

HOPE for TODAY

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

Pivotal Crossroads for Hope's Ministry



Half of 3rd floor with new concrete

"...and see if I will not
throw open the
floodgates of heaven
and pour out so much
blessing
that there will not be
room enough to store it."
Malachi 3:10b

Max at Red Rock Job Corps



We believe the Mission stands at a pivotal crossroad in our 122 year journey of supporting the homeless. We are embarking on major renovation and expansion projects on our 88 year old building. We have raised approximately 65% of our \$800,000 HCBC campaign, and we have confident expectations of surpassing that goal with your help during the last quarter of the year. Thank you for standing with us at this pivotal crossroad.

This building is home, a temporary refuge, to over 700 different men each year. While our highest goal is positively impacting a man spiritually, the physical accommodations provided during this challenging period of life impacts his quality of life and dignity. We want to instill respect, appreciation, and self-worth into each man's life during his stay at the Mission.

As soon as the permitting process with the City of Reading is completed, we will begin construction of 30 additional transitional housing rooms for men who have secured full-time jobs or have enrolled in a post-secondary education or technical program. 20% of those rooms will be dedicated exclusively to homeless veterans.

Men who work late or overnight shifts will no longer have to try to catch some sleep in the dormitory during the day while our staff is cleaning with the lights on or giving tours to visiting groups. Veterans struggling with PTSD will be more comfortable and safe staying in an individual room rather than in a dormitory with 60 other men.

We are planning extensive upgrades to both our kitchen and our laundry facilities. Homeless men do not have the luxury of stopping by whichever restaurant they feel like eating at on any given day. The over 60,000 plates of food served each year should be good tasting and nutritious meals. Providing a warm bed, a warm meal, and a warm shower stabilizes a homeless man's situation and allows the recovery process to begin. Something as simple as access to a clean bathroom can make a positive difference for a man.

Our limited laundry facilities are occupied most of the day with the washing of towels and linens. Expanding our laundry facilities with high capacity washers and dryers will provide men, who already carry heavy burdens within their hearts, access to clean their clothes during the day resulting in more dignity and confidence as they interact with others, go to job interviews, attend church, and other appointments.

We are praising the Lord that we were able to hire a full-time, licensed Social Worker as our Intake Coordinator in May. We have also identified a need to hire a full-time, Transition Coordinator to help men locate jobs, continue their education, and locate suitable housing when they are ready to transition back to productive living.

We invite you to be God's hands and feet with us as we strive to show Christ's love to men who feel unlovable!

Testimony Time

A disagreement with family members prompted young Max to hop on his bicycle in Northeast Philadelphia and start peddling west. After several hours on the Schuylkill River Trail, Max found himself discouraged and lost in Reading! Max asked someone downtown where he could go for help, and they told him to go to the Mission. Max found love, support, and opportunities at Hope. Max volunteered faithfully cleaning the dorm and helping with laundry, while being mentored spiritually. Our staff facilitated his acceptance into the Red Rock Job Corps Program, where he will live and be trained as an electrician. Please pray for Max and his future career. His family, and his Mission family, are excited for him!

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

- Please join us for a beautiful celebration at our **Hope Annual Banquet on Oct. 8th** 5pm-9pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Reading. Visit www.HopeForReading.org to reserve your seats. The banquet will include a reception, silent auction, dinner, live auction, and an inspiring program. Tickets are \$50 and Table Sponsorships are \$1,000.
- On July 14th we hosted a Building Campaign Ceremony for major donors to ask the Lord's blessings on all of our upcoming renovations.
- On Saturday, September 24th, the Mission will be a beneficiary of the **"Jesus in Motion MusicFest"** from 1pm-6:30pm at 363 Beagle Road, Lebanon, PA 17046. Please join us for live music and food!
- On Saturday, November 26th, we invite you to join us for a Night of Hope at the Reading Royals game at the Santander Arena, which will be culmination of our "Champions of Hope" fundraiser with the Royals organization. Please visit: www.royalshockey.com/champions-of-hope for more information.



Hope Capacity Building Campaign Ceremony

Champions of Hope

The cost to provide all of the food, shelter, and services a man receives for a week at the Mission is \$120. Multiple "Champions of Hope" teams are competing to raise the most weeks of support for men in need, including the Reading Royals Hockey Team. The winning team will be announced at the Royals home game on November 26th, and each \$120 sponsor receives a ticket and a meal voucher for the game. Families can purchase additional tickets to the game at regular price. Please visit: www.royalshockey.com/champions-of-hope and select a team to support!

Hope Outlet Thrift Store

The Hope Outlet Thrift Store generates approximately 40% of our annual budget through the resale or recycling of donated goods. Our Thrift Store employs numerous men in our residential programs and develops them vocationally and socially, as they serve our customers. Please call the Hope Outlet at **610-375-4224 Ext. 1** to schedule a free pick-up at your home of clothing, furniture, books, and housewares. Donate today, shop tomorrow, and restore lives forever!

Faith in Action

From Aug. 1st – Aug. 5th, youth from New Jersey in the J.U.N.E. Project volunteered daily at the Mission and worked so hard on numerous projects!



On August 16th, Staff and family from Berks Connections/Pretrial Services served dinner and volunteered for the evening!



On August 17th, the BA56 youth ministry from Hopewell Church in Elverson cooked and served dinner and ice cream and played games with men!

