



*Hope and a Future*

HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES  
**THE VOICE**

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**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!!**

Be blessed with healing  
and a renewed sense of  
purpose as you shine the  
light of Christ in 2021!

PSALM 65:11

*"You crown the year  
with a bountiful  
harvest; even  
the hard pathways  
overflow with  
abundance."*

# THE VOICE

Published by  
**HAVEN OF REST  
MINISTRIES**

2020-2021

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FROM  
THE CEO



### Dear Friends:

As we reflect on the past year, there is much to be thankful for as God's grace, strength, wisdom, and love carried us through this difficult year. In January and February of 2020, the renovation of the long term discipleship program was completed. In this renovation, we doubled the program's size from 18 beds to 36 beds for men wanting Christ-centered programming.

As we entered into March, COVID-19 changed the direction of how many businesses and organizations would operate. As a shelter-in mandate was ordered by the state, this caused many businesses to close during this time, with only essential businesses remaining open. With Haven of Rest being essential, we remained open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Many safety precautions were put in place such as face masks, sanitizing stations, plexi-glass at all of our counters, and continuing to educate our guests on the importance of sanitizing and social distancing.

Our regional banquets were all cancelled except for one which was held at the beginning of March. We have missed seeing our friends at these special events. Curt Thomas III, who is a third generation Thomas serving at the Mission for 30 years, was diagnosed with cancer. He is unable to work at the Mission and is going through an aggressive chemotherapy treatment. Not only has Curt been a faithful servant to the Lord, but he has been a great friend to all of us. His wife Tina, daughter Julia, who has special needs, and Curt all need our prayers.

To all of our friends out there, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for how you have supported us through 2020. Through prayer, clothing donations, food donations, and financial gifts you have carried us through and have blessed and encouraged us greatly. As we enter into 2021, I want you to know that we are praying for you. As we walk together in this New Year, I would like to offer a Scripture to encourage you. John 14:27 says, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

In Christ,

*Jeff Kaiser*

Rev. Jeff Kaiser, CEO



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



*Enter here. Start anew.*



**HAVEN of REST  
MINISTRIES**

## Hope Tote Campaign is here!

Help Us Fill 3,000 bags

You are invited to join Haven of Rest as we try to fill 3,000 bags with toiletry items for men, women and children in Akron and the surrounding communities. In light of everything that has happened this past year, we have a lot to be thankful for. We are excited to give back to the community by kicking off our '2021 Easter Hope Tote Campaign'.

In support of the many hurting and homeless individuals we serve, please help make this special Easter outreach a success. Ask your neighbors, families, friends, churches, co-workers, schools, or civic organizations to join you in filling Hope Totes for thousands of needy individuals and households. For additional information contact David John at 330-535-1563 or by email at [djohn@havenofrest.org](mailto:djohn@havenofrest.org).



# MEN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

In the late 80's, the Men's Residential Program was established out of the need to help men who were broken, poverty stricken, and struggling with homelessness and addictions. Haven of Rest wanted to meet more than just the needs for food, shelter, and clothing, and decided to expand its services by offering classes that included discipleship, education, and career development. These programs helped men achieve sustainability in overcoming their difficulties. Today, as the Mission continues to grow and provide for the changing needs of Resident Men, the Gospel of Salvation remains the same.

Homelessness can happen for many reasons, including but not limited to, a lack of jobs with livable wages, lack of affordable housing, medical challenges and handicaps, insufficient support for mental health and substance abuse, and domestic violence. There has been an increase in the number of people experiencing these situations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Haven of Rest Ministries, we believe in a holistic approach to ending and preventing homelessness and poverty, including:

- Emergency Shelter and access to Residential and Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing
- Opportunities for education, career development, job and life skills, resume building, business exploration, increasing income and building a savings, job training, internships, workshops, and more.
- Affordable and accessible healthcare
- A coordinated, collaborative approach to crisis response for our clientele, both in-house and through partnering with local agencies, schools, colleges, businesses, churches, and community organizations in addition to the services and programs provided in-house.

The Mission seeks to meet the needs of our clientele in a safe, caring, and spiritual environment with the support from you and all of our volunteers, partnerships within the community, and collective efforts from individuals and staff members. Here, men have the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Families are reunited, education is continued or completed, employment and housing is found, as well as other goals made and obtained. Healing and deliverance from drugs, alcohol, and other addictions are made



possible. As men apply themselves and complete courses, it is rewarding to see them find fulfillment and a new life.

With Chapel Services, Bible Studies, Discipleship, and prayer, guests and Residents receive insight, understanding, wisdom, edification, and encouragement in overcoming their challenges and struggles. Jim Cole, Director of Men's Division says, "It is a tremendous privilege that we get to point men to Christ and walk with them through Gospel transformation. We are excited for all that God has in store for them in the days to come."

We are excited to see lives transformed, and encourage vulnerable, unsheltered people who are staying outdoors in abandoned buildings, tents, on the streets, in cars, train/bus stations, and other locations not suitable for human habitation, to come to Haven of Rest's day room, where they will be welcomed and receive the help they need. For more information on the Men's Residential Program, feel free to contact Jim Cole at [jcole@havenofrest.org](mailto:jcole@havenofrest.org) or call 330-535-1563. Be sure to check out our website as well at [www.havenofrest.org](http://www.havenofrest.org).



# Trusting through Trials

Curt Thomas III, Director of Operations, along with his entire family, appreciate your prayers. He has a rare form of cancer called Liposarcoma and is going under new experimental treatment. Because of the power of prayer, family members believe Curt has a good spirit about his condition and is trusting the Lord regardless of the outcome. His mother Eileen shares, "His courage helps all of us in the family go through this experience."

Haven of Rest was founded 77 years ago by Curt's grandparents, Rev. Charles C. and Marjorie Ruth Thomas, where Curt spent many hours growing up at Haven of Rest. After a couple years of piano lessons, he and his sister took turns playing hymns for

the evening service at the Mission. Eileen recalls, "We were there every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday night for the service. Curt was a good helper for me in cleaning shelves and things in the Mission kitchen when it was necessary. The apron that I put on him was almost bigger than he was!!"

Curt graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management and then with a Master of Science in Counseling from Cairn University, (previously Philadelphia College of the Bible). He has served at Haven of Rest Ministries for the past 30 years where he met his wife Tina, who was also on staff. They share a deep faith and servant's heart of love and



compassion. They have been married for 23 years and have a beautiful daughter Julia, who loves music and plays the keyboard.

If you would like to send him a card, please mail to Curt Thomas III, c/o Haven of Rest, 175 E. Market St., Akron, OH 44308.

Thank you very much for your kindness, support, and prayers.

## SAVE THE DATE!

## 2021 HAVEN OF REST LUNCHEONS AND DINNER

*THEME:*

**HOPE AND A FUTURE.**



(Choose from the following locations and times you would like to attend.)

**Hartville Regional Dinner on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Location: Hartville Kitchen, 1015 Edison St. NW, Hartville, OH 44632

**Hartville Regional Luncheon on Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 11:30 a.m.**

Location: Hartville Kitchen, 1015 Edison St. NW, Hartville, OH 44632

**Akron Regional Dinner on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Location: Guy's Party Center, 500 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH 44319

**Hudson Regional Luncheon on Thursday, October 7, 2021 @ 11:30 a.m.**

Location: Lake Forest Country Club, 100 Lake Forest Dr., Hudson, OH 44236

**Walnut Creek Regional Dinner on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Location: Carlisle Inn, 4949 State Route 515, Walnut Creek, OH

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans for peace and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11

**Register today and make your reservations online at [www.havenofrest.org](http://www.havenofrest.org) under 'Events' or by calling Lynne Taylor, Development Administrative Assistant, at 330-535-1563 or by emailing her at [ltaylor@havenofrest.org](mailto:ltaylor@havenofrest.org). (Attendance is free. Guests must be 18 years of age or older.) We look forward to seeing you there!**

We look forward to connecting with you and enjoying fellowship together at our events! Your safety and health remain very important to us. Due to Covid-19, precautions will be taken including social distancing, hand sanitizing, and masks when possible. As a result, venues will have to reduce the number of guests in their dining rooms. We appreciate your understanding.