Please consider sponsoring a canned food drive for Haven of Rest Ministries. As giving to the Mission decreases during the summer months, your help in our Annual Canned Food Drive is much appreciated. Canned food collected helps feed hungry men, women, and children hundreds of meals every day. Thank you in advance for making a difference! For more information or to have someone come and speak to your group, contact Development Officer-Community Relations Charlotte Hunt at 330-535-1563 or email her at charlottehunt@havenofrest.org.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 the Bible says “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Haven of Rest has been helping men and women who are homeless and hurting begin a new life for more than 76 years. This year’s theme “Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. One Story at a Time.” expresses the impact the ministry has had on countless lives.

Recently the Mission has seen drug abuse trends change from crack cocaine and heroin to opiates and methamphetamines. This leads to homelessness, children without parents, overdose and death, unemployment, legal problems, and much more. The Mission is still trusting God to supply wisdom, love, and compassion in helping each person who comes through our doors begin the process of change.

We are grateful for all the churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals who, through compassion for hurting and homeless people choose to support the ministry of Haven of Rest. We especially ask for and appreciate prayers for a new beginning for those in our community who are without a home and without hope.
Dear Friends:  
This month is the Anniversary of Haven of Rest Ministries. God has been faithful to this organization for 76 years and there is much to be thankful for here at the Mission. I am thankful for so many things:  

- Thankful we are staying the course set in place by Rev. C.C. Thomas and Marjorie Ruth Thomas 76 years ago as a Christ-centered organization.  
- Thankful for the continued leadership over the years through Rev. Curtis and Eileen Thomas and Rev. Ben Walker who never faltered or compromised our Christian foundation.  
- Thankful God is growing the Mission with staff who have a heart to serve the Lord.  
- Thankful to see our guests’ lives being changed daily at Haven of Rest.  
- Thankful to the Lord for increasing the number of volunteers who want to serve at the Mission in a variety of capacities.  
- Thankful for the faithful donors who continue to believe in the work God is doing at the Mission.  
- Thankful for all of the prayer partners praying for us as we minister to the thousands who come through our doors every year.  
- Thankful for God directing and leading this organization and expanding the vision as we start on the Men’s Long-Term Residential Discipleship Program renovation.  
- Thankful for the godly leaders on our Board.  

As Board of Trustees President Mike Kura shared at the spring dinner in March, we are all part of this tapestry that God is putting together and it is creating this beautiful picture as we serve the men, women and children. Thank you all for being an important part of this tapestry at Haven of Rest.  

Blessings,  

Rev. Jeff Kaiser  
Executive Director  

To our dedicated volunteers, THANK YOU!  

In honor of National Volunteer Month, we want to say a special thank you to all of the incredible volunteers who make this work possible. When you dedicate any amount of your time to serving neighbors who are struggling in this community, you show them that they are not alone—and you give them hope for a better tomorrow. Without your kindness and support, many of the neighbors who have found refuge at Haven of Rest would still be searching for that hope. We can’t thank you enough for partnering with us to help the neighbors who need it the most.

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Mr. David Taylor is creating this beautiful picture as we serve the men, women and children who need help and healing. Keith Snodgrass, a resident of Haven of Rest, heard about the Mission from another man who promised he would get me down to Akron’s Haven of Rest and I accepted the offer. After the promise he made to the Lord, I did not go to prison. Upon being released, David who was serving multiple prison sentences. Although he married a sweetheart, scholarships, and more.  

David's trouble began in his Junior year of high school where he was a popular star football athlete. He found himself in an altercation with another student and decided to retaliate which resulted in his prosecution during his Senior year. After graduation, he was sentenced to two years in a penitentiary and lost his high school sweetheart, scholarships, and more.  

Upon being released, David who was a Crack addict. Liar. Thief. This is what David called himself before arriving at Haven of Rest. As he smoked crack, lied his way through touchy situations, and stole to afford more drugs, he still considered himself a man. Even though David didn’t commit to Christ as a young man, he came from a Christian background. Nevertheless, through all the grief he put his family through, they did not give up on him and prayed for him continuously.  

David’s trouble began in his Junior year of high school where he was a popular star football athlete. He found himself in an altercation with another student and decided to retaliate which resulted in his prosecution during his Senior year. After graduation, he was sentenced to two years in a penitentiary and lost his high school sweetheart, scholarships, and more.  

Upon being released, David who was vulnerable from his losses, hooked up with a friend who introduced him to crack. He never tried drugs, but said he started using and selling drugs to afford more. He quickly recognized his potential. He quickly received help and healing.  

To our dedicated volunteers, THANK YOU!  

Enjoy this Easter as you celebrate the victory of the resurrection of Christ! “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” Ephesians 1:7  

Eileen Thomas

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