

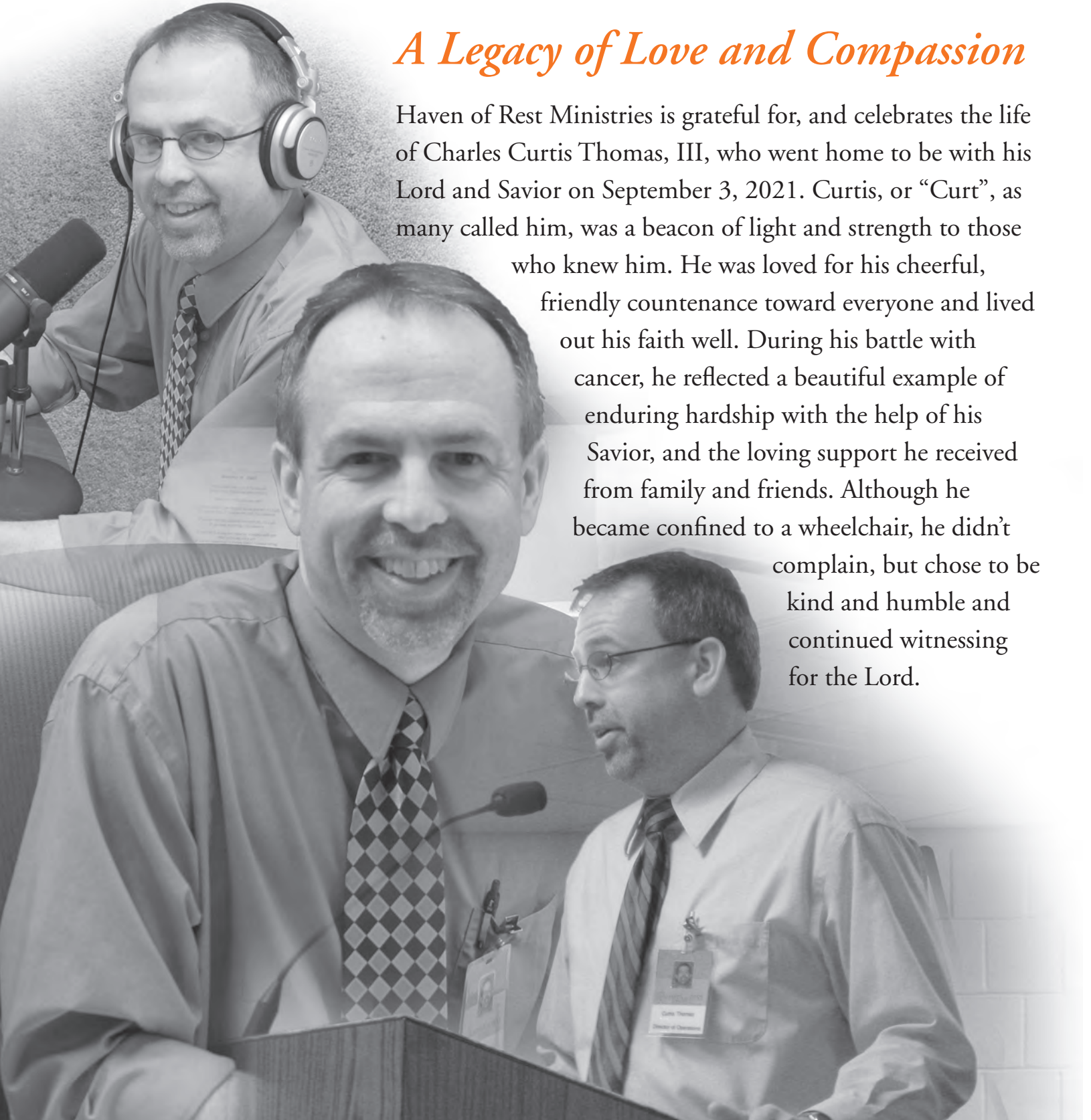
THE VOICE

NEWSLETTER

Hope and a Future

A Legacy of Love and Compassion

Haven of Rest Ministries is grateful for, and celebrates the life of Charles Curtis Thomas, III, who went home to be with his Lord and Savior on September 3, 2021. Curtis, or “Curt”, as many called him, was a beacon of light and strength to those who knew him. He was loved for his cheerful, friendly countenance toward everyone and lived out his faith well. During his battle with cancer, he reflected a beautiful example of enduring hardship with the help of his Savior, and the loving support he received from family and friends. Although he became confined to a wheelchair, he didn’t complain, but chose to be kind and humble and continued witnessing for the Lord.





Rev. Jeff Kaiser, CEO

“In this edition, we want to share our loss of a member of the Mission family. Curtis Thomas, grandson of the founders, left a legacy and imprint on all of the hearts of people who knew him. If you have a memory of Curt and family or just want to send a card, please feel free to address it *In Memory of Curt Thomas III, c/o Haven of Rest, 175 E. Market St., Akron, OH 44308.* Thank you for blessing the Haven of Rest Family.”



www.twitter.com/HavenofRestOH



www.instagram.com/havenofrest.akron



www.facebook.com/havenofrest.org



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.



MISSION RADIO BROADCASTS SUNDAY MORNINGS

7:30 AM

WNIR 100.1 FM WKVX 960 AM
WAKR 1590 AM WKJA 91.9 FM

8:00 AM

WHBC 1480 AM

Thanks for listening!

A Legacy (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Mission is proud to continue Curt’s legacy. His grandparents, Rev. Charles C. and Marjorie Ruth Thomas, founded Haven of Rest Ministries in 1943, and Curt’s father, Rev. Charles Curtis Thomas Jr., served as Executive Director for many years after his father had passed and his mother Eileen served as the Director of Women’s Division. Young Curt, even as a little boy, joined his parents and sister Valerie Schmidt, by helping wherever he could at the Mission, and developed a heart for serving others. After graduating from Kent State University and then Cairn

University, he chose to continue serving at Haven of Rest on staff, and eventually became Director of Operations from 2003 - 2020. During his employment, he met, fell in love, and married Tina, who was the Child Advocate at Harvest Home. They very much enjoyed family life and were blessed with a daughter, Julia. Curt was actively involved in church with his family and talked often about seeing God in creation. He enjoyed the outdoors, hiking the National and Metro Park trails, and capturing their beauty in pictures.



Curt Thomas at the Hudson Luncheon in 2019

Eileen Thomas, former Director of Women’s Division, Rev. Curtis Thomas, Jr., former Executive Director of Haven of Rest, Curt and his sister, Valerie Schmidt.



We thank everyone who demonstrated their love for Curt through cards, prayers and help as needed. You encouraged us as a family. - Eileen Thomas, Curtis' Mother

Co-workers at Haven of Rest dearly miss Curt and his faithful commitment, love, and contributions to the ministry. Here are just a few things said from some of them.

“As a young man, Curt would come into the Mission’s FoodService Department, where I was manager at the time. We’d talk about many things including food and recipes and he’d ask ‘What is that weird looking veggie? What

do you do with it?’. We’d talk about music, his goals, photography, art, and the beauty of God’s awesome creation. It’s been a delight to know him through the years, as he always had a ready smile, easy laughter, and quick wit. He had a strong faith, a servant’s heart and he deeply cherished his family. It’s been a tremendous blessing, to know him!” - Rose Rose, Major Gifts Officer

admired his commitment to the Lord and his family. He was a good friend and will be greatly missed.”
- Rev. Ben Walker, former Executive Director

“I could say so much about Curt, but only the scripture can best describe my friend and brother in Christ. **Philippians 4:11** “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” I had the rare opportunity to watch Curt thrive in what most would consider a tragic situation. Whenever I would spend time with Curt enjoying God’s creation, either at his home or in the park, I was always better because of it. Curt glorified God all the time. **Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ which stengtheneth me.” Curt showed me how to slow down and appreciate every small detail of God’s creation.” - David Heinbuch, Third Shift Supervisor

“Curt’s engaging sense of humor and his understanding of development work made for good conversations. He was also a fierce volleyball competitor at district rescue mission conferences. He was an incredible man of faith and had great compassion for individuals going through difficult times.” - Yvonne Brake, Director of Development

“Curt Thomas was a servant leader in the truest sense. If there was a spill in the dining room it was not uncommon for him to go get the mop bucket and clean it up himself. He also had zest and enthusiasm for life which reflected his deep faith in God.” - Mike Solosky, Development Officer Donor Relations

Curt chose to have a private service, but if friends desire, memorials may be made to Haven of Rest, 175 E. Market Street, Akron 44308 or at www.havenofrest.org. If you have questions, please call the Mission at 330-535-1563. Thank you for your kindness, support, and prayers for the family, friends, and Mission.

“Curt was a wonderful mentor. He was patient in instruction, quick to listen, and had a great sense of humor. He also had an eye for detail and cared deeply about the ministry of Haven of Rest. Also, his love for his family was so evident. This love spilled over to his Haven of Rest family as well.” - Jim Cole, new Director of Operations

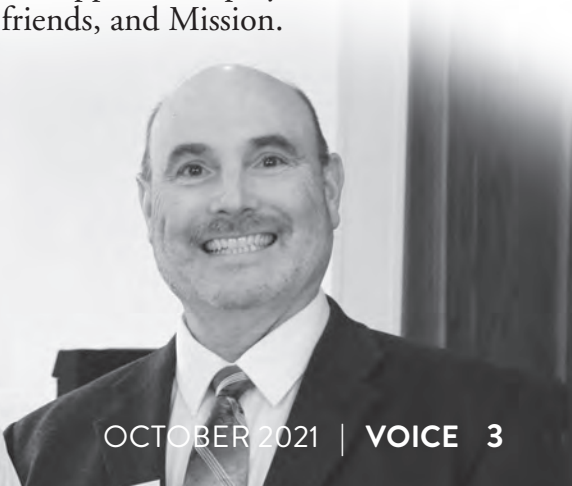
“I’ve had the opportunity to work along with Curtis for about 30 years in a number of positions at Haven of Rest. I’ve always had a great respect for his supportive attitude in the ministry. Over these years I’ve appreciated his commitment to the homeless and to Haven of Rest. But most of all, I’ve



Curt, their mom Eileen Thomas, and his sister Valerie Schmidt. Mission volunteers when they were children.



Curt, wife Tina and daughter Julia.



2021 CHRISTMAS PROJECT - 4 DIFFERENT WAYS TO HELP

Children who are poor and homeless long to feel loved and cared for this Holiday season. Families who are struggling to make ends meet reach out to the Mission for assistance. Please help in one of the following ways:

1. PARTICIPATE IN "KIDS HELPING KIDS"
2. ADOPT-A-FAMILY
3. HELP FILL CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS
4. PROVIDE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR HAVEN OF REST AND HARVEST HOME RESIDENTS

Details can be found on our website www.havenofrest.org or by contacting David John, Special Events Coordinator, at 330-535-1563 or djohn@havenofrest.org

OPEN HOUSE IS CANCELLED THIS YEAR.

We apologize for the inconvenience, however, if you would like to schedule a tour, please call the Mission at 330-535-1563.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Add more value to your gift when you support Haven of Rest by doubling the donation with the help of your employer! Some companies financially match donations their employees make to nonprofit organizations dollar-for-dollar or sometimes more. Not only your company, but also your spouse's company, the company whose board you serve or even a company that you retired from may match your gift.



Check with the Human Resource Department to verify their giving and guidelines. Once approved, please submit paperwork from the employer by emailing it to Jennifer Hugg, Executive Administrative Assistant at jenniferhugg@havenofrest.org. She will

then complete it and send it back to the employer. Donations can be mailed in or submitted online at donate.havenofrest.org. After you give, you can request the matching gift from your employer, who then makes their own donation.

If you have any further questions, please call Jennifer Hugg at 330-535-1563 or email her at jenniferhugg@havenofrest.org. Thank you for all of your support!

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS



240

Central Supply fixed 240 brown bags full of food that was given to those in need through Grocery Bag Giveaway for the month of August.



65,424

pounds of clothing were donated to the Clothing Department in the month of August.



563

total volunteers came in to serve a total of 1,689 hours in August.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Mission is thankful for your ongoing support. Along with vital services and life-transforming programs, guests receive compassion and care they cannot receive on the street. Staff and volunteers share the hope we have in Christ through prayer and the Bible. Please send your gift today. Another way to donate is online at donate.havenofrest.org. God bless you!