



Harvest Home Celebrating 41 Years!



Former Women's Division Directors Eileen Thomas & Yvette McMillan with the New Women's Division Director Kathleen Turner at Yvette's Retirement Tea Party

Child Advocate Morgan Kaiser and Assistant Child Advocate Jessica Gurreri at Harvest Home's Nurture Center



Harvest Home opened in 1979, giving the greater Akron area its first shelter for homeless women including mothers with children. During its first year, 20,096 meals were served, 5,446 nights of lodging provided, and at least 300 individuals were assisted. Women received the help they needed for a better future, by overcoming life altering problems like physical/emotional abuse and economic hardship to alcohol and drug addiction. The discipleship programs and the love and care from the Harvest Home staff helped to transform the lives of many women and enabled them to be freed from the problems that left them homeless and jobless. Daily life application Bible studies, work assignments, and living skills classes were implemented as well as care, counseling, and activities for the children.

This laid the foundation for what the Harvest Home is today. During its 41st year, over 70,000 meals were served, 20,959 nights of lodging, and at least 718 individuals were assisted as well as clothing distributed to 425 women and children. At Harvest Home's Nurture Center, our Child Advocate and Assistant Child Advocate work tirelessly with the children as they build relationships, teach the Gospel, and mentor as needed. Children who have been traumatized and set up for failure, have the opportunity to thrive in a stable and caring environment while they enjoy playing with many toys, reading books, and using the learning tools. Harvest Home works on giving everyone they serve a hope and a future.

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THE VOICE

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**HAVEN OF REST
MINISTRIES**

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FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends:

In Mark 9:36-37 it says, "And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me."

As we celebrate the Anniversary of the Marjorie Ruth Thomas Harvest Home, which opened 41 years ago on February 9, 1979, thousands of women and women with children have come through the doors seeking help and safety. As our staff have ministered to the ladies over the years, they have also helped and ministered to their children. When the children come they can be withdrawn, confused, and angry because life has been tough on them. Our Child Advocate and Assistant Child Advocate work hard with the children as they build relationships with these young girls and boys.

Creating a stable environment for them is important and looking for windows of opportunity to share hope with them is critical and can take time. However, it is worth the effort. Recently, we had five children commit their lives to Christ. I praise the Lord for this because it confirms how important it is for our staff to minister to the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the children each day.

I thank the Lord that over 41 years ago, before Harvest Home was built, Rev. Thomas and Eileen Thomas recognized the need for a shelter for women and women with children. Through much prayer God made it possible. As we celebrate God's faithfulness and provision, we are thankful He is still changing and transforming the lives of women and children. †

In Christ,

Jeffrey A Kaiser

Rev. Jeff Kaiser
CEO



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**HAVEN of REST
MINISTRIES**

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CELEBRATION!

For the past 28 years it has been an honor for Haven of Rest to celebrate the rich heritage of Christian faith within the African American community. In honor of this, the Mission has planned a **special chapel service and program to be held in the main Chapel on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 175 E. Market St. in Akron.**

At our African American History Celebration, featured guest speaker will be **Bishop Joey Johnson** from *The House of the Lord*. Soloist will be the Mission's very own **Margaret Duncan**, Housekeeping, accompanied by guitarist **Larry Stallings**, Foodservice Receiving Clerk. A traditional lunch will take place in the dining room after the program. **You are invited!** For more information, please contact David John, Special Events Coordinator at djohn@havenofrest.org or call him at 330-535-1563.

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Also, to help women get back on their feet, additional programs were added over time including computer-enhanced instruction in math, reading, and verbal communication. *Future Story*, a social enterprise and job training program, has provided services and training in job and life skills classes, which has included their former gardening program and current sewing programs. *Future Story* also provides for women to attend the State Tested Nurse's Aide program at Stark State. Hope offered with a

Christ-centered focus allows these women to begin the process of building a new *Future Story*.

Please pray for Harvest Home to continue to brighten the lives of women, mothers, and children coming to find refuge and hope. If you would like more information, go to www.havenofrest.org or contact Kathleen Turner, Director of Women's Division at kturner@havenofrest.org or call her at 330-434-1149. †

Our New Director of the Women's Division

We welcome Kathleen Turner as our third Director of the Women's Division! She was preceded by Yvette McMillan who retired on July 3, 2019 and before Yvette was Eileen Thomas who retired on June 30, 2003. Kathleen has served fifteen years at Haven of Rest and has contributed significantly to the Mission's ministry to women. She was hired as a Supervisor in 2004 and then was promoted to Case Manager in 2006 before becoming the Manager of Client Services in 2016. In 2018, Kathleen graduated Summa Cum Laude from The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work. She also has an Associate of Applied Science in Community Services Technology degree and she received the Outstanding Community Services Student Award.

Kathleen believes her calling is ministry to hurting, broken women and she strives to help them discover their need for salvation and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Having had struggles of her own, she is grateful for her deliverance and restoration. She wants the women she serves at Harvest Home to realize what Jesus Christ has done for her,



He can also do for them. She says, "It is a blessing to see how the love of Jesus Christ can impact the women and children at Harvest Home and how He is able to transform their lives." In praying for Kathleen, she asks we pray that God continues to equip her and give her strength as she serves as the Director of the Women's Division.

Kathleen is a native of Akron, Ohio. She married her husband, Jerry Jr, in 1978. During Jerry's twelve years in the Marine Corps, they lived in Hawaii and North Carolina. They have two children, Alicia Adams and Jerry III, and five grandchildren. She is a member of The House of the Lord church. She enjoys motorcycle riding, shopping, and spending time with family. †

Luncheon Added to Hartville Kitchen's March Schedule

Please join us this year in Hartville for a **dinner or luncheon** as we celebrate God's faithfulness, provision, and transforming power. Our theme for this year is *Hope and A Future*. The Lord can change the lives of those we serve at the Mission from being hopeless to hopeful.

We are changing the times and locations of our events this year in response to the concerns voiced by you, our partners, and allowing a way for you to avoid driving at night by changing one of our Hartville events to a luncheon and by combining our events to allow us to gather together in a new way.

As previous, **attendance is free, but reservations are required.** Guests must be 18 years of age or older.

Register online at www.havenofrest.org under Events or call Lynne Taylor at 330-535-1563 for further information. At the close of the event, everyone will have an opportunity to support Haven of Rest with a special gift. On behalf of the staff, employees, and volunteers, Haven of Rest thanks you for being a blessing! †

This year on March 12, we are having a luncheon as well as the dinner on March 10 at Hartville Kitchen.

Hartville Regional Dinner

WHEN: Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Hartville Regional Luncheon

WHEN: Thursday, March 12 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Hartville Kitchen

1015 Edison St. NW, Hartville, OH 44632



2020 HOPE TOTE CAMPAIGN



Thank you for making our Hope Tote Campaign a success all these years! Through your support, Haven of Rest Ministries' Easter Campaign has been able to bless our Guests, as well as outreaching to neighbors in need. Please join us as we fill **bags with toiletry items** for men

and women in Akron and the surrounding counties.

The Hope Tote Campaign is a meaningful way for you, your family, friends, church, or business group to help make a difference by collecting standard sized personal care items such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, and more for people who might otherwise go without.

All toiletry items can be taken to the Haven of Rest Ministry Donation Center or one of the drop-off locations by Friday, March 27, to ensure they will be packaged in time for distribution. For more information on the Drop Off locations, please contact David John, Special Events Coordinator at djohn@havenofrest.org or call him at 330-535-1563. Thank you in advance for giving hurting neighbors hope and your support!

Note: The majority of our Guests are men. †