

February 2016 Edition



HOPE for TODAY

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

Code Blue Ministry for Frostbitten Feet and Hearts



Brian expresses his gratitude for the Mission.

*“Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the
Lord.”*

Psalm 31:24

Frank in his favorite environment; the kitchen!



“Everything in my life went into a downward spiral,” describes Brian, a 44 year old man in the Mission’s Code Blue Program. “I went through a divorce, I broke my back in an accident, and I was out of work living in a tent in the woods off of Rt. 10 with my labradoodle, Quinn.” In early January, Brian suffered severe frostbite on both feet which sent him to Reading Hospital. The attending physician strongly recommended that Brian seek refuge from the cold at the Mission. He arrived at Hope on January 9th and made arrangements for Quinn to stay with a trusted friend.

Brian is from the Mohnton area and had his own asphalt seal and repair company for 20 years. He lost his truck, but he still has all of his business equipment in storage. Brian is making arrangements to get his business back up and running, while in recovery from alcohol addiction. He identifies himself as a Christian, and he says that the chapel services and spiritual focus at the Mission provide the encouragement he needs. “Ironically, Hope is exactly the place I need to be in right now, and I am so grateful for what they are doing for me.”

While frigid temperatures and two feet of snow on the ground cause temporary inconveniences and delays to our daily routines, these harsh winter conditions are life threatening to the homeless. The Mission’s Code Blue Program, which operates daily from November to April, provides life-saving food, shelter, and clothing to those who are desperate for the daily basic provisions that we take for granted. This seasonal overflow program operates in addition to our three regular housing programs and puts a great deal of strain on our organization. We need your ongoing support to provide for the immediate needs of men, like Brian, who walk through our front doors; while providing continual spiritual encouragement and hope for a better tomorrow to all men seeking shelter at Hope.

Testimony Time

Upon his release from jail, Frank came to Hope for housing. He immediately put his culinary arts training to use in our kitchen to his bless fellow residents. After an internship as a breakfast cook at Crowne Plaza, Frank was hired full-time and worked his way up to Banquet Chef. He is currently looking for his own apartment, where he can live with his two children, and be an active father. Frank shared, “If it wasn’t for the Mission, I wouldn’t have the opportunities I currently have.”

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

- The \$800,000 Hope Capacity Building Campaign has received over 40% in pledged gifts, including \$80,000 from Dick Ehst, President and COO of Customers Bank.
- Alan Redmond, owner of National Brokers of America, donated \$12,000 to HCBC on 12/23 and pledged quarterly gifts through 2016 toward the building campaign.
- Over 200 volunteers served wonderful meals on Thanksgiving & Christmas and blessed men with donations of socks, hats, gloves, and toiletries.
- On 12/28, the Crowne Plaza hosted 120 homeless from the Mission and City Lights for a special holiday dinner with music by the band Epiphany. Bieber Bus owner, Steven Hadad, donated two buses for transportation. Each guest was presented with a \$15 Rite Aid gift card from supporters of the Mission.
- Nick Stoltzfus, owner of DESCCO Design & Construction, is donating skilled laborers to expand our wood shop, and he is currently seeking donated or discounted materials for the project, which will expand vocational training opportunities for Mission residents.



Capacity Building Breakfast - left to right: **Robert Turchi**, HRM Executive Director; **David Roland**, HRM Board President; **Jim Smith, Esq**, HRM Board Vice-President; **Dick Ehst**, President Customers Bank



Faith in Action

On December 20th, Dr. Leonard & Carla D'Addesi sponsored a Reading Musical Foundation home-schooler concert at Hope. Talented young musicians lifted many spirits at this beautiful event. The D'Addesi family also blessed our building campaign with a \$25,000 gift!



Our faithful volunteers made Thanksgiving & Christmas a special time for Mission residents!



On January 18th, faculty and students from Fleetwood Middle School volunteered on their day off to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy.



Daylight Saving Dash



Faithful supporters, Steve & Amy Elliker, have selected Hope to be the beneficiary of the proceeds from the Daylight Saving Dash 5k race/walk on Saturday, March 5th, 9am at the Penn State Berks Campus. This is an excellent way to support our ministry and enjoy the beautiful campus of PSU Berks while racing or enjoying a relaxed walk! Indoor childcare will be provided, along with refreshments and a testimony from a current Mission resident. Please visit our website or: www.facebook.com/DaylightSavingDash for registration information.

Message of Hope

We are excited about our strategic community partnerships in 2016! Veterans Making a Difference is operating a Veterans Resource Center out of the ground level of the Mission, and we will dedicate at least five of the 30 new rooms on our 3rd floor exclusively for housing veterans in crisis. Berks Connections/ Pretrial Services (BCPS) has launched a new REDI Program and will hold classes in our computer lab three days a week that focuses on resume writing, job searching skills, and financial literacy.