

THE VOICE

HOPE AND A FUTURE

YEAR EDITION

You helped Demetrius find shelter from the storm

Your generosity brought this young man peace, stability, and hope

The minute Demetrius stepped off the plane in Boston, he knew he had made a mistake.

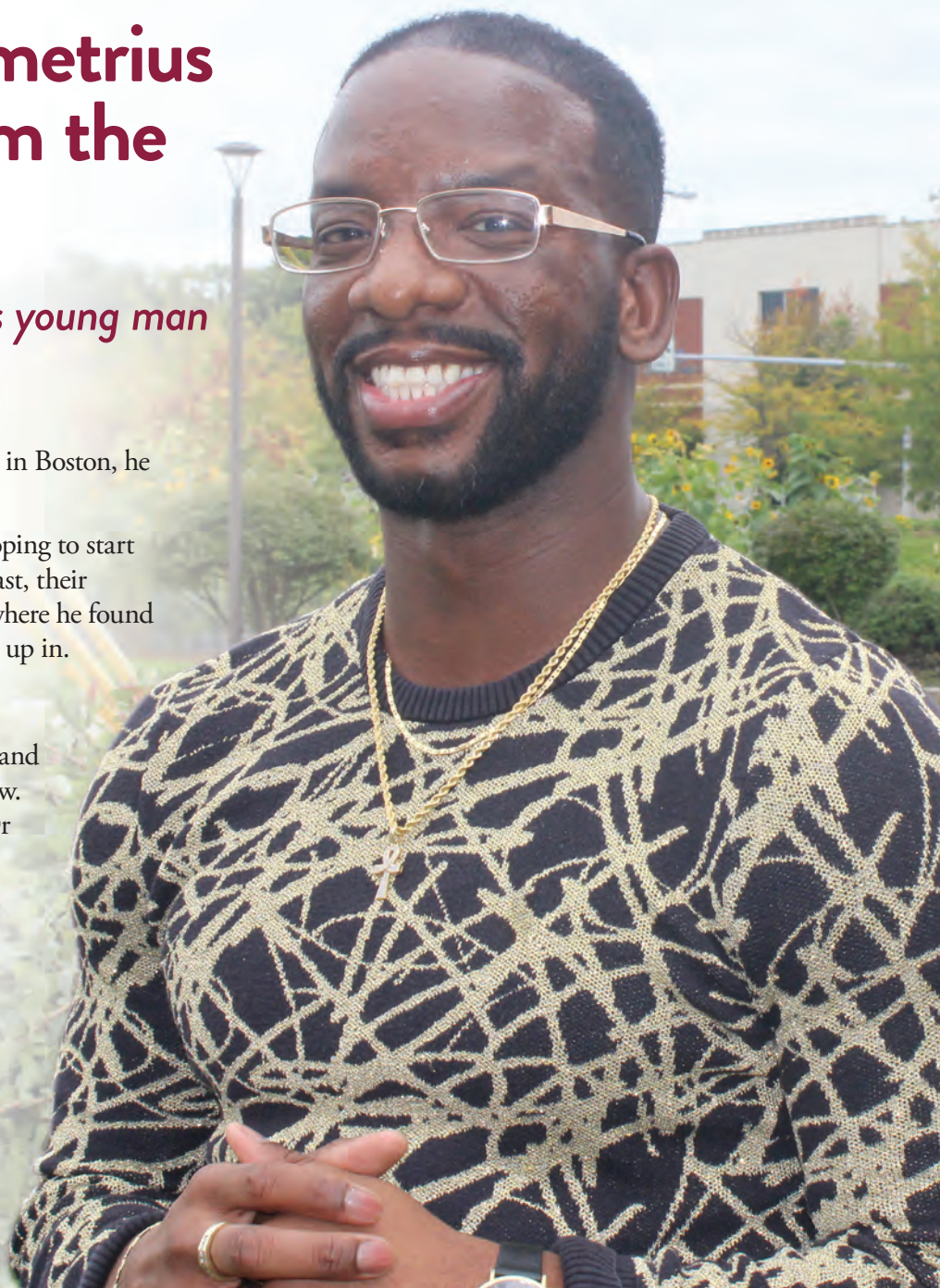
Akron was his home. And though he was hoping to start a new life with his girlfriend on the East Coast, their relationship quickly unraveled to the point where he found himself longing to return to the city he grew up in.

CHANGING COURSE

The next day, Demetrius caught a flight out and returned home. But things were different now. He no longer had a job. Or a place to live. Or much money to get back on his feet.

So he started working two jobs, purchased a car, and made it his home on wheels — in the middle of a cold Midwest winter. When it became apparent he couldn't survive this way for long, he drove

READ MORE OF DEMETRIUS' STORY INSIDE ►



More proof that your giving is changing lives



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Finding shelter from the storm . . .

himself to the front doors of Haven of Rest but spent three days in our parking lot — trying to find the courage to go inside.

When he finally did, Demetrius remembers being pleasantly surprised. Our staff was warm and welcoming. The meals were filling. And best of all, we took the time to speak the Word of God into his life — giving him hope for the future.

GIVING BACK

Today, Demetrius works as a correctional officer and a personal trainer and, in his spare time, loves volunteering at Haven of Rest because he wants to give back for the help he received.

“I feel blessed every time I get to encourage the

individuals staying there,” he says.

He says he’s also grateful to Haven of Rest, and friends like you, for helping to transform his life.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

“In the midst of my storm, Haven of Rest was the foundation that brought me peace and helped me recognize that there were others who truly cared,” he says. “They not only wanted to see me become the best version of myself, but they were there with the resources, foundation, and prayers to help me get there.”

Demetrius’ life will never be the same because of your kindness. Thank you for believing in him — and in us! — as together, we bring hope back to our community!

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Doing good work for almost 80 years

Now you can be a part of this vibrant ministry support group

A year after Haven of Rest first opened its doors in 1943, a little-known group of women began meeting for the sole purpose of supporting special ministry plans.

Today, almost 80 years later, the Women's Auxiliary of Haven of Rest Ministries is still contributing to a variety of key projects —

most recently a new computer tracking system, new flooring in our Distribution Center and administrative offices, and LED security lighting on the outside of our three buildings and our parking lot.

In addition, the Auxiliary has made significant contributions to Haven of Rest's capital improvement projects and our anniversary banquets.

The Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday of every month and is currently looking for new members. To join, simply attend one of their meetings or contact Kathy Walker at 330-607-4134.



Kids discover what's "behind the curtain"

Q: How often do you get the chance to go "behind the curtain" to discover what makes a popular ministry like Haven of Rest so successful?

A: *Not very often, which is why students from Jennings Middle School were so excited when they recently got to meet our Special Events Coordinator, David John, and the Development Officer/Digital Specialist, Katrina Henry, and discover some of the activities planned for the next few months.*

Not only were students able to learn all that goes into putting on a special event — like our Kids Helping Kids Christmas project — but they were able to offer suggestions on how to make events like this even more meaningful to boys and girls their own age.

It was, as one child noted, "a day I'll always remember." Students can come to Haven of Rest and learn about career paths available to them, like Special Events Coordination. This ministry thrives when our entire community — even kids — gets involved. We are excited to help students discover careers that make a difference!

No matter how you say it, we are grateful for your support



REV. JEFF KAISER
CEO

Gracias. Merci. Grazie.

I could say "Thank You" in a hundred different languages and it still wouldn't be enough to

express my heartfelt gratitude for all you did over the holidays to bring comfort and joy to so many of our neighbors trapped in poverty.

Christmas can be one of the loneliest times of year for those who are homeless or emotionally separated from their families. Your gifts provided traditional holiday meals and safe shelter. But even more important, your kindness offered hope to those who once felt forgotten and alone.

Thanks to you, they don't feel that way any longer!

Now, a new year has begun, bringing new opportunities to show people how God can help them move beyond the trauma from their past and begin living brand-new lives. That's how you change our city: one person, one family, one neighborhood at a time.

We can accomplish so much when we work together to help change lives. Thank you for your generous support today — and throughout the year.

Jeff



You can provide clean, warm clothing for people in need

Next to meals, clothing just might be the most important item you can share with a neighbor in need.

That's because in addition to keeping people warm and dry on cold, wet winter days, clothing carries with it a sense of dignity for those who are properly dressed.

And a sense of unworthiness for those who aren't.

Each month, Haven of Rest is the recipient of thousands of pounds of donated new and gently used clothing, which is processed, stored, and dispensed at the Client Services Center's receiving and distribution area.

If you have clothing you'd like to donate, a donation drive-thru is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

On the other hand, if you are in need of help with clothing, please call Haven of Rest at 330-535-1563 and ask for the Donation Center or Joe McDaniel. Hundreds of apparel items for men, women, and children are now available at no cost.



HAVEN'S AMAZING START

80 years and still going strong

If you believe that Haven of Rest Ministries is a valuable part of the Akron community, then you should probably thank the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Here's why . . .

Mission founder Charles Curtis Thomas was working at Goodyear back in 1943 when a group from a local church knocked on his door in Springfield Township and asked him and his wife if they wanted to attend a concert.

Despite the fact that Thomas was a non-believer and his marriage was shaky, he agreed — partly because he liked church music . . . and the rubber company was on strike.

That one decision proved to be life changing!

Touched by the Gospel, Thomas and his wife gave their lives to Christ. After that, their marriage never faltered again. Soon they were invited to open a shelter in Akron. Thomas actually worked at Goodyear for a short time while serving at the Mission.

Since Haven of Rest opened 80 years ago, we've grown dramatically. In the early years, we served mostly men between ages 45 and 65. After World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, the Mission's focus turned increasingly to veterans. In 1974, a women's ministry was added, along with a dayroom that's now used for GED classes and job training.

Today, the Mission is fully funded by caring people like you, providing 40,000 overnight stays each year, while helping up to 1,500 homeless people receive clean, donated clothing.

And to think that *it might have never happened, if not for the strike at the rubber plant . . .*

HAVEN OF REST MINISTRIES

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