

THE VOICE

HOPE AND A FUTURE

“I’M A WALKING TESTIMONY”

*Loss almost put Lola out on the streets.
But you gave her help and HOPE!*

Lola was face to face with the terrifying possibility of homelessness.

When her mother became sick with Alzheimer’s, Lola quit her job and moved to Akron to care for her. “I was her only caretaker,” she says. “I didn’t get any help except from my adult son, who is mentally challenged. I didn’t want to burden him.”

Leading up to her mother’s death, Lola quickly realized she would have nowhere to go once her mother passed. “I didn’t know what was going to happen,” Lola says. “I was stressed and experienced panic attacks.”

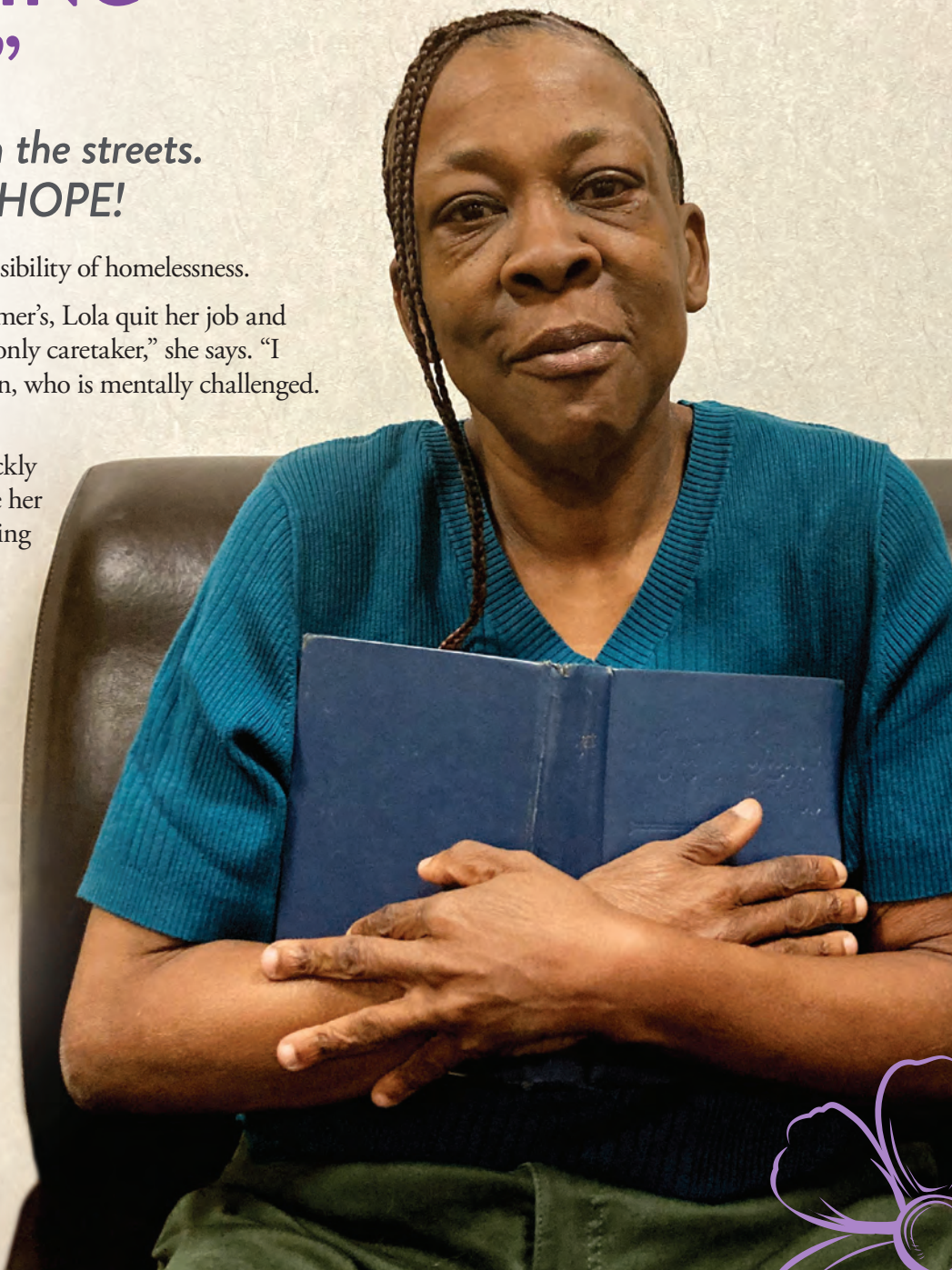
Lola called Haven of Rest a week before her mother died and told them about her situation. With no other family to support her, she didn’t know where she’d end up. Struggling on the streets or living out of her car felt like the only option.

The day Lola was heading to the cemetery to bury her mother, she received a call from Haven of Rest. They had a bed for her. “It was God looking out for me,” she says.

BROKEN AND BURDENED

When Lola arrived at Harvest Home, grief hit her hard. The three years of

READ MORE OF LOLA’S STORY INSIDE ►



You're helping to restore lives and bring hope



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THANKS TO YOU ...

Lola overcame crisis and found stability again!

caring for her mother as she died were over, and reality sunk in. “It was horrible to watch her go through the different stages,” she says. “I thought, *Why was I the chosen one to go through such trials?*”

Depression, nervous breakdowns, and bipolar disorder burdened Lola. But the staff at Haven of Rest became her loving community to lean on. “They talked with me and prayed with me,” she says. “They wouldn’t let me give up. I got stronger every day.”

A HOPE AND A FUTURE

While Lola slowly but surely got back on her feet, she discovered the sewing classes offered to guests at Harvest Home. Sewing quickly became a healing activity for her.

“I struggled at first going through my different emotions,” says Lola. “Sewing keeps me focused, and it’s really become a joy.”

After 38 days of staying at Harvest Home, Lola secured

her own job and housing. She is neighbors with her son, who found his own place in the same apartment building. “Without Harvest Home, I’d probably be sleeping in the cold, dead, or in jail,” says Lola. “I was not in my right mind. I didn’t have any money — or anybody. I’m a walking testimony.”

*“I didn’t have any
money — or anybody”*
— Lola

For so many, homelessness hits when it’s least expected. In the midst of her crisis and grief, Lola needed a place of security to get back on her feet. You helped provide that. And you can help provide it for others like her who will come to Haven of Rest’s doors.

“If you can give, please don’t hesitate,” says Lola. “There are people who are sincere about getting back on track. I didn’t think I could do it, but by the grace of God and help of the Harvest Home staff, I did.”

Give a man, woman, or child genuine hope and the care they need to get back on their feet!

Changing lives one *Hope Tote* at a time

Most of us wouldn't think of brushing our teeth, putting on clean socks, or washing our hair as a luxury.

But so many men, women, and children in our community who are struggling don't have access to personal care items.

With compassionate support from people like you, we are meeting the basic needs of people in crisis through *Operation Hope Totes*.



SIMPLE NECESSITIES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Year-round and community-wide, *Operation Hope Totes* is a special outreach that meets the needs of the most vulnerable in Akron. It starts with a business, church group, school classroom, organization, family, or individual like you collecting personal care items to fill a purple *Hope Tote* bag.

Once the bag is full of necessities like soap, toothbrushes, deodorant, and more, it's dropped off at the Mission or a special drop off location.

It's amazing how far shampoo or a pair of socks can go to bring comfort to an individual in crisis. Often, it's the simple essentials that give much-needed hope and open the door to a renewed life.

With help from generous people like you, we're able to meet the physical needs of men, women, and children who've faced unimaginable struggle. A *Hope Tote* carries more than just personal care items — it carries the opportunity for a fresh start!

Hope Totes go out on Easter Sunday. Make sure yours is delivered to Haven of Rest's donation drive-thru at 207 East Market St. in Akron no later than April 2. For more information, please contact Joe McDaniel at 330-535-1563 or jmcdaniel@havenofrest.org.



GOD PROMISES TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW!



REV. JEFF KAISER
CEO

"Restore, renew, rejoice"

To me, these three words express what Easter is all about.

It's because of God's grace and your compassion that we see lives restored, hope renewed, and rejoicing where there was once grief and pain.

You can see in this newsletter that God is faithful to use your generosity to transform a life.

Lola lost everything. But you and I both know that Christ redeems all of our brokenness.

He promises to make all things new, and there's no better season than Eastertime to share that promise with those who need it most.

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"
Revelation 21:5

I hope you are as encouraged as I am, knowing that God is using you in powerful ways to restore lives with His hope.

I am thankful the Mission has people like you standing with us. Thank you, and God bless!

Jeff

IT ALL BEGINS WITH A MEAL



*You can start a story of
transformation when you give today*

For someone who is struggling in poverty, addiction, or homelessness, it's hard to focus on recovery and a fresh start when all that matters is surviving.

Meals, safe shelter, and other essential care that you help provide are the starting point for restoration. Why? Because when a suffering individual's physical needs are met, they don't have to focus on staying alive anymore. They can finally begin to heal and find hope.

We are seeing lives transformed. And it's because of partnerships with generous people like you. Will you give today and help provide critical care for those in deep need this Easter?

Your gift will remind a hurting man, woman, or child that their life can be restored and there is reason to rejoice.

Thank you for standing with Haven of Rest. Lives will be made new this Easter because of your kindness and God's grace!

YOU CAN CHANGE EVEN MORE LIVES



WHEN YOU GIVE MONTHLY

Monthly giving is one of the most effective ways you can make a lasting difference in the lives of men, women, and children who are struggling, homeless, or hungry.

Your faithful support will provide ongoing meals, shelter, Christ-centered counseling, and more for people who are vulnerable and broken.

Go to **donate.havenofrest.org** to give your first monthly gift and watch the difference your generosity will make!

