

# HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION – READING, PA

DECEMBER 2020 EDITION

## The “Will” to feel great about life

**W**ill P., age 54, came to the Mission for help in September 2019, successfully worked his way through our residential programs, and relocated to Florida in October 2020.

His message to all donors and volunteers of Hope is, *“Thank you. If it wasn’t for you, this place would not be here, and I would not have been given the opportunity to be who I am right now and feeling great about my life.”*

Will was born and raised in Reading, PA and entered the foster care system at the age of three. He knew his biological father but not his mother. Will describes some of his foster homes as “tough” but

the third family ended up adopting him and one of his sisters. He remains in contact with his adoptive parents.

Will did not finish high school, but he did get his GED. During his teen years, Will started smoking marijuana and drinking. He had his first child at age 19, and rather than live as the responsible provider he should have been, he increased his drinking and partying and began using cocaine.

Rather than maturing as a man in his 20’s, Will was living on the streets in active addiction, which continued off-and-on for almost 30 years and included multiple jail sentences. Will fathered three children and always felt deep pain about family issues and felt like he was less of a person than others around him.

In 2019, Will desired to live a drug-free life, but he stayed in a house where others were getting high.

He felt the urge to use again, so he left and came to the Mission. Upon arriving at Hope, Will felt like he had a great support network and an opportunity to work his way through transformative programs. He learned how to make God-honoring decisions and talk through conflict.

Will enrolled at RACC to pursue a counseling degree, volunteered regularly at Hope, and experienced spiritual growth through our discipleship classes and Biblical-recovery classes. Questions Will wrestled with are, *“Am I a fan or a follower of Christ? Am I really doing what Jesus would want me to be doing, or am I just a fan? What does He want to accomplish through me?”*

Will transferred to a community college in Florida, and he continues to pursue his goal of becoming a drug counselor to help others with the struggles he suffered through. Upon graduating, Will challenged his fellow brothers at Hope:

*“Find the positive people who are moving forward and use them as mentors to learn from, so they can help you be the man God made you to be.”*

*It’s up to each person if they are ready or not to turn their life around. They need to know that their lives are worth living.”*



Will is greeted by Frank Grill, Hope’s Associate Director.



# Recent Code Blue Guests



**Will D.**

Since coming to Hope a few weeks ago, I have realized how much I needed to be at a place where my physical and spiritual needs are being met daily. I am excited to be heading in a direction where I can continue to help myself heal and help others along the way.



**Brian W.**

Hope is the steppingstone to rebuilding my life. I'm ready to do the hard work needed to stay sober and make the right choices. I had no idea that an encounter with God could change my life! Now I live every day with joy knowing that my Savior will never stop loving me.



**Oneil P.**

It took a few days of being at Hope to realize that I was here to re-connect with God. I've been a believer for a while, but alcoholism has caused me to separate myself from things that matter the most. I'm in the right place to heal and restore my relationships.



*This year, more than ever before, we could not have offered our Code Blue Program without the donations and prayers from individuals like YOU!*

A typical Code Blue season will bring guests in off the streets at the lowest point in their lives. This year, with the increased stress that COVID has added to our lives, we are seeing

guests come with even greater needs than prior years.

As we celebrate the Advent season, we celebrate that God sent His Son to provide for our greatest need of a Savior. While we provide every man that comes in during Code Blue with any physical needs he may have, it is his spiritual need of salvation that we believe is the most important gift he can receive!



**"From all of us at Hope Rescue Mission, thank you for your generosity throughout the year and we hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas!"**

**[www.HopeForReading.org](http://www.HopeForReading.org)**