

THE VOICE

HOPE AND A FUTURE



"I bring you good news that will cause
great joy for all the people. Today in the town
of David a Savior has been born to you, he is the
Messiah"

— LUKE 2:10-11

WISHING YOU A MOST BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



THANKS TO YOU . . .

Jamie now sees Christmas in a whole new light

Jamie will never forget her rock-bottom moment.

“I just found out I was pregnant,” she says. “I was alone, scared and so overwhelmed. I’d never been so lost in my life.”

So Jamie did the only thing she could think of . . .

“I literally got down on my knees and began praying, begging God to do something.” She asked God to bring good out of the mess her life had become.

That’s how she ended up at Haven of Rest’s Harvest Home, a shelter for women with young children.

At first, it was rough, Jamie admits. But anything was better than reliving the past, where she lost custody of her three kids, her home and her self-worth — all due to alcohol abuse in her home.

Over time, Jamie started to “see the light” as she made friends and began following the advice of her counselors at Haven of Rest. In the months that followed, she benefited from our Bible studies, life skills

training courses and housing referrals. Today, she has graduated and moved into transitional housing.

“My time at Haven of Rest was so amazing,” Jamie says. “Being there made me a stronger person. It helped me to see life in a different way, not just the darkness. I learned what faith was and I learned what humility was. I overcame a lot, and it was all God’s doing.”

“I overcame a lot, and it was all God’s doing.”

— Jamie

This month, she’ll participate in Haven of Rest’s Christmas program, where she’s already been promised Christmas dinner and gifts for her daughter, who’s now in first grade.

“I just want to be the best mom I can be for my daughter,” Jamie says. “I want to be at peace and make sure I live as long as possible. Most of all, I want to see all my children grow up and be at peace with God.”

Thank you for giving generously to see lives changed. You are helping other women facing their own unique challenges find the strength and courage to start anew.

Where Christmas keeps going and going and going . . .

At Haven of Rest, Christmas lasts more than one day. It's a month-long celebration.

Naturally, it's our annual Christmas dinners at both Harvest Home, our shelter for women and children, and the Conquerors Program for men in recovery that get the most attention.

But that's only a small part of what we do for men, women and children to brighten their holidays.

Women and children staying here are treated to special activities like riding the Polar Express and seeing Hower House in downtown Akron, as well as playing party games like antler ring toss, pin the nose on the snowman and Christmas charades.

Our men's Christmas party, meanwhile, features special Gospel messages, Christmas carols and a wildly fun white elephant gift exchange.

Both our men's and women's ministries also feature special gift-giving opportunities.

Thanks to generous friends, moms staying here get to shop for special gifts for their children. They also receive special gifts of their own, thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers working under the direction of our staff.

In our men's program, guests get to shop for their spouses and their children. We even help them mail their gifts so they arrive in time for Christmas.

One mom told us, "I couldn't wait for my children to wake up on Christmas morning so they could see what their mommy got them."

Thank you. All of this was made possible through your giving!

Your love is more powerful than loneliness



REV. JEFF KAISER
CEO

For individuals experiencing homelessness, this is an especially lonely time of year.

Some may remember past years, when they would get

together with family and friends. Others have never had the chance to experience a traditional Christmas due to poverty or abuse.

Either way, it's tough knowing that while others are celebrating, they are all alone.

This is why we work overtime each year to give our guests a memorable Christmas, featuring a host of fun activities, gift-giving (and receiving!) and, of course, a focus on the Christmas story and Christ's love for all of mankind.

If you haven't already, I hope you will take a few moments to read through this special Christmas edition of *The Voice*. In it, you'll read about the many ways you bring comfort and joy to everyone who walks through these doors, leading to real life-change for people like Jamie.

It is your giving — at Christmastime and throughout the year — that proves love is more powerful than loneliness. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

May the Lord bless you and your families this Christmas and always.

Jeff





Christmas is the season of hope

You can offer hope . . . and a second chance to those who need it most

At Haven of Rest, Christmas is all about God's love. One way His love is expressed is through your concern for hurting individuals, your prayers and your financial partnership.

But we know the meals and other care you provide — including a traditional Christmas meal with turkey and all the trimmings — isn't all there is.

When someone who is experiencing hunger and homelessness receives a hot meal served with love and kindness, they're able to think more clearly. Many begin to assess where their lives went off track and then take advantage of the second chance we offer them by joining one of our life changing programs.

Please know that we couldn't do this work without you — at Christmastime or any other time of year.

That's why I invite you to join us this Christmas in prayer. Your intercession on behalf of this work in the lives of men and women who come to us will change the lives of those who have nowhere else to turn for help.

Thank you for standing with Haven of Rest and for every life that will be made new as a result of your kindness and God's grace.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE

Create a free will online

Are you looking for a great way to protect your family and pass along your values?

Simply visit www.havenofrest.org/get-involved/wills-trusts and you can create or update your will online. It's free and completely confidential and takes less than 20 minutes.

You can also learn about the importance of a will by clicking on the legacy giving tab.

This is your opportunity to leave a legacy of love by creating your will right on your computer!

Request your free copy of the online booklet *Procrastination*.

havenofrest.org/procrastination

MISSION RADIO BROADCAST SUNDAY MORNINGS

7:30 am EST

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

8 am EST

WHBC 1480 AM

HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES

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