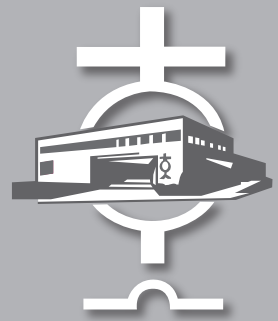


HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES

THE VOICE

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Hope and a Future

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, which is Christ the Lord."*

~ Luke 2:11



THE VOICE

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MINISTRIES**

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FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends:

While working in my office at the Mission, I heard a sound outside that caught my attention. At first, I thought it was a car passing by on Market Street with the radio turned up loudly. However, the more I listened, it was actually someone singing outside. As I looked out my office window, there was an older, homeless man walking up Market Street singing in a loud voice praises to the Lord. He was pulling a luggage bag behind him and on several occasions would stop and lift his hands up to heaven while singing "I praise you Lord." His voice was deep and clear as praises flowed from his mouth. Watching him in amazement, I thought to myself with everything that is going on in his life, he seemed to have no worries as he lifted his hands and voice to the Lord. The freedom and joy he was displaying was precious to me.

As we celebrate Christmas this month, I am drawn to the Scripture of I Peter 5:7 where it says, "*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*" We know this to be true because He sent His only Son into the world that we might have eternal life through Christ. With so much that has happened this year, let us remember that there is a Savior and His name is Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas to all of you and may you find renewed strength in the Lord. †

In His Name,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser
CEO

GIVE AT WORK!

Have your gift go twice as far by asking your employer if they will match your donation. Many companies have a matching gift program. When you make a donation directly to Haven of Rest Ministries or through your workplace giving program, your employer will donate the same amount. Your company may also match the hours you volunteer at Haven of Rest Ministries with a financial grant. Contributions of any amount help us serve and care for men, women and children who are in crisis, often struggling with hunger, homelessness, and feelings of despair at Christmas. For more information, contact your Human Resource Department or call Jennifer Hugg, Executive Administrative Assistant at Haven of Rest at 330-535-1563 or email her at jenniferhugg@havenofrest.org. †



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**HAVEN of REST
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STORIES FROM CHRISTMAS PAST AT HARVEST HOME

Participants of Harvest Home's Future Story program were given the opportunity to go on a shopping trip to the Kent State Fashion Store. In December, the store was moving to a new location and merchandise was being cleared out. The ladies were able to get very nice apparel, accessories, and jewelry at no cost. All the ladies were very appreciative. One woman expressed how it had been several years since she was able to afford gifts for her family at Christmas and felt so blessed to have something to look forward to because of Harvest Home providing so many presents.



At a Harvest Home Christmas party, Santa made a surprise appearance. One little preschool girl looked at Santa and began singing to him, "Jesus loves me, this I know!" and doing the sign language she had been taught at Harvest Home to accompany it. Her mom had accepted Christ during her stay at Harvest Home. This meant so much to her that her daughter was also being taught about Jesus and she burst into tears.

Over the years, Hartville Market invited Harvest Home residents to shop, providing each woman and child who attended with some spending money. The ladies always had a wonderful time, picking out items for themselves and gifts for family members. On the van ride back from Hartville, we pulled up next to a female panhandler at a traffic light. Despite having very little of her own, one of the Harvest Home residents asked if the driver could gift the woman the scarf she had just purchased for herself from Hartville. I was so surprised and asked her about it, knowing it may have been some time since she had been able to purchase something for herself. The resident told me that God has blessed her through us and she had all she needed, and she wanted someone else to feel the same.



For several years, a local agency (Project RISE) has assisted in providing tickets to enjoy the Polar Express for Harvest Home families. One little preschool boy was absolutely train obsessed. When we climbed aboard, he cried out, "Train!" whenever the whistle sounded and would look out the window for it. He didn't grasp that he was actually riding the train!

Be encouraged as you are reminded of Christmas songs like this one, **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** by Phillips Brooks and Lewis Redner. May you be comforted by all its words and in particular: *"Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by, Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light, The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight., For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above..."* (See the rest of the song lyrics posted on our website www.havenofrest.org)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY TAKING PLACE ON DECEMBER 5TH BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M.!

Children along with their families, will participate in a walk-through in the main Mission building where they will hear the Christmas Story. At the end of the walk-through, all children between the ages of newborn and twelve will receive a bag of candy and an age-appropriate, wrapped Christmas gift. They are sure to enjoy the festive atmosphere of music and decorations celebrating this special time.

PLEASE NOTE: Social distancing will be observed and everyone must wear masks. A limited number of people are allowed in at a time. COVID cleaning is taking place.

THANK YOU, from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and partnership throughout 2020! May you have a renewed sense of hope, faith, and joy as you share good times with family and friends.
Merry Christmas!



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT HARVEST HOME

Pictures taken and shown from previous Christmases at Harvest Home and the Nurture Center.

