

# HOPE for TODAY

Hope Rescue Mission - 645 North 6th Street, Reading, PA 19601

## Physical & Spiritual Renovations



**Walls & Lighting Done!**

**"I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work."**

~ Nehemiah 2:18

**Ken working hard painting a room!**



The tremendous outpouring of support by you, our partners, is enabling long overdue physical renovations of our 90 year old building to become a reality. We hope to have an open house for the new 3rd floor rooms in April. Providing a safe, private bedroom, along with new bathroom and laundry facilities blesses men who are striving to get back on their feet.

At Hope, we are seeking to renovate much more than brick and mortar. Over 800 different men came through our front doors in 2016 in search of immediate help in their struggles as well as hope for a better tomorrow. Men receive food, shelter, clothing, and opportunities to move forward in life, while being directed to the love, grace, and acceptance of their Heavenly Father through Christ. At Hope, we are seeking to renovate lives, from the inside out!

Here in Berks Co. in 2016, 112 individuals died of a drug overdose, and 72 individuals took their own lives after feeling they had nothing more to live for. Hope Rescue Mission is on the front lines of the battlefield of life and death on a daily basis. We want homeless individuals to turn from addictions, to find jobs, to better their lives, but our deepest desire is to see lives redeemed forever and experience new life through the Gospel. We are seeing men have hope restored in their lives daily. How many more would have lost their lives to drug overdose or suicide in 2016, if God hadn't brought them through Hope's door?

In the testimony time below, you will read briefly about Ken's story. Ken represents the 800 men who walked through Hope's door in 2016. With a failing liver and a hopeless outlook as Ken was defeated daily by his alcohol addiction, Ken truly had to choose between life and death. Ken chose life.

## Testimony Time

Ken, a former union roofer from S. Philly, went through a financial downturn and lost the home owned by his family for 40 years. Ken moved in with a friend in Reading to be closer to his two daughters and four grandkids. Ken ran out of money and was fighting for his life battling an alcohol addiction that plagued him most of his adult life. His son-in-law dropped Ken off at Hope in the midst of a drinking binge. Ken knew he had to stop drinking, or die. He hasn't had a drink in 9 months. Ken turned to God and is now relying on Him for strength. Ken is volunteering daily on the maintenance crew at Hope. Ken's dream is to start his own painting business! Please pray for Ken!

### How Can I Contribute?

- Mail a check using the enclosed card.
- Visit our website and click on the "Donate Now" tab.

**Thank you in advance  
 for your generosity!**

## Currents

- Thank you Steve & Amy Elliker, and your army of volunteers, for organizing the Daylight Saving Dash 5k Run at PSU Berks on March 11th which benefitted the Mission!
- The Berks Coalition to End Homelessness has partnered with us by placing a full-time employee, Mike Noll, at Hope to help direct our new Day Center and Employment Program. Please pray for these programs!
- Army & Marine Veteran, Paul, was featured in our last newsletter and shared his desire to get a CDL license and start a new career as a truck driver. A generous supporter responded by providing a scholarship for Paul to get his CDL through BCTC! Paul is enjoying his classes!

**Paul at BCTC enrolling in CDL training!**



## Hope's Case Management Team

We are so pleased that Tate Boyer, BSW, joined our team as a Case Manager and Mental Health Advocate. Along with Hamilton Newton, Director of Intake and Case Management, and a team of interns from Kutztown and Alvernia Universities, Tate is meeting with individuals as they arrive at Hope to identify their specific needs and set goals. Having served in the Air Force, Tate has a special burden for helping his fellow Veterans!



**From left to right: Intern Jordan, Intern Grace, Tate Boyer, Intern Megan, and Hamilton Newton.**

## Code Blue Season

Despite the mild winter we are experiencing, our Code Blue emergency shelter program has been bursting at the seams with an average of 48 men sleeping in our gymnasium nightly. Throughout this winter season, an average of 190 men have been staying at Hope in our four residential programs. With new men coming up our 19 front steps for help daily, we have the opportunity to first show them the love of Christ by meeting their immediate needs, and then share with them the love of Christ through our preaching and mentoring ministries. Please consider how you might join us in serving the needs of those in great need by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator, Hillary Detwiler, at: [hmvolunteerservices@gmail.com](mailto:hmvolunteerservices@gmail.com)

## Faith in Action

On Dec. 30th, Weaver's Ace Hardware in Fleetwood donated a box truck from their fleet to ours, to be used to pick up donations to Hope!



On Jan. 12th, Eric Savage and Freedom Auto Group in Hamburg awarded Hope with \$5,000 toward our work with those in need!



On Jan. 24th, 8th grade students and staff from Wilson West MS served lunch and volunteered in Hope's shelter and Thrift Store!

