



Saving Lives, Saving Souls!

The modern world brings new difficulties and challenges for staff and volunteers at Haven of Rest. Keeping up with the times and needs of people are not easy. Types of drugs and forms of addiction change constantly. Challenges like family loss/restructuring, demands of a new job market, the necessity for more and different resources, and the need for more social workers, mentors, and counselors is apparent. Rev. Ben Walker, Executive Director-Retired, says, "The focus has always been on those being served as opposed to the Mission itself. You have to stay sensitive to the changing needs of the people coming for help."

As guests come in searching for help with various struggles in their lives, Haven of Rest aims to address all these areas as best as possible. The key issues can be a complex mix of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Our goal is to help our guests become completely whole and renew their lives, while emphasizing the spiritual component. Through Christ-centered programming, people receive love, healing, encouragement, and growth within the context of Bible studies, daily devotionals,

one-on-one discipleship, Christian education, and most importantly, our chapel services.

Kathleen Turner, Director of Women's Division, shares how she and her team work to help their guests feel loved and cared for. She says, "So many of them have not felt loved. They are broken and hurting. As we meet their immediate needs of food, shelter, and clothing, we demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ and offer understanding, hope, and compassion, along with encouragement and resources. By attending chapel services, our guests can hear about salvation and the unconditional love Christ has for them."

Jim Cole, Director of Men's Division, adds, "Chapel serves many purposes. It is a place for us to meet and greet all of our guests by name. Our guests are often passed by or not looked in the face when on the streets. However, in the chapel



service, they are treated as human beings with dignity and worth. It is also a place where we give announcements and inform guests of opportunities. Chapel enables us to create a bit of community for folks who often feel left out. It is also a time to uplift and bring hope."

Most importantly, we want the message of the Gospel to bring healing and wholeness. Jim shares, "As a Christian organization, we know that hope can be found in many forms. It might be a meal, a warm shower, a bed, or clean clothes. Chapel is a way for us to present the hope that we ourselves have in Christ and offer that opportunity to the guests."

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THE VOICE

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**HAVEN OF REST
MINISTRIES**

2020-2021

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FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends:

I read an article recently from A.J. Cohee on lessons that he learned from the sunflower, which I would like to share. Cohee says, "A little while ago I planted some seeds from a sunflower and they are blooming now. When I get up in the early morning, every one of the blooms is facing the sun that is just peeping through the trees. At noon they have lifted up their heads and are looking straight up into the face of the sun. At evening time I find them turned to the west as though eager to catch the last rays of the sun setting."

Through God's creation and beauty, the sunflowers speak volumes. If we seek His face earnestly such as the sunflower, God will help us grow strong and beautiful. At Haven of Rest, that has been our goal for 77 years. Pointing men, women and children to Christ and watching them grow in the beauty of His grace and strength.

In Jeremiah 29:13 it says, "*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*" Also, Psalm 105:4 says, "*Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.*" Friends, thank you for your faithfulness and for being a blessing to those who are in need. God bless you. ✝

In His Service,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser
CEO

Make a lasting difference for people who are hungry and homeless as this summer ends!

The summer months are more difficult as donations slow down, but the needs of our neighbors who are hungry, homeless, and hurting remain constant. Automatic monthly donations are convenient and impactful ways to transform lives for the long term. Your gifts will provide an ongoing source of:

- Complete meals
- Shelter and clothing
- Life-changing programs
- and more!

You can even set up recurring automated payments that link to your checking account or credit card. To become a monthly giver today, please visit www.havenofrest.org or call Chris Morgan at (330) 535-1563.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

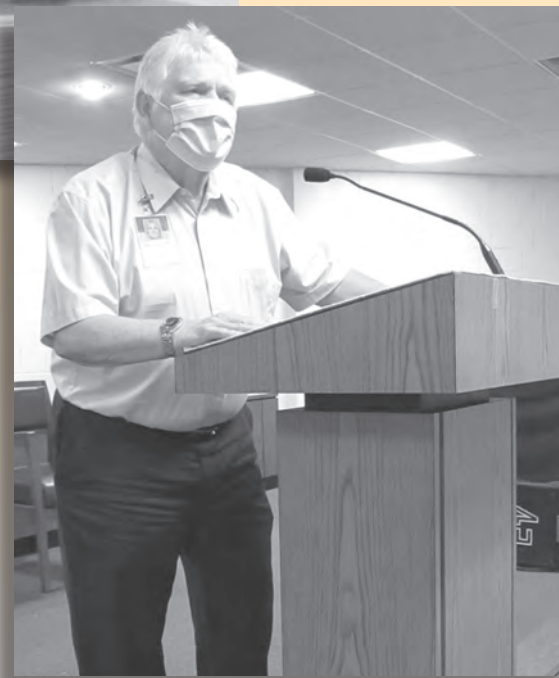


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Saving Lives, Saving Souls!

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Today, we average about 70 men and women for the afternoon services and about 130 men and women for the evening services. Kathleen shares how a guest is given a believer's packet which includes a Bible, journal, pen, highlighters, and encouraging cards/bookmarks. Someone meets with them for one-on-one discipleship to help guide them as they begin their journey. They are also encouraged to connect with a local church where they can continue to seek healing, growth, spiritual development, and a chance to be an integral part of their community.

Hope and a future are possible when people understand and receive the love and powerful healing words in the Gospel for a new life in Christ. Kathleen shares, "While planting

seeds, which we hope will lead to salvation, we strive to empower those we serve so they can make productive life choices that can enable them to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness."

Jim says, "If they are struggling with some big issues and are looking for discipleship, we encourage them to look into our long-term Residential Discipleship program. Since many of our guests live at the Mission, we are able to encourage them and work with them daily while they stay with us."

Serving the guests is an honor because it involves not only assisting in saving lives, but in saving souls. Our hope is that through the spiritual care offered at our chapel services, as well as through our Bible Studies, Devotional materials, Discipleship

programs, and Christian education, transformation and an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ will continue. Rev. Walker says, "The evening service is foundational to the Mission as a whole. As people come looking for answers and a new start, many feel God's presence in their midst." He continues, "The Spirit of God will encourage them to make the necessary changes in their lives."

If you would like to volunteer and participate in saving lives and saving souls, please call the Mission at 330-535-1563 to speak to Jan Pluck, Volunteer Coordinator, and Becky Pinkerton, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator. Visit our website at www.havenofrest.org for more information. †



2020 CHICK-FIL-A DAY CANCELLED

In an abundance of caution, we are cancelling the annual Chick-fil-A Day canned food drive this year, but hope to resume our regular events in 2021. We did not come to this decision lightly, but know it is best for all involved, not wanting to put anyone at risk. Our highest priority is your health and safety.

Daily, we are witnessing the outpouring of generosity during these unprecedented times. In the midst of concern for yourself and loved ones, thank you for continuing to think of those in need at the Mission. We remain open 24/7 through your generosity.

On behalf of the staff and the men, women and children we serve, we are grateful for your partnership. May you have a renewed sense of hope in this difficult season and may you and your loved ones be safe and healthy.

If you would like to donate much-needed canned fruits and vegetables, you can bring them to our Food Service Dock at 175 E. Market St. Akron, OH 44308. Financial donations are also appreciated.



October's Hudson Luncheon and Walnut Creek Dinner are currently scheduled as follows:

Hudson Luncheon Thursday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m.

Walnut Creek Dinner Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19, WE WILL BE REVIEWING THESE
EVENTS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO DETERMINE
WHETHER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THEM, CONSIDERING THE SAFETY
OF OUR FRIENDS. PLEASE WATCH FOR
FURTHER DETAILS IN SEPTEMBER'S ISSUE OF THE VOICE.**