

THE VOICE

HOPE AND A FUTURE

NEW CONFIDENCE

**Melissa and her children were living out of a car.
With your help, they now have stability and HOPE!**

Melissa was trapped in a nightmare.

Her husband, an alcoholic, moved to Oklahoma and promised Melissa things would get better if she and her five kids moved out there with him. "I thought it was the last chance to save our family," says Melissa.

She quit her nursing assistant job, packed up her beautiful home, and drove 19 hours away, only to find out it was a trap. Melissa realized she made a huge mistake.

The situation grew drastically worse. Her husband became more and more verbally abusive, belittling, and manipulative. "My kids never went to bed peacefully," says Melissa. "They'd tell me, 'Let's just go. Anything's better than this.'"

ON THE RUN

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Melissa got the kids ready to flee. Her husband forgot it was a holiday and left for work. She told her kids, "Pack your bags. We're taking the bare minimum and we'll start over when we get to Ohio."

Melissa knew her husband wouldn't drive very far before remembering he had the day off. She and her kids had a 5-minute window to get into the car and leave before he turned around. "If we had waited a minute longer, it would've forever ruined our chances of getting out," says Melissa.

Before they'd left, Melissa's husband had drained all of her accounts. If it wasn't for her 15-year-old daughter, they wouldn't have had any money to make it to Ohio. "She gave me \$200



LIFE
CHANGE
STARTS WITH
YOU

READ MORE OF MELISSA'S STORY INSIDE ►



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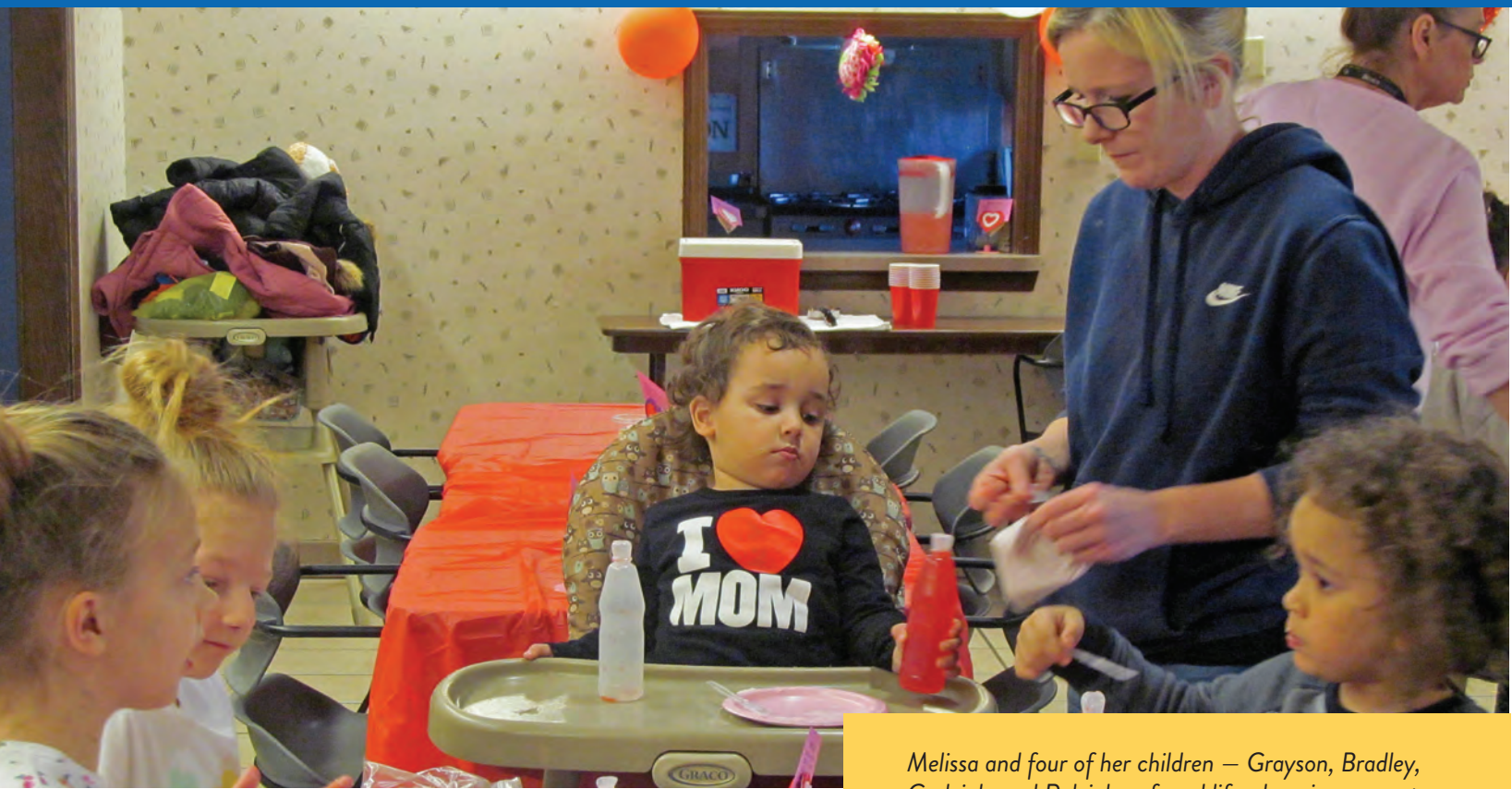


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Share hope and help with children facing ho



Melissa and four of her children — Grayson, Bradley, Carleigh, and Ryleigh — found life-changing support and stability at Harvest Home. And it's thanks to you!

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New confidence . . .

and said, ‘I’ve been saving this from birthdays and Christmases,’” says Melissa.

NEXT TO NOTHING

There was no beautiful home or steady job waiting for them in Ohio. Melissa and her kids had no choice but to live out of their car.

“We were the family that sat inside the McDonald’s Playland but didn’t have money to buy a happy meal,” says Melissa. “Workers would notice and bring the kids something to eat. It was embarrassing.”

Melissa was trying as hard as she could. Her kids would tell her, “It’s okay, someone else doesn’t have a car to sleep in.”

Yet, as much of a shock as it was to live out of their car, it was better than being trapped in an abusive home. “My kids hadn’t seen me smile in the longest time. It was physically worse but mentally better,” says Melissa.

When space at the Mission’s Harvest Home opened up,

*“My kids aren’t
hungry anymore . . .”*
— Melissa

Melissa and her kids found everything they needed to start over — food, clothing, emotional support, and more. “My kids aren’t hungry anymore and go to sleep peacefully every night,” she says.

NO LONGER THE SAME

Melissa is working again, and her family is waiting to move into their beautiful new home. But most important, they now know God’s love. “My 4-year-old son talks about superheroes and how God is the most super of them all,” she says. “He tells me, ‘He’s the One who got you that job and house.’”

Thanks to your kindness, Melissa was able to regain her confidence, find stability, and learn to trust in the Lord. “I don’t look at myself the same anymore,” says Melissa. “You help us remember we are strong.”

Homelessness is the only option for so many struggling parents and children. Today, you can give help and hope that restores lives — just like you did for Melissa!

Homelessness and hunger!

CEO'S MESSAGE

SUMMER OF HOPE

Don't miss these activities for local families!

Every family has a hope and a future. Together, we'll spread this message through two summer events: Hope Sports Camp and Hope Fest!

HOPE SPORTS CAMP: Local kids entering grades 3 through 8 can learn teamwork skills and the fundamentals of basketball and volleyball. More than that, they'll learn about God's love from Christ-centered leaders.

Boys basketball is July 17-21, and girls basketball and volleyball is July 24-28. The cost is free! For more info, contact David John at 330-535-1563 or djohn@havenofrest.org. Register online at havenofrest.org under "events."

HOPE FEST: Join us for the 31st Annual Hope Fest on Wednesday, June 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.! This free picnic at Grace Park is open to the community. Come enjoy hot dogs, plenty of treats, face painting, music, and much more! Multiple tables will be set up with community service info and giveaways. See you there!



CARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



REV. JEFF KAISER
CEO

Today, more than ever, young people need guidance from the Lord.

Many children are suffering from poverty, broken families, or even homelessness.

And those who aren't are still growing up in a world full of influences — not all of them good.

As a community, it is our responsibility to ensure children are cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I'm so thankful you're there to reach the most vulnerable boys and girls.

You help provide food, clothing, and personal care items to children whose families are barely making it. By supporting Haven of Rest, you're ensuring children have a safe outlet to play, learn, and discover God's love.

*Every child has a purpose,
a hope, and a future.*

It's up to us to teach the next generation who they are in Christ.

Thank you for partnering with Haven of Rest to nurture young people. You're showing them how valuable they truly are!

We've come so far . . . thanks to YOU

A look back on all your giving has accomplished



Over the years, you and other friends helped us create a place that transforms lives. From Harvest Home welcoming its first guests in 1979 to directors cutting the opening ribbon for the Client Services Center in 1995, together we made this ministry a success.

Life-changing programs, new additions, and people saying Yes to Jesus Christ are all possible because of you. Thank you for your commitment to transforming lives all these years!



CHARITABLE GIVING WITH IRAs

An IRA Charitable Rollover, also known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), is an easy way to invest in the ministries that matter most to you. Gifting your QCD allows you to:

Bless the causes you care about:

You can name organizations like Haven of Rest as the beneficiary of your IRA and give a tax-free gift.

Distribute from your IRA without paying income taxes.

QCDs allow you to deposit up to \$100,000 to a charity without recognizing the transfer as income. This allows your estate and heirs to avoid taxes.

Fulfill your annual giving goals.

Give freely out of your IRA money instead of your savings, and avoid tax burdens when you withdraw.

If you're 70½ and want to make a meaningful difference in our community by gifting your QCD, discuss it with your financial advisor. You can also visit Haven of Rest's website havenofrest.org/who-we-are.

Your compassionate gift today will **CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE**

The summer months are a time for fun and relaxation. But for people who are struggling in poverty, scraping by on the streets, or living out of their cars, summer is no vacation.

Melissa and her children — featured on page 1 — were homeless and hungry. But through your generosity, she and her children were able to find stability again. *Won't you help others like them who have run out of hope?*

Your gift will provide life-transforming care to people in urgent need. More than that, you'll offer Gospel hope and change a life for eternity.

Thank you for standing with Haven of Rest to bring new beginnings to people in crisis!

*When you give,
please be sure
to include your
reply form.*

LIFE-TRANSFORMING CARE FOR PEOPLE IN URGENT NEED

YES, JEFF! Here's my gift to provide help and hope for a neighbor in crisis:

☐ \$_____ to provide life-changing care for as many people as possible!

Caring Friend
123 Street Address
City, State ZIP

HAVEN of REST
P.O. Box 547
Akron, OH 44309-0547
330-535-1563
havenofrest.org

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

8 years **HAVEN of REST**
MINISTRIES
Sharing God's love since 1943