

# My mom said to dad, "it's either the alcohol or us."

Jonathan Bailey grabbed the bottle and walked out the door! And his son, Joshua, had not seen his dad in the 14 years that have followed.

Then, something remarkable happened at ROH. Earlier this year, Jonathan was homeless and staying at ROH's men's emergency shelter. A supervisor mentioned the name of a new resident, Joshua Davis, causing Jonathan to stop dead in his tracks.

Jonathan recalls, "When I heard the name Joshua Davis from the shelter supervisor, I thought, he has the right name, could it be? And the moment I saw him I knew he was my son that I walked out on so many years ago. I really wasn't sure what to do?"

Joshua's story is a little different. During a visit to ROH, Joshua's adoptive mother recognized Jonathan and told Joshua his father was  
*continued on page 4*



**Jonathan Bailey (right) and his son Joshua Davis;  
reunited at Refuge of Hope after being estranged for 14 years!**

*God puts rainbows in the clouds  
so each of us - in the dreariest and most  
dreaded moments - can see the possibility of hope.  
Maya Angelou*

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## REFUGE *of* HOPE MINISTRIES

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# Cool Blues & HOT GUMBO



When Bill "The Sauce Boss" Wharton contracted with Community Harvest to participate in a summer fundraiser, he also agreed to perform free at a local nonprofit. In a most gracious gesture, Community Harvest leadership selected ROH and that led to an entertaining night that included plenty of blues music and tasty shrimp gumbo.

"Mr. Wharton is a slide guitarist who plays and sings blues music while preparing his signature gumbo," Dawn Bowman, ROH Meal Ministry Director explained. "He certainly had a winning recipe for a fun evening. Not only was the music great but the gumbo, served to all our dinner guests, was a special treat."

Thank you to Community Harvest Executive Director, Faith Barbato, and to everyone from that wonderful organization who made Mr. Wharton's visit to ROH possible.



**MANY OF OUR GUESTS EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE MEAL MINISTRY OR THE MEN'S SHELTER.**

*YOUR donations are significant in the lives of so many! Rachel wrote us a touching note; it is really to YOU.*

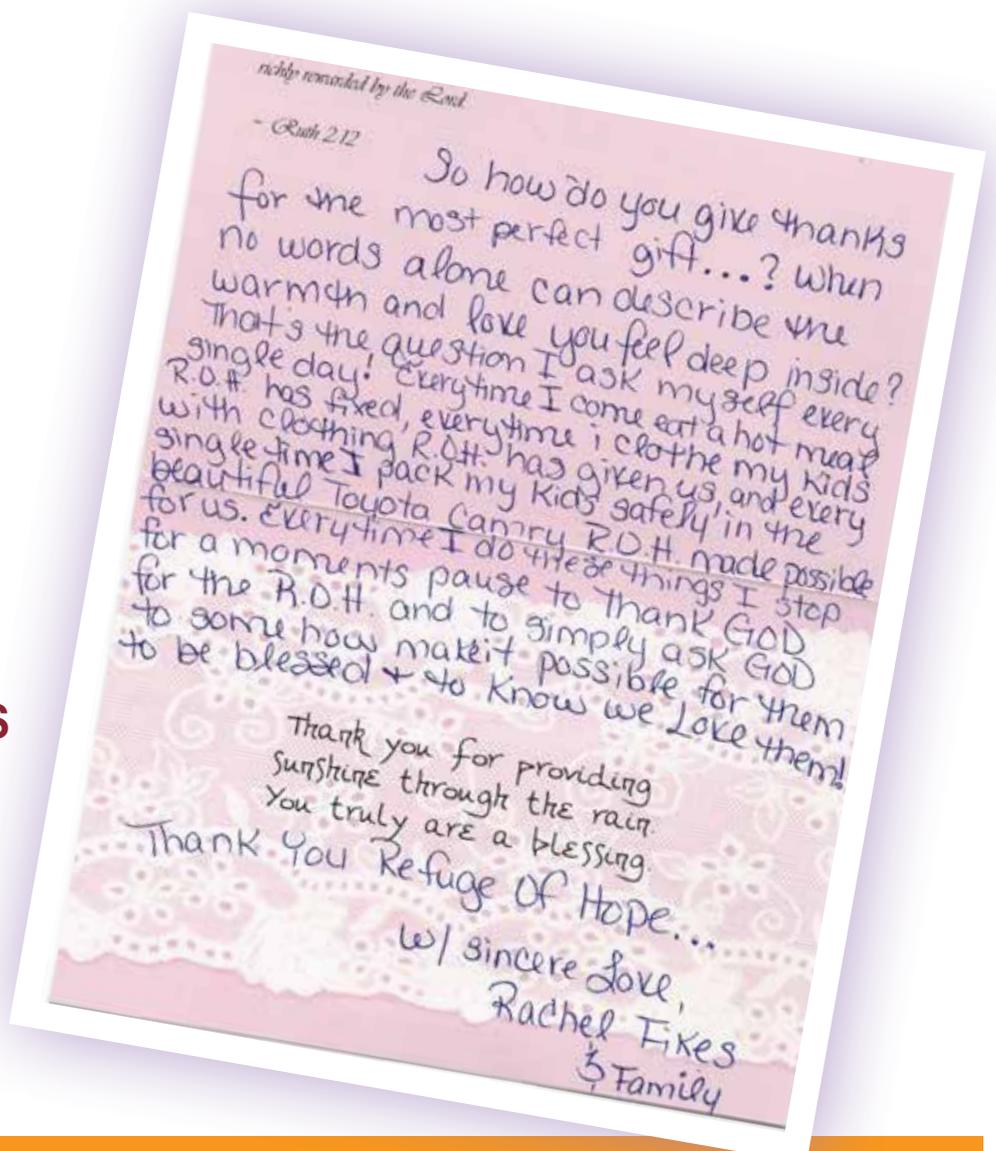
## HOF ENSHRINEMENT COURT 2014 Queen and Court serves at ROH



Pictured left to right, surrounding Ernie are: Mariah Curtis (Queen), Kimberly Dale, Abigail Lyall, Victoria Nash, Lisa Dale, Molly Selinsky and Cassie Rossetti.

Each year, as part of the National Football League Hall of Fame activities, a Queen and Court are selected to serve as goodwill ambassadors and positive role models. For the second year in a row, ROH was blessed to be selected as a site where this group would visit and serve a meal.

The smiles, friendliness, and positive conversations provided by these young women mixed with their kindness and willingness to serve our dinner guests made for an enjoyable evening. One particularly lucky dinner guest was Ernie. Celebrating his 78th birthday in royal style, Ernie was presented a cake and a happy birthday wish in song by the Queen and Court.



# HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS DO NOT TAKE A VACATION



Meet Debbie and her son Noah. They look happy and carefree. How would you ever guess that just a few months ago Debbie and Noah were homeless! Every night they would walk to Refuge of Hope to have dinner because they were hungry and did not have enough food to eat. That is the part of the story you cannot see in their picture.

This summer Refuge of Hope has been providing record numbers of meals in our dining room to hundreds of hungry individuals and families like Debbie and Noah! "We expected an increase in the number of meals we would serve to this community in 2014 because of adding a Friday night meal. We did not anticipate the need for hot meals to jump so dramatically during the rest of the week," said Duane Wykoff, Executive Director. "In June, we served 7171 meals, the most ever at ROH in a month." No one has ever been turned away from ROH because we ran out of food! In a dining room that only seats 110, these high numbers are challenging for sure. However, Dawn Bowman, Meal Ministry Director,

along with her team of volunteers, met the challenge head on and everyone was served in typical ROH style; tables decorated with vases of flowers and smiling volunteers serving nourishing meals and refreshing beverages.

Increased numbers stretch ROH's budget normally but during the summer months giving typically decreases rather significantly. This is called "the summer slump" at Rescue Missions across the country. It may be summer but homeless men are not taking vacations, they are seeking shelter. Hungry families are not going to Cedar Point, they are wondering where their next meal will come from.

**YOU** can change lives; **YOU** can help Debbie and Noah! **YOU** can make a difference by filling out the coupon below and sending a special gift to men, women and children who are struggling today! **THANK YOU for your hearts of compassion to those who have so little and hurt so much!!**

## WORDS TO LIVE BY



*It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be for creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely." – Leo Buscaglia*

*Save the Date*

**REFUGE of HOPE**  
**on** Holiday Gala

Brookside Country Club  
6:00 pm on Saturday November 22, 2014

- \* Live Entertainment
- \* Cocktails & Dinner
- \* Amazing Auction Items

*Refuge of Hope is a Christian rescue mission located in our community. Hungry children, women, and men, who are homeless, hurting and living in poverty are the people we serve.*

*Formal Invitation to Follow*

Yes, I want to help people like Noah (pictured at right) and the 20,000 Stark County children who lack a healthy food supply! 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: \_\_\_\_\_

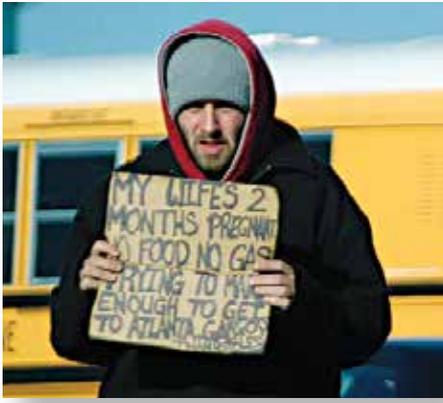
*Thank you on behalf of those who benefit from the work of Refuge of Hope Ministries made possible through your generous gift. Tax deductible information will be mailed with donation receipt.*



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



## WILL WORK FOR FOOD

Turning off the interstate, and heading down the exit ramp, there he (or she) stands, holding the sign. Crudely scrawled on brown cardboard, the message might be **Will Work for Food**, or **Homeless and Hungry** or some similar appeal for our sympathy...and our money.

It is often difficult to say no when someone tells us they are homeless or hungry. We feel guilty and want to help. Giving allows us to feel good about ourselves, that we are doing the

right thing. But, are we? More often than not, we make a bad situation worse and hurt rather than assist the person begging for our dollars.

So, how can we truly help? First and foremost, never give money to those who beg on the street, at exit ramps, etc. There are several reasons for this:

- we have no idea how or where the money will be spent
- most received funds go for alcohol, drugs or criminal activity
- we encourage further begging rather than life transformation
- the root cause of why the person begs in the first place is not addressed
- we may further injure a person's health and possibly even cause his/her death

The better option is to donate to reputable rescue missions (like Refuge of Hope), or to social service and charitable agencies that assist people who are hungry, homeless and living in poverty. These organizations are committed to making a long term difference in the lives of people who often exist in dire circumstances. Rather than supporting a destructive habit, our financial contributions go toward providing food, shelter and clothing as well as counseling, medical care, rehabilitation opportunities, etc. The emphasis is on helping people become productive community members with the ability to provide long term for themselves and their families.

A final thought - if you decide to contribute financially to an agency to help the less fortunate, first find out how much of your donation actually goes into provided services. In many cases, the answer is only 15 or 20 cents, sometimes even less of every donated dollar. Look for an organization that provides a good return on investment for your hard-earned dollars. At Refuge of Hope, for example, we work hard to be good stewards of all we receive with 84 cents of every donation currently directed to client services.

### *continued from front cover*

staying at the shelter. But, like Jonathan, Joshua was not sure what to do next so he reached out to Shelter Director Scott Schnyders and told him the story. Scott brought the two men to his office to meet formally for the first time in over 14 years.

“Nothing prepares you for this type of conversation with a father and son, estranged and both homeless, needing time to work through past issues and begin the healing process,” said Scott. “While Joshua knew Jonathan was his father, I was concerned about how Jonathan was going to take the news.”

Thankfully that meeting went well and was actually inspiring according to Schnyders. Jonathan apologized to his son, telling him he truly regretted his actions every day over the many years of separation. Joshua quickly forgave his father, welcoming the chance to reconcile with him as well as to rebuild an important relationship that has been sorely missing for so long in his life.

Watching the two of them walking down the street together or talking across the dinner table is heart-warming Schnyders noted. “It’s not often we see a father and son get the opportunity of a new beginning together. So far, it has been working well with Jonathan and Joshua,” Schnyders said. “There will undoubtedly be problems that each needs to resolve as they seek employment and permanent housing. But now each man knows he isn’t facing those pressures and decisions alone. Finding each other has been a true blessing.”

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