



INTRODUCING WOMEN'S RECOVERY PROGRAM

The rise of the opioid crisis has put even more women like Elizabeth on our streets. They are battling life-threatening addictions, and they cannot beat them alone. That's why we've created our Women's Recovery Program. Through this program, women fighting addictions are encouraged to see themselves as valuable in God's eyes while seeking out the unconditional love, forgiveness, and redemption of Jesus Christ. It's a 12-week, in-house recovery program where participants attend both addiction recovery and life-skills classes that are designed to support the women in their recovery, sobriety, and spiritual development.

"At the start of the program, some of the ladies are resistant," says Kathleen Turner, Manager of Client Services at Haven of Rest. "They have doubts about being able to stay sober, and fears about the future. But after being in the program, they put those feelings aside and experience true transformation that makes them feel hopeful about their lives."

Without the support of generous friends like you, that transformation would not be possible. By helping to meet the basic needs of these women—food, shelter,



clothing—you make it possible for them to focus on their long-term goals of sobriety, employment, and housing. These obstacles can keep women trapped in the cycle of homelessness for many years, but you give them another option. You give them hope.

"The staff at Haven of Rest Ministries could not do what we do without the support and gifts from our donors," says Turner.

To help even more women transform their lives in the Women's Recovery Program, please donate now at Havenofrest.org.

GETTING HEALTHY ON THE PATH TO NEW LIFE

To give the women at Harvest Home access to safe and ongoing medical care, Cleveland Clinic Akron General partners with Haven of Rest Ministries to provide monthly health screenings. Beyond offering physical examinations, this team of medical professionals has health-related conversations with the ladies, which can lead to the discovery and treatment of additional health concerns. One example was a woman whose blood pressure was at stroke level. Because of this diagnosis, we were able to get her the help she needed.

"Some women they see have a diagnosis that is not currently being treated, such as diabetes, heart

disease, COPD," says Yvette McMillan, Director of our Women's Division. In addition to checking blood pressure, writing prescriptions, and scheduling appointments with local community health providers, the clinic also offers cancer screenings and helps women with severe mental health issues find the services they need.

By providing this lifesaving resource to the women at Harvest Home, this team makes it possible to detect health issues in our clients before they become serious emergencies. To our compassionate friends at Cleveland Clinic Akron General, thank you for all you do to bring healing to women in need.

FEBRUARY 2019
VOLUME 60 • NO.2
THE VOICE
HAVEN of REST
MINISTRIES

**Changed Hearts.
Changed Lives.**
One Story At A Time



THE VOICE

Published By
**Haven of Rest
MINISTRIES**



From the **Executive Director**

Dear Friends:

It was 40 years ago on February 9, 1979, when the Marjorie Ruth Harvest Home doors opened to serve a growing population of women and women with children needing spiritual, emotional, and physical help. This need was recognized by Rev. Thomas and Eileen Thomas as more and more women came to the Mission and there was no shelter available for them. Through much prayer and support from our Board of Directors, the Mission moved forward to build this much-needed facility located at 41 N. Prospect Street. Thousands of women and children have come through the doors with a variety of struggles over the last 40 years. Through Christ, lives and hearts have been changed one story at a time. Their dark troubling pasts have become testimonies of today. As the needs of women and children at Harvest Home continue to grow, so do our programs and services. However, the Christian foundation of Harvest Home has not changed as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I thank all of the staff and volunteers who have played a key role over the years to make an impact on the women and children. What a blessing! I also thank the many friends who have supported, prayed, and given of their time and talents over 40 years to bless the lives of hurting women and children. Ephesians 4:32 says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." †

Blessings,
Jeff Kaiser
Rev. Jeff Kaiser
Executive Director



Adventurous, bold, quick, and a little wild. Elizabeth says she was like a Harley on the side of the freeway before she came to Haven of Rest. Her drug addiction had taken her on quite the ride.

"I've done every increment of jail time," says Elizabeth. "Thirty days, 60 days, 90 days, six months, nine months, a year, two years." For 45 years, she raced through life—using, drinking, doing time—until she was completely broken. After decades of trying to outrun the trauma of her abusive childhood, she had nowhere else to run, so she came to Harvest Home.

"Coming here was like a breath of fresh air," she says.

Since arriving, Elizabeth has been working hard to create new patterns in her life. With help from the Harvest Home staff, she has taken control of her mental health by getting on a regular schedule with her medication. Beyond that, group therapy is helping her retrace the steps that brought her here and find a new way forward.

"Once I started doing the little things on my own, then they were more than happy to help me even more," she says. "Now, my thinking is more on target. My emotions are more regulated. I'm not getting mad as quickly or taking everything so seriously. I am a different person today than I used to be."

Because of the generous support of friends like you, Elizabeth's hope is being renewed each day at Harvest Home. With a strong support system, a growing faith, and a desire to build a new life for herself, Elizabeth's road to recovery is looking brighter than ever.

"I appreciate being safe off the streets," she says. "And I appreciate having someone care about me more than I care about myself." Thank you for being that someone who cares, and for helping neighbors like Elizabeth when they need you the most. †

**Thank You
For Helping
Elizabeth
On Her
Road To
Recovery**

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Harvest Home



When we first opened our Marjorie Ruth Thomas Harvest Home in 1979, Mrs. Eileen Thomas was its first director. The Mission's goal was to meet the rising needs of women and children facing homelessness in the Akron area. Forty years later, the support of generous friends like you continues to carry these hungry and homeless neighbors through crisis situations. Harvest Home has become a place of healing, care, and faith for women and children who need it the most. Please join us in celebrating the many lives that have been changed through this long legacy of compassion. †

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You're invited to our Spring Dinners!



Hartville Regional Dinners
WHEN: Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm & Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 pm
WHERE: Hartville Kitchen

Medina Regional Dinner
WHEN: Tuesday, March 26, at 6:30 pm
WHERE: The Galaxy Restaurant in Wadsworth

Please NOTE: There Are TWO Hartville Dinners

All dinners begin at 6:30 p.m.

It is time for our Spring Regional Dinners, where we will celebrate God's provision, goodness, and faithfulness to Haven of Rest Ministries. Our theme for this year is "Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. One Story at a Time." This year we have a different format, which we think you will enjoy.

Attendance is free, but reservations are required. Guests must be 18 years of age or older. To register, visit havenofrest.org or contact Lynne Taylor at 330-535-1563.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

