

*Hope and a Future*

# HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES THE VOICE

VOLUME 62 | NO. 6 | JULY 2021

## LIVING BEYOND HER PAST

HAPPY  
4<sup>TH</sup>  
OF  
JULY



“My very first encounter with Haven of Rest’s Harvest Home was in 1992. At the time I moved to Akron from Cleveland with three children. My fourth oldest daughter was living in Colorado with her grandmother,” Toni shares. She said she did not know much about the Bible. “I only attended church on holidays and Easter was the main holiday. When Yvette McMillian, (former *Women’s Division Director*, who taught Bible study every morning), gave me a Bible Scripture to memorize, little did we both know the road to redemption was planted.”

Toni did not give her life to the Lord at that time and she would be facing many hardships. But the seeds of the Gospel blossomed years later.

Toni said she wandered off of the good path Harvest Home set her on. She shares how being a young mother was tough and how she suffered from depression, which she did not understand at the time. Eventually, she left Akron, went back to Cleveland to be with her children’s dad, and became pregnant with her fifth child. After some time passed and her children grew older, Toni tried to fit in and began using marijuana mixed with crack cocaine. In her mind, it was not an addiction because she stopped and started on her own. However, the problems increased.

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# THE VOICE

Published by  
**HAVEN OF REST  
MINISTRIES**

2020-2021

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## FROM THE CEO

### Dear Friends:

As we enter the summer month of July, I am thankful that we are in a different place than where we were last year at this time. To see businesses and events cautiously opening back up is refreshing.

However, instances of substance and drug abuse continue to grow. I read a disturbing piece in the paper recently. The title of the article said, "140 % Increase in Overdose Deaths in the Akron Area." This is very alarming as people, who are made in God's image with value and purpose, are lost to addiction.

Summertime can be an enjoyable time as many families and friends start to reconnect after a long and difficult 2020. Students have completed their school year, which gives them time to engage in summertime fun and activities. However, longer days and warmer nights invite challenges for those who are homeless or struggling with addiction. Instead of choosing to stay out longer, they can avoid the dangers and temptations by coming inside our Mission open to them 24/7. Every season can bring its own challenges and summertime is no different.

In Ephesians 6:12 it says, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*" The spiritual battle is real.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support and faithfulness. We pray for our friends daily. I ask that you continue to pray for all of us as we continue to fight this spiritual battle and present Christ to those that are lost. †

Blessings In Christ,

Rev. Jeff Kaiser, CEO



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



*Enter here. Start anew.*

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**HAVEN of REST  
MINISTRIES**

Dear Friends: Every Sunday morning, Haven of Rest's Radio Broadcast is played on several radio stations. Four stations, include **WNIR** 100.1 FM, **WAKR** 1590 AM, **WKVX** 960 AM, and **WKJA** 91.9 FM, **airing at 7:30 AM.** **WHBC** 1480 AM **airing at 8:00 AM.** Thank you for your support!

## COMING EVENTS

Canned food drive at participating **Chick-fil-A** locations takes place on **Thursday, August 19** from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Locations and more info posted on website.

Fill bags with toiletry items for the **Hope Tote Campaign!** Bring items (listed on website) to the Donation Center at 207 East Market St. in Akron. Open on Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday: closed.

Free **Hope Sports Camp** taking place from **July 19 - 23** for boys' basketball and **July 26 - 30** for girls' basketball and volleyball. The camp offers a fun, safe place for boys and girls entering grades 3-8.

For more information on events listed, please go to [www.havenofrest.org](http://www.havenofrest.org) and click on "Get Involved" and then click on "Events".

# Living Beyond Her Past

(Continued from page 1)

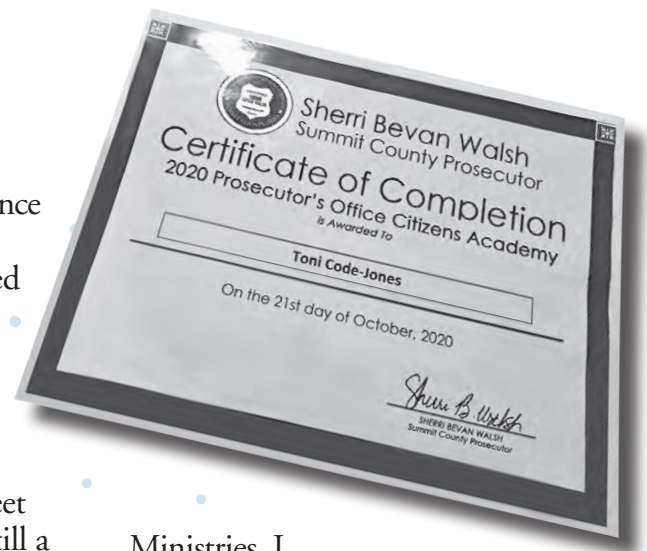
Years later, Toni returned to Akron after being raped and was suffering from domestic violence and loneliness. She returned to the *Women's Day Room* and her life improved. She learned her emotions would send her back to drug use and bad relationships. She felt unloved and alone while struggling to raise five children with no support. Toni shares, "The good news is that I found Jesus in a very safe environment at the Women's Day Room. Home sweet home is what I like to call Haven of Rest. From Mrs. Thomas herself, to Ms. Yvette and Mrs. Kathleen, I learned more and more about Jesus. I remembered the Bible Scripture I was given to memorize 14 years prior. My path was direct, and I gave my life to Christ late December 2006."

During Toni's time at the Mission as a Resident, she faced her problem head on and attended IOP (Intensive Outpatient Program) at CHC (Community Health Center). She shares, "After completing a 90-day program successfully, I signed up for Job readiness classes at the Akron Urban League. Once I completed that program, I gained

employment at Teleperformance USA as a video technician for Cox Cable." This enabled Toni to save money, secure a house, and have her children safely returned to her in the short period of just over 5 months. She started attending South Street Ministries in 2007, and is still a member of their church.

Today, it has been 15 years since Toni gave her life to Christ and trusted Him to help take care of her children. She is a State Certified Recovery Coach, having recently worked in Community Health at the Summit County Health Department for 2.5 years, and has transitioned into a position with Community Health Addiction Service. She has an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Business Administration from Herzing University and is currently working on her second 2-year degree at Stark State College. She is majoring in Human Social Services in Chemical Dependency.

With thankfulness in her voice, Toni expressed, "Today, I know I am loved. At the Haven of Rest's Harvest Home and South Street



Ministries, I found a family of true believers. I found honest people that love Jesus in everything they do. They do it with the Heart of Christ. I have purpose now." She shares that her favorite Scripture is Proverbs 3:4-5 which says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

If you know of a woman who could use help from Haven of Rest, please call Harvest Home at 330-434-1149. More information can be found on our website at [www.havenofrest.org](http://www.havenofrest.org). †



## SHOUT OUT to Angela Stewart, Harvest Home Secretary!

The Mission is grateful for all of the retired staff and employees who so generously gave of their time, energy, and love to others. At this time, we want to thank Angela Stewart for all her 26 years of service at the Harvest Home as its Secretary. She was hired under Rev. Curt and Eileen Thomas and shares how she 'is proud to be a part of a ministry with uncompromising focus of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ' to this current day. With joy in her voice, she continues, 'What an honor it has been to serve the Lord at Haven of Rest ministering to women and children. Although my responsibilities were very diverse, my favorite part has been the spiritual aspect of leading Bible study for the women and discipling them one-on-one. My co-workers were also amazing and I am going to miss what I have felt was the best position at Harvest Home.' Angela expresses how she looks forward to helping her husband in the business of working with special needs adults as she retires from the Mission on June 30. If you would like to contact the Harvest Home for questions or to refer anyone in need, call 330-434-1149.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

Unprecedented and unexpected changes occurred during 2020 and presented many challenges for Haven of Rest. The Mission continued steady and strong through this pandemic because of the commitment of faithful prayer partners, financial and material gifts, and encouragement. Haven of Rest Ministries has been an essential organization for 78 years, and it continued to remain open 24/7, overcoming many obstacles.

Action was taken to adapt to the situation and modifications were made in each of the three buildings. Sanitation procedures increased in high touch areas, masks were given out, social distancing was practiced, and other CDC guidelines were adhered to. Additional purchases were made for sanitation, protective gear, and remodeling materials.

In the beginning, as the uncertainty of the pandemic continued, these precautions, in addition to other safeguards, were implemented. Haven of Rest also encouraged hundreds of volunteers to remain home for their safety. Volunteers are an integral part of this ministry, so it was a great loss to the Mission's everyday operation. However, staff rose up to the challenge and took on extra tasks in addition to their normal job duties. The Mission's facilities were made safer for our guests, and continued to collaborate with agencies, partner with churches, and utilize hospitals for ongoing protection and care for guests.

Throughout the pandemic, many people have been able to benefit from Haven of Rest's life-changing programs and services. The Mission served 2,410 people last year with emergency shelter and 81 responded to Christ's call upon their lives. Educational classes were provided to 93 men, and 8 of those men completed *all* of the classes that were available. There were 2 men, who had dropped out of high school, but were able to complete their credits and graduate while staying at Haven of Rest.



Peg and Steve Zimmer, Volunteers

The *Career Development* program graduated 11 men. A total of 28 men and women came to the Learning Center and met with volunteers who helped them create resumes and practice interviewing. The *Women's Recovery* program had 3 graduates and 2 women graduated from the STNA (State Tested Nursing Assistant) program at Stark State College funded through the *Future Story Social Enterprise* program. One lady completed the *Sew Powerful* sewing class. Haven of Rest provided 65,294 nights of shelter, distributed 1,354 *Hope Totes*, served 314,621 complete meals, and 17,578 individuals were helped through the *Clothing Department*.

Volunteers are eagerly returning to help at the Mission by serving meals, cleaning rooms, making beds, sorting canned goods, weeding the grounds, and much more. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Jan at 330-535-1563 or [jpluck@havenofrest.org](mailto:jpluck@havenofrest.org).