You are invited to attend Haven of Rest’s Women of Compassion Tea. Proceeds from the tea will benefit Haven of Rest’s Future Story program which prepares women for a sustainable lifestyle through social enterprise and job readiness training.

Our theme is Pearls of Great Value. Pearls are formed by irritations, often a grain of sand or parasite, becoming lodged in the soft, unprotected inner body of an oyster. This causes the oyster great discomfort so the oyster reacts with a God-given defense system that surrounds the irritation and gives relief to the oyster. Eventually after many layers are made, the irritation becomes a beautiful pearl.

Every woman is a pearl of great value in God’s eyes. The irritations and intruders in our life story increase our value. The bigger the irritation, the larger and more beautiful the pearl. The more difficulties we have been through and have victoriously overcome, the more potential for our lives to be used for His glory. Celebrate with us every woman’s victory over adversity through God’s provision by wearing your pearls on the day of the tea!

We are so excited to share tea and lunch with you while showing how women have an opportunity through Future Story to learn valuable, marketable skills that can change their lives forever. On the day of the event you will be able to see the fruits of the women’s labor and we will be displaying Future Story’s international award-winning Hope Fabric, created in conjunction with Kent State University’s School of Fashion. For more information or to make reservations please contact Katrina Henry at 330-535-1563 or khenry@havenofrest.org. You can also reserve your seats online at havenofrest.org.

Women’s Auxiliary Schedule

If you would like to be a part of the Women’s Auxiliary or just want more information, please plan on attending on Tuesday, August 8th at the Mission.

Doors open at 10 a.m. for discount shopping, lunch starts at noon, and a special musical program featuring Vince Didato, a much-requested and talented pianist, begins at 1 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

While most students are celebrating the freedom of summer vacation, there are men and women at Haven of Rest who are working hard on their education all year round.

Until recently at the Mission, the option for men and women who wanted to complete their high school education was the GED, a high school diploma equivalent program. They wouldn’t receive a diploma, but passing the test would prove they had met high school level academic skills. A couple years ago there were changes made to the GED program that made the test incredibly difficult to pass. Haven of Rest’s Education Coordinator, Jack Hugg, said, “When someone came in and worked on the GED they were frustrated because it was so hard, it was easy to get discouraged and throw in the towel.”

This was an obvious problem, but God provided another way through the Stark State 22+ Program. This program is a free, two-year, completely online high school diploma program. When they are accepted into the program, participants take classes tailored to the year they would have graduated from high school. That means that the curriculum for people who would have graduated in the 80s is very different from people who would have graduated in the early 2000s and fits their needs individually. Also, participants only need to take classes in subjects that they did not complete during their high school career and Residents receive their diploma! This is determined by their high school transcripts, which they provide at the beginning of the program. It is one of the great assets to this program compared to the GED.

One man who is currently working on his high school diploma at Haven of Rest, shared, “I took the GED three times and I failed the math all three times even though I did well on the rest of it… it’s not general basic math I used to take in high school.” When he began the diploma program he realized he did not need any more math credits because he had passed enough when he was in high school. This was a great encouragement to him and he appreciates the chance to get his diploma instead of taking the GED. He shared, “I feel like you learn more and you’re not just learning something to pass the test, you’re learning what the actual material is. It’s awesome… I’m very thankful for this opportunity.”

“We are about completion,” Jack said. “It’s about attaining something that they never did before, getting their diploma is something that has been uncompleted and now they have the chance to finish what they started.” When men and women complete the Stark State 22+ Program they are mailed their high school transcripts, which they provide at the beginning of the program. It is one of the great assets to this program compared to the GED.

We are about completion,” Jack said. “It’s about attaining something that they never did before, getting their diploma is something that has been uncompleted and now they have the chance to finish what they started.” When men and women complete the Stark State 22+ Program they are mailed their high school diploma and their records show they are a high school graduate. Praise the Lord for this exciting program and for the two graduates who have finished! Please pray for the two men and one woman who are currently working very hard to make their graduation day a reality!
Dear Friends:

We are already into July. Summertime is here, school is out, and vacations are in full swing. At the Mission, many things are going on as we now into the beginning of our new fiscal year. The Akron banquet was recently held, our 27th Community Picnic in Grace Park is over, and at the end of the month we will start Hope Sports Camp for boys and girls in grades 1 through 6. I want to thank the many friends who have either attended, participated in, or will participate in the upcoming events that are ongoing at the Mission.

In the midst of all the activity that is going on, the front-line ministry continuously goes on daily in the men’s and women’s programs 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Each season of the year brings unique challenges and opportunities for us to minister to the many guests that come to Haven of Rest seeking help. During summertime, the weather is warmer and the days are longer. For our guests, warmer weather brings new challenges. They can be outside longer which gives them more time to wander into areas that can be dangerous and unhealthy for them. That can lead them back into environments where addiction or overdose are happening. Our staff in the Men’s and Women’s Day rooms who work in front-line ministry see this firsthand. The doors to offer hope in Christ are wide open. God loves all who are seeking help at the Mission. God does not love the addiction because addiction steals life. Please continue to pray for our staff that they would continue through the Lord’s grace and strength to be the Salt and Light that God has called us to be.

Matthew 5:14-16 says, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Thank you, friends, for your wonderful support and encouragement to us.

Blessings In Christ,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser
Executive Director

From The Executive Director

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