

Make this summer a season of HOPE!

Help your Stark County Neighbors

REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES

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WWW.REFUGEOFHOPE.ORG

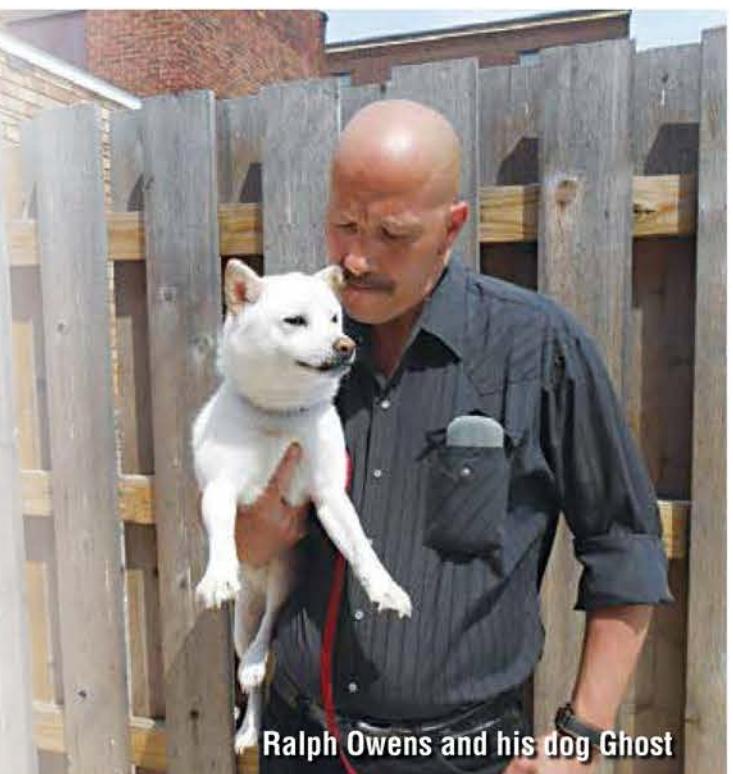
**"I thank God every day for the things
He has taken away from me!"**

Ralph Owens used to be filled with anger, hatred and resentment. God released Ralph from those self-destructive feelings and he is no longer that bitter man. In prison, Ralph found the Lord, was saved and then baptized. When he was released, Refuge of Hope offered him the encouragement needed to continue his walk with God.

Arriving at the Refuge of Hope Shelter in 2011, Ralph was immediately connected to local agencies to help him with several mental illness disorders. When he began taking medications, Ralph realized how disturbing his past life had been and vowed never to allow his violent emotions take over his feelings again.

Ralph was blessed to find truly loving and caring staff working at Refuge of Hope and, after 6 months, was living in his own apartment. On his 45th birthday, his Aunt Edna gave him a Shiba Inu puppy which he named Ghost. Because his therapist agreed it would help Ralph with anxiety, the apartment complex where he lived agreed the dog could stay with Ralph.

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Ralph Owens and his dog Ghost

DID YOU KNOW...?

- It took more than 18,000 volunteer hours to operate ROH in 2012
- In 2012, we served 68,799 meals compared to 46,311 in 2011
- You can view our 2012 annual report card at www.refugeofhope.org
- Our fourth annual Christmas Gala will be December 14 at the new "Piazza" Banquet Center



- Russell, a military veteran and our oldest dinner guest, just turned 94 and is here for almost every meal!



- Our ministry recently celebrated its 2nd anniversary fundraiser at The Hartville Kitchen

Mayor OF CANTON FOR A DAY

Ten year old Christian Conrad of Canton recently won an essay contest to be Mayor of Canton for a day.

As part of his duties of serving in the community, Christian and his mentor, City of Canton Mayor William J. Healy II, came to Refuge of Hope to set tables before lunch.



Christian setting tables for lunch at ROH

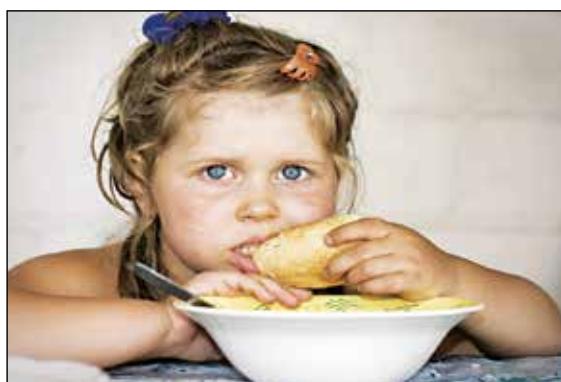


City of Canton Mayor William J. Healy II speaking with Mayor for the Day Christian Conrad

CHILDHOOD HUNGER DURING THE SUMMER

With your support, Refuge of Hope (ROH) is working hard to ensure that families, and especially children, have access to free, nutritious meals during the summer months.

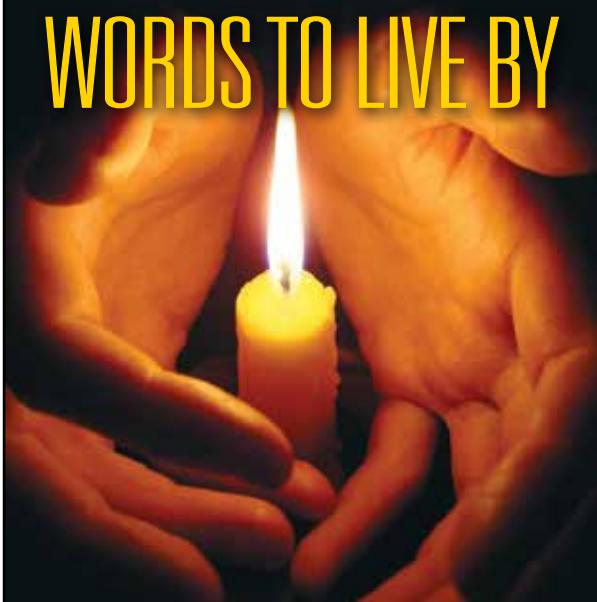
A recent report released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) painted a grim picture regarding the impact of hunger on children. Nearly one in five children in Ohio under age 18 experiences hunger. This is often compounded during the summer months when children are out of school.



Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. According to the USDA, lack of nutrition during summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once the school year begins again. Hunger may also make children more prone to illness and other health issues.

(Thanks to Community Harvest for information on childhood hunger)

WORDS TO LIVE BY



Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work. - Mother Teresa

ROH CURRENT HAPPENINGS...



Meet our new interns
Elizabeth Fach & Chad Webster

The Aultman WOW van and nurses provide free health screenings and education to our residents and meal guests.



2013 Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Queen, Claire Kendig and her court, serve dinner guests during a recent visit to ROH.



Susan Bodnar, Canton Fire Department paramedic, recently certified ROH's staff in CPR, First Aid and AED. Our shelter is currently in need of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Please contact us if you are able to provide this vital piece of equipment.

HAVE A
HAPPY & SAFE
SUMMER!



from
**REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES**

Yes, I want to help people like Ralph this Summer Season! 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.



REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES

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



REFUGE of HOPE

Is Your Stark County Christian 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. There are families with incomes so low they must decide whether to put food on their table or pay the rent and utilities. Refuge of Hope monthly provides thousands of free meals to help our community. We also house homeless men in our emergency/transitional housing 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.

Ralph Owen and his dog Ghost *continued from cover page*

For a man who feels isolated even around people, having Ghost in his apartment has saved his life more than once. Ralph explains, “*One night I was struggling with a severe depression episode. Suicide seemed like the only way to escape the voices in my head. I walked over to my pills and picked up the first bottle. Something made me look down and I saw Ghost watching me and I stopped. Who would take care of him if I was gone? I put the bottle back on the shelf, hugged my dog and prayed for God to take away those feelings and to help me be strong.*”

Even under a doctor’s care and while still on his medication, Ralph’s mental issues can still negatively affect his life. However, Ralph stays strong in his faith in the Lord, prays regularly, and takes good care of Ghost. Ralph understands his accountability day to day is to the Lord.

In the Meal Ministry at Refuge of Hope, you will see Ralph eating with the other dinner guests and he will often lift up a prayer request for strength. As a volunteer serving a meal to Ralph, you might describe him as a quiet, soft spoken man with a great smile, never realizing his past violent life, or how dramatically his life has been transformed.

“It is such a joy to see Ralph and Ghost out walking or running for exercise in the community,” says Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager. “When I ask Ralph about Ghost, a smile immediately comes to his face and I know they are doing fine.”

Ralph has plans for his future. His five year goal is to attend Culinary Arts School, get his business degree in restaurant management, and open his own establishment. Ralph loves to cook and is excited to pursue his career choice. Refuge of Hope was able to help Ralph, to love and inspire him, and now he is moving on with school and a renewed life.

“When I found out this organization was based on Christ and I felt the people who worked here believed in God, I knew I was in the right place,” Ralph said. “My eyes were opened when I found the Lord and Refuge of Hope played a big part in helping me start my life over and do things right this time.”

Current Needs List



REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES

We
Need
Your
Help!



MEN'S SHELTER:

Socks, blankets, bed linens, wash cloths, shower shoes, stick deodorant, and men's underwear

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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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 Manager
jmcdonald@refugeofhope.org
330-453-1785 ext. 201

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

Simon Horn
Shelter Manager
shorn@refugeofhope.org
330-453-1785 ext. 204

Tim Petty
Shelter Supervisor
tpetty@refugeofhope.org
330-453-1785 ext. 204

Milo Blanchard
Weekend Shelter Supervisor
mblanchard@refugeofhope.org
330-453-1785 ext. 204

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