

*Hope and a Future*

# HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES THE VOICE

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## HARVEST HOME CELEBRATING 42 YEARS!

For 42 years, the Marjorie Ruth Thomas Harvest Home Shelter for women and children has been helping thousands of single ladies and mothers with children find hope and a future. It has been a refuge from traumas and hardships for many from the Akron, Canton, and surrounding communities. Every effort to help them move beyond their circumstances is made.

Continued support is provided through caring donors, volunteers, and staff. This collaborative effort has positively impacted our community as the work made a genuine difference in the lives of countless women and children. Join us in thanking God as we celebrate 42 years of helping women and children find faith, healing, peace, safety, and restoration.

## *YOU MADE A GREAT IMPACT*

*"As long as I remember to ask God for his guidance and protection, I make it through. I thank Him for His help and blessings."* This is what Jlynn said when asked how she copes with the challenges she is faced with today.

Thanks to Haven of Rest's Harvest Home, Jlynn is able to make these proclamations. She was homeless and moved from state-to-state. She said, *"The best thing I could do was accept the help of Haven of Rest to be safe and off of the streets and to work a program to help me find a place to live and get back on my feet."*

Jlynn has been able to overcome the issues that led her to the Mission through the support of staff and the connections she made. She said they have inspired her, motivated her in various tasks, and guided her in goal setting while she found the determination to meet them. She thanks the ladies at Harvest Home who have encouraged her not to give up and to find healing for her soul.

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# THE VOICE

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**HAVEN OF REST  
MINISTRIES**

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## FROM THE CEO



### Dear Friends:

This month Harvest Home is celebrating its 42nd Anniversary. On February 9, 1979, the doors of this new, much-needed facility were opened for the first time. Specializing in helping women, and women with children, Harvest Home offers Christ-centered programs and activities that help women overcome difficult barriers in life.

This last year with COVID-19, the Harvest Home has taken many steps to keep the environment safe for all staying at the facility. Lives are still being changed and impacted by Christ. Rachel Shoff, Harvest Home Social Worker, shared that in December half of the families staying here signed leases and received their keys to move into their own homes. One of the moms moved into her very first home on her birthday. I praise the Lord for such wonderful stories like these. As we move forward, we will continue to show the love of Christ with the women and women with children who look to us for help, hope, and direction.

Your part in helping change lives and being a large part of this ministry has truly blessed us. In Jeremiah 17:7 it says, *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord."* Thank you for your faithful partnership in serving those in need."

Blessings,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser, CEO

## WOMEN'S DAY ROOM

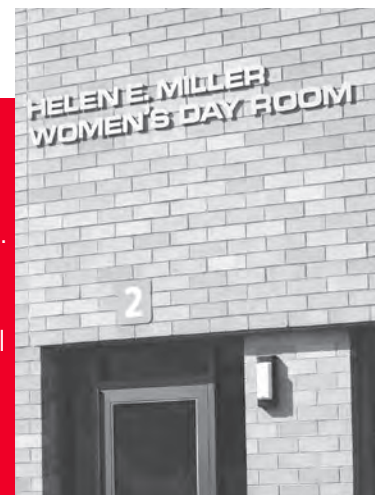
The **Women's Day Room** was opened in 1995 as a part of the Client Service Center to serve as the entry point for women to begin the rehabilitation process that leads to the stabilization and reestablishment of their lives. Myra Schneider was the first Client Services Manager followed by Kathleen Turner. At present, Kristin Witherow serves in this position. These ladies have led the way in providing a safe, clean space for homeless single women.

Haven of Rest is presently updating the *Women's Day Room* with new furniture purchased through a generous grant. Additional supplies were donated from Lowe's Home Improvement store. Fresh paint and décor will furnish a new look.

Women's immediate needs are addressed and efforts are put forth to help them resume

meaningful, productive lives. Bible study, developmental and educational programs, counseling, discipleship, employment assistance, drug recovery classes, and agency referrals are just a few of the services provided. Other essential services include laundry, showers, telephone, and mail pickup.

If you know a woman who is in need of shelter and assistance, please call 330-434-1149 and ask for the *Women's Day Room* for more information.



**HAVEN of REST  
MINISTRIES**



# YOU MADE A GREAT IMPACT

(Continued on page 3)

There are several ways the Mission's programs and services helped Jlynn address her original challenges. Chapel services, Bible Studies, Discipleship, and Daily Devotions helped her form a solid relationship with God. Jlynn shares, *"I nurtured a better relationship with God, family, and myself. I was able to listen to the Word several times a day and learned how I needed to remember God throughout the day. I made amends with my family and got in touch with myself."*

The drug and alcohol classes facilitated by Isobel Faltisco, Harvest Home Case Manager, benefited Jlynn as she says, *"It helped me continue my sobriety and coping skills when I started feeling that I wanted to go back to bad habits."* Jlynn shared with excitement how she was also able to complete the Future Story sewing class and earn a new sewing machine.

Today, Jlynn continues to grow as she stays connected to the Mission. She has been living on her own for over a year



now. At present, she volunteers for the Future Story sewing class, teaching other women how to sew. Peace is evident over Jlynn as she talks about how she feels protected, has found stability in Summit County, loves the relationships she cultivated, and has grown within the community.

She would like to share the following to Haven of Rest Ministry supporters, *"Thank you for your love and compassion. You made a great impact in my life."* She adds that she is grateful for Haven of Rest and its founders.

## HELP ALONG THE WAY

Because of the Lord, Haven of Rest, and Eileen Thomas, former director of Harvest Home, Wynette Carmichael was able to change her life. She still goes to AA meetings to this day and helps many others find sobriety. *"I have been able to make many friends and try to help where I can,"* shares Wynette, a former resident at Harvest Home in 1995. Tired of being homeless and addicted to drugs, she came when she was age 32.

Wynette's mom passed away when she was two, and her dad was never seen sober. He would go to work, come home, and pass out while his sister did her best to raise Wynette and her siblings. When Wynette was 17, she was introduced to marijuana and alcohol. When she was 19, her father died from alcoholism. Wynette continued her addictions and eventually lost custody of her three children.

For years she lived a life of drugs and alcohol, and at one point went to jail for six months. After 15 years, Wynette made the decision to go to

Haven of Rest's Harvest Home, joined Alcoholics Anonymous and participated in an intensive outpatient program at the former Community Drug Board, now called the Community Health Center Addiction Services. She eventually was able to work part-time at a nursing home serving dinner, and also became an intern at the Mission. Being the first female resident intern, she felt privileged to help develop the program. After completing her internship, she began working at the Mission.

Wynette contracted Sarcoidosis Lung Disease in 1998. With Eileen's help, she received three one-hour treatments three times a week at an Infusion Center. Wynette stated, *"The Lord and the staff, especially Eileen, Leah Gibson, Kim Swartz, and Kathleen Turner helped me to faithfully address my challenges,"*

For over 24 years, Wynette has worked as a Supervisor at the Harvest



Home and lived on her own. She happily shares, *"They helped me find a house in 1997 and I still live in it."* Wynette has reunited with her children. She has survived breast cancer, two strokes, and two brain surgeries. Due to illness, she no longer works at the Mission, but plans to volunteer when things get better. Wynette shares how she is active with her faith and enjoys attending Akron Bible Church.

Wynette thanks everyone for their support and kindly asks that we pray for her health, family, and the health of others during the pandemic.

# HOPE TOTE CAMPAIGN



Please join Haven of Rest's Hope Tote Campaign for our *special Easter outreach* to men, women and children who are in need and/or homeless in our communities. Tote bags are filled with personal care items and are being collected now.

## THE FOLLOWING FULL-SIZED ITEMS ARE NEEDED:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Bar soaps
- Liquid soaps
- Shaving cream and disposable razors
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lip Balm
- Socks
- Brush and comb
- Shoelaces
- Hand or body lotion
- Facial tissues

To find out what products are needed most, contact David John, Special Events Coordinator at 330-535-1563, or email him at [djohn@havenofrest.org](mailto:djohn@havenofrest.org). If you would like to donate monetarily, feel free to do so on our website at [www.havenofrest.org](http://www.havenofrest.org) and designate it to "Hope Totes" or send your donation to Haven of Rest Ministries, P.O. Box 547, Akron, OH 44309.



## YOU ARE INVITED!

**Rev. Jeff Kaiser, CEO, Board Members, and Staff**  
**look forward to seeing you there!**

**Save the date for our "6 Feet Meet and Greet Carry Out"**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

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

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

## THEME: HOPE AND A FUTURE

*"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*

**WITH EVERYONE'S SAFETY IN MIND, WE ARE DOING SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR!**

For details, please check out our website [www.havenofrest.org](http://www.havenofrest.org) under "Events" or call Lynne Taylor, Development Administrative Assistant, at 330-535-1563 or email her at [ltaylor@havenofrest.org](mailto:ltaylor@havenofrest.org).