

THE VOICE

HOPE AND A FUTURE

This Thanksgiving, Justin's Heart Is Filled With Gratitude

Here's how your kindness dramatically changed the course of his life

Justin has much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving . . .

- **For being free** of the opioids that devastated his life for so many years.
- **For reconnecting** with God, whom he had abandoned as a child.
- **For you and other Haven of Rest partners**, who gave him a second chance by making it possible for him to come here and find rest and recovery.

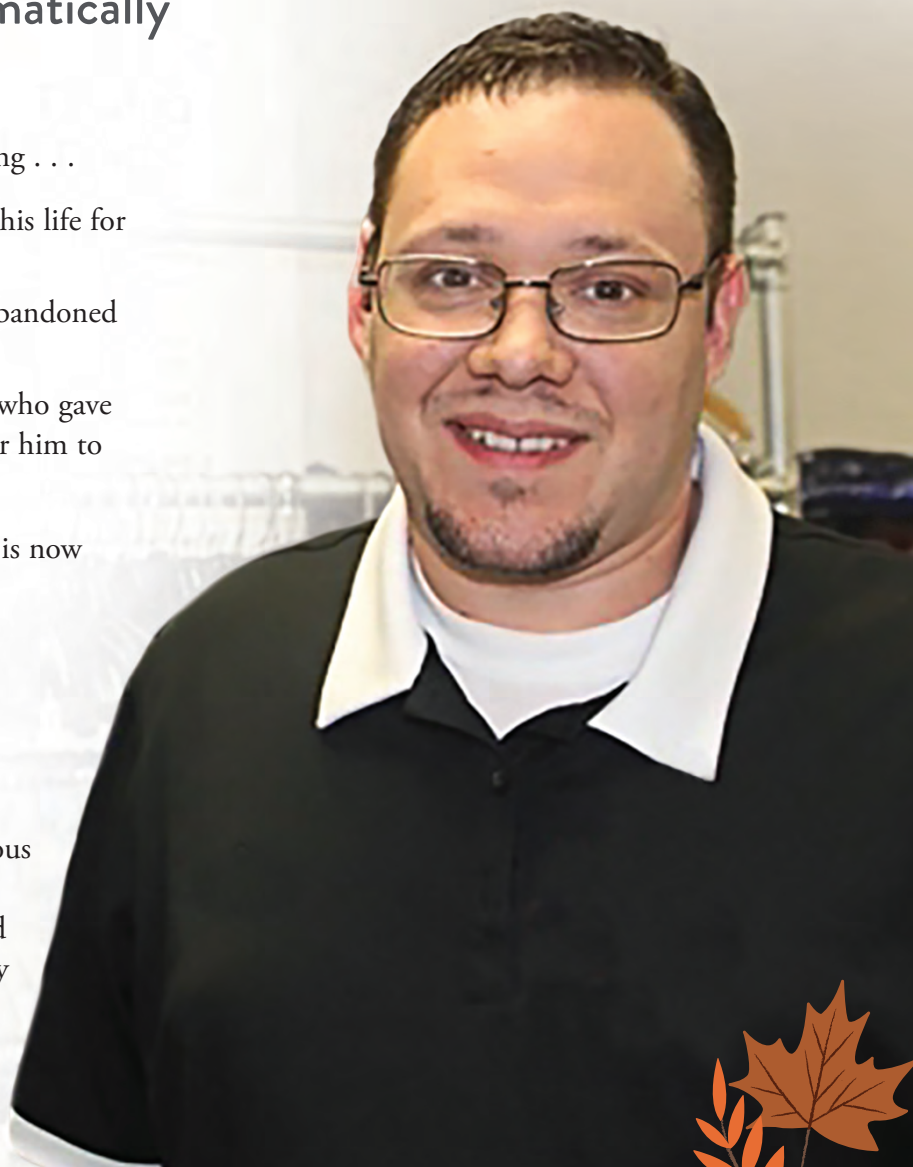
Justin knows he doesn't deserve the blessed life he is now living.

WHEN LIFE TAKES A DARK TURN

As a child, he attended church regularly. Was home-schooled in a church. Then later attended a Christian school.

But at age 12, Justin's life took a dark and dangerous turn. To relieve the intense pain from surgery on both shoulders, he started using opioids prescribed by a doctor. At first, it was a pill now and then. By

[READ MORE OF JUSTIN'S STORY INSIDE >](#)



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the time he reached adulthood, he couldn't figure out a way to escape.

As his physical health deteriorated, so did his mental outlook. He couldn't hold a job. Felt worthless and alone. And wondered if this was going to be his lot in life.

The only comfort he found was when he reflected back on his Christian upbringing.

Knowing that God would never abandon him, Justin recommitted his life to Jesus Christ — a decision that eventually led him to Haven of Rest.

HOPE REBORN

Sitting down to his first meal at the Mission re-energized his body — and his soul. Then he joined our Men's Residential Conquerors Program, which began paying dividends almost immediately. As he began making changes and reaching goals he set for

himself, he regained a sense of hope. He's now leaning on guidance from Jesus Christ and the help of the Mission staff to keep his life on track.

"I would have never been here if I had not lost everything," Justin says. "That's what prompted me to allow Christ back in my life. If not for this place, I'd probably still be living without God."

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never been here
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— Justin

OPENING THE DOOR TO NEW LIFE

Justin graduated from Haven of Rest's Career Development and Men's Residential Program in October 2021. Since graduation, he has become employed as the Mission's Distribution Clerk.

On behalf of Justin and hundreds of others who have benefited from your kindness, thank you. You have helped to provide meals and so much more to open doors to new life. Please join us in prayer for every individual who will join one of the Mission's life-changing programs this Thanksgiving season.



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Why Meals Are So Crucial At Haven Of Rest Right Now

Our Thanksgiving meals do more than just satisfy hunger.

They give people coming off the streets a sense of community, a reason for hope, and a reminder that God has not forgotten them — and neither has this community!

To those who haven't had a decent meal in days, our Thanksgiving season dinners can help them think more clearly — and when they're ready for change, lead them to joining one of our transformational programs.

So much good for just \$2.05 per meal. How many meals can you provide this Thanksgiving?

Kids Helping Kids

You are invited to join our 2022 Christmas Project

During the holidays, everything we do is designed to give glory to God. That's why we work hard so children and adults can experience the true joy of the season through activities like:



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS, providing toys during our "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party so every child will have at least one present to open on Christmas morning.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY, which provides wrapped gifts for families who need a little extra help during the holidays.



PROVIDE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR RESIDENTS so men and women who are living away from their families at Christmastime can feel loved and cared for.

For more information about our 2022 Christmas Project, call David John, Special Events Coordinator, at 330-535-1563 or email djohn@havenofrest.org



Make
Christmas
special!

What People In Need Really Want At Thanksgiving



REV. JEFF KAISER
CEO

Do you know what people who come to Haven of Rest at Thanksgiving appreciate most?

It's not the meals, although those are certainly important. Or a

chance to get out of the cold, although that certainly brings welcome relief to many.

More than either of those, many people who walk through these doors tell us what is most meaningful to them is the chance to experience "a sense of home." Small wonder. So many have nowhere else to go and nobody to celebrate with.

They look forward to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner — in other words, the same things many of us will be enjoying.

That special meal, served with compassion and understanding, can open the door to new life through one of our life-transforming programs.

When you give, you can be a great blessing to a homeless, hungry soul. Thanksgiving is almost here, which means there's only a short time to share God's love and hope with someone in desperate need.

Please send your gift today and make this Thanksgiving unforgettable for someone who's looking for "a sense of home."

Jeff



Help And Hope This Holiday Season

With Thanksgiving only a few days away, we want more than ever to provide meals and hope to every man, woman, and child who walks through these doors this holiday season.

But we can't do it alone. Won't you help?

Every time you provide a \$2.05 Thanksgiving meal, you give someone hope that all is not lost, that tomorrow can be better, and that their struggles are not in vain.

It's true that one meal can do all that — especially when it leads to the transformation you can also offer to those who are looking to break free from the agonizing cycle of poverty, hunger, homelessness, and addiction.

If your heart is moved with compassion to help those who are alone and in need this Thanksgiving, please give a gift today. You'll see how good it feels to help someone move from despair to hope.

Thank you, and God bless you!



Provide Help And Hope This Thanksgiving

Please return this form along with your gift today. Thank you!



My gift to provide Thanksgiving meals and more

JEFF, I want to provide a hungry neighbor with a special meal that can open the door to hope this Thanksgiving. I'm sending:

☐ \$_____ to provide meals and care for as many people as possible.

Every \$2.05 will provide a holiday meal!

HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 547
Akron, OH 44309-0547
330-535-1563
havenofrest.org/Thanksgiving

Please make your check payable to **Haven of Rest Ministries** and return this form with your gift. Send back to us your credit card. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you!

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