Paralyzed by paranoia, Brent was determined to sleep on the church steps at the Akron Chapel on a Saturday night instead of somewhere else outside. He said he was so drugged he was fearful of living on the streets another night, even though he had been doing so for five years. Meth and other drugs harmed his health and kept increasing his paranoia and he sensed impending doom.

Brent knew he had to get serious about changing his life and the following Monday, he called Jason Hubbard at Haven of Rest Ministries. He made the commitment to the Residential program at the Mission and shares, “It is the best decision I ever made in my life. I was 127 pounds while using drugs, and I know I would have ended up dead on the streets.”

Brent’s parents divorced when he was eight and he said he did not have ‘much of a relationship’ with his dad. Then at 13, his friends introduced him to drugs in High School. After his mom could not tolerate it anymore, she kicked him out. Thus at 16, he went to live with his drug using friends and began to experience the transient lifestyle.

Today, Brent has been at the Mission for 9 months and works as a 3rd shift intern in the Men’s Day Room where he helps men come out of their paranoia. He says he is so thankful for a supportive staff and shares, “I would recommend this place to everybody because it met my needs. I met a lot of good people who really care for me. God changed everything and I see things differently now.” He adds he was able to repair his health at Haven of Rest Ministries.
The Voice
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Dear Friends:

Hope your summer has been going well as July comes to a close. This past month has brought several very hot days as our guests came inside to stay cool from the high humidity and temperatures. There are also many programs taking place during the summer at the Mission. Our Child Advocate, along with her assistant, keep the kids busy with fun summer activities. The activities include field trips, hiking, visiting the Akron Zoo, and fishing, as well as other exciting events taking place during school break.

Our Hope Sports Camp, which is one of our many community outreach programs, just ended. This is a two week camp, one week for the boys and one week for the girls in grades 3 through 8, where they learn basketball and volleyball skills. It gives our staff and volunteers an opportunity to build relationships with the children as we pray and share the hope of the Gospel. Please keep these children in prayer as many face big obstacles daily.

I am also thankful to the Lord for the many friends who support the Mission. As we just finished our Akron Dinner where over 400 people attended, we have been blessed to hear the kind words and letters people shared about how God is changing hearts and lives one person at a time.

Friends, you are a blessing to this ministry as God continues to do His majestic work. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support. Isaiah 40:31 says, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Thank you for being a blessing.

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser
CEO

Kids Helping Kids!

Toy drive coming! Are you able to purchase a new toy for children ages 0 to 12 and gifts for teens and donate it to Haven of Rest? If so, please bring unopened packages to the Donation Center located in our Client Services Center.

Presents are used for our Christmas programs for hurting and homeless children in our community. Various items are welcomed. (We have an overabundance of coloring books and stuffed animals at this time.) For more information, call Haven of Rest Ministries at 330-535-1563 and ask for David John or email him at djohn@havenofrest.org.

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His proud mom and stepdad came all the way from West Virginia to see him perform in the choir in March at the Mission’s Dinner in Hartville. Brent feels the Lord leading him to regularly attend church and Bible studies at the Chapel in Akron. He plans to find a job after his internship and sustainable housing in Akron. Please keep Brent in your prayers, and he asks we pray for his family’s health and well-being.

Dear Friends:

Please keep these children in prayer as many face big obstacles daily.

For Residential program information, contact Haven of Rest Ministries at 330-535-1563 and ask for Jason Hubbard or email him at jhubbard@havenofrest.org.

COMING SOON! NIGHT OF HOPE

Want to make a difference but don’t know how? Help homeless individuals at Haven of Rest by participating in Night of Hope. Simply form a team consisting of a youth group, office people, co-workers, etc. and register to sleep in a car to see what it is like for those struggling with homelessness. If you’d rather be involved yourself and sleep in a car, form your own team to be part of this first annual event! (If you own a business, you can help by being a sponsor for the event: Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.)

This fundraiser will be held from Friday, September 6th at 9:00 p.m. to Saturday at 6:00 a.m. outside of Macy’s at Summit Mall. If you have questions or want to volunteer and/or form a team to sleep in a car, call Mike Solosky at 330-535-1563 or email him at msolosky@havenofrest.org. You can also register online at www.havenofrest.org under the drop down menu ‘Get Involved’ and then click on ‘Events’.

From paralyzing fear to liberating peace

The Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop (YPEAW) came to visit Haven of Rest Ministries for the 17th year on Thursday, July 25, 2019 to bless us with their talented worship through song and as always baring gifts of undergarment donations! Approximately 200 young people participated.

Their vision is ‘believing the DREAM, igniting change, and building community by encouraging youth to pursue lifestyles of excellence through the arts’. Congratulations for 30 years of ministry! Thank you YEPaw for blessing us at the Mission! For more about YEPaw, visit www.yepaw.org.