Hope helped him with furniture and a variety of household items. He worked hard to stay grounded in the Word of God and to live a renewed life.

**2012** - James was accepted into the Mature Services Program which helps those over 55 re-enter the work force. Since Refuge of Hope is a site that helps train those workers, James requested to be assigned to the Meal Ministry.

Not only is James extremely dedicated to our ministry, but he inspires other workers and vol-

*continued on page 4*



*The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7*

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# DID YOU KNOW...?

Throughout the 2013 holidays, generous Stark County and surrounding residents made sure that no man, woman or child at ROH went without by supplying:

- Teddy Bears and toys at Christmas
- 20 turkeys, 20 hams and 45 complete prepared turkey dinners
- Hundreds of pounds of canned and non-perishable food items
- Over 200 assorted blankets
- Approximately 150 coats and outerwear, hats, gloves and scarves
- 200 boxes of chocolates
- 200 Bible answer books
- 200 stuffed animals
- 350 McDonalds gift cards
- Dozens and dozens of cookies, pies and other baked goods



## NEW FACE OF FOOD STAMPS



What age group do you think is the primary user of food stamps? The elderly perhaps? Good guess but think again. In another sign of the changing times in America, for the first time ever, working-age people now make up the majority of U.S. households that rely on food stamps. This represents a switch from a few years ago when children and the elderly were the main recipients.



According to a report in the Huffington Post, some of the change is due to demographics such as the trend to having fewer children. But a slow economic recovery with high unemployment, stagnant wages and an increasing gap between low-wage and high-skill jobs is also playing a role. The trend suggests that government spending on the \$80 billion-a-year food stamp program – twice what it cost just five years ago – might

not subside significantly any time soon. Food stamp participation since 1980 has grown the fastest among workers with some college training, a sign that the safety net has stretched further to cover America's formal middle class. Formally called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), food stamps are now used by one in seven Americans.

These findings are not a surprise according to Refuge of Hope Meal Ministry Manager Jo Ann Carpenter who noted that meals served at Refuge of Hope over the past five years have increased annually from 14,500 to 73,322 in 2013. "People with part time jobs and families trying to make due on minimum wage are part of our Meal Ministry family," she said. "For many, our meals allow their income to go toward rent, utilities or gas for the car. It used to be people were trying to make it week to week. For some we serve, it's a day to day struggle to survive."



*Thank you!*

2013 CHRISTMAS GALA SPONSORS...

*your generosity helped make this event our best one yet!*



Slagle Wolf Group





**ROH Staffer Simon Horn accepts bus passes from Trevor Heaton while proud mother Debbie looks on.**

## IT ALL STARTED WITH A \$20 BILL...

Trevor Heaton, 16, is a member of Grace Fellowship Church in Canton. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Trevor and 5 other teens were each given \$20 with instructions to do something good for someone. They were told to be creative yet thoughtful as they came up with an idea. They had until Christmas to implement their idea.

Trevor knew he wanted to help someone that was in need of food and/or shelter. As he began researching how he would help someone, he read about Refuge of Hope and what our mission is. Trevor was invited to take a tour of the men's shelter so he could see how donations are put to use. After touring the shelter, Trevor spent some time talking with Duane Wykoff, our Executive Director. One of the topics they discussed was the need for bus passes for the residents so that they could have transportation to doctor appointments, the

unemployment office and other various appointments. After talking with Duane, Trevor knew what he needed to do. But since Trevor had only \$20 he would be able to purchase just 6 bus passes and he knew many more were needed.

He realized he had to find a way to increase the amount of money he had so he decided to send email and text messages to his family and friends and challenge them to match his \$20. They responded to his challenge. Trevor was able to collect \$400 in donations. To top that off, Trevor learned that SARTA matches any purchase over \$250 if you are a non-profit organization. Trevor qualified for the match since he was working on the project through his church. In the end, Trevor collected \$800 which he was able to turn into 266 passes. As Trevor's pastor, E. Keith Stephens, often says "It is a God thing" and this act of kindness truly was.

According to Trevor, what meant the most to him when he visited Refuge of Hope was the way he was treated when he arrived. As far as anyone from ROH knew, Trevor had only \$20 to spend but he was treated with respect the minute he walked through the door. Trevor stated "The passion Mr. Wykoff and his staff have for the residents of Refuge of Hope is evident not only through their work, but through their actions. Canton is blessed to have a Christian-based rescue mission such as Refuge of Hope."

## WORDS TO LIVE BY



*"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."*

*– John Holmes*

**Yes, I want to help people like James! Please use my gift to provide hot, nutritious meals, safe shelter and hope 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 with donation receipt.*



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

# SAVE THE DATE

Third Anniversary

# Spring

Fundraiser  
Banquet

**TUESDAY,  
APRIL 22, 2014**  
The Hartville Kitchen

*Please call Susan at*  
**330.453.1785**  
*for further details*

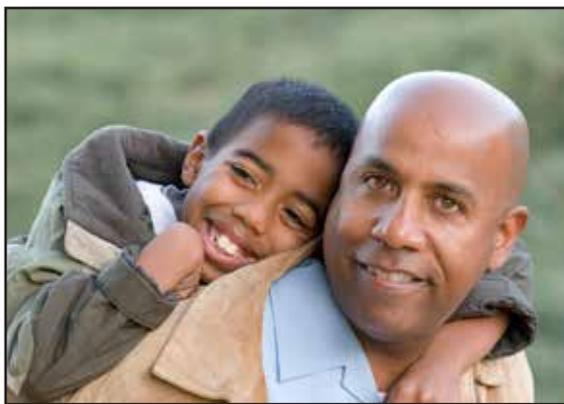


## Current Needs List



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## We Need Your Help!



### MEN'S SHELTER:

Socks, liquid laundry detergent, dryer sheets, reading glasses, shower shoes, stick deodorant, men's underwear, non-alcoholic cold and cough syrup, aspirin, long underwear, and ibuprofen

### MEAL MINISTRY:

Please call Jo Ann Carpenter  
330-453-1785  
to see what the most immediate need is for the week.

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*continued from cover page*

unteers to do their best work always. "James continually goes the extra mile in every aspect of his responsibilities," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager.

**2013** - James now has an apartment and is paying his rent and utilities every month. He lives on a tight budget and Refuge of Hope still helps to support him and the other workers in the meal ministry with groceries, personal care items and other such necessities.

James explains, "God can transform lives and now I have the chance to share my story with other men struggling with their own addictions. It is a way for me to give back to a ministry that helped me break free of my addictions and poor life choices."

**2014** - James walks over a mile to work every morning using that as his "quiet time" with God to prepare him for the day's activities. He arrives at Refuge of Hope prepared to fulfill his daily responsibilities of helping with lunch and making certain meat is cooked to feed about 200 people for dinner.

James is grateful for your prayers and financial support to Refuge of Hope who he said is like family to him. He calls Scott his brother and Jo Ann his big sister. He also knows how God, working through Refuge of Hope, has made his life story one worth telling every time he has the chance.

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## Refuge of Hope Staff

**Duane Wykoff**  
Executive Director  
dwykoff@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 205

**Susan Sleighter**  
Public Relations/Donor Development  
ssleighter@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 202

**Jeff McDonald**  
Accounting & Purchasing  
jmcdonald@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 201

**Jo Ann Carpenter**  
Meal Ministry/Donor  
Development  
jcarpenter@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 203

**Simon Horn**  
Men's Shelter  
shorn@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 204

**Scott Schnyders**  
Men's Shelter  
sschnyders@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 204

**Tim Petty**  
Men's Shelter  
tpetty@refugeofhope.org  
330-453-1785 ext. 204

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P.O. Box 9361, Canton, Ohio 44711  
Phone: 330-453-1785  
www.refugeofhope.org