

THE VOICE

HOPE AND A FUTURE

READY TO CHANGE

**Michael was headed down a path of destruction . . .
but you helped him find a fresh start!**

Taking a first glance at Michael's life, you wouldn't expect someone like him to end up on the streets.

Michael grew up in a loving Christian household. Like many young adults eager to go out into the world, he made plans to attend The University of Akron. It was there he started down a path that would eventually lead to rock bottom.

"My new freedom felt good," says Michael. "I partied on weekends and used drugs all through my college years."

Michael graduated, bought a home, and began building a career in the marketing and sales industry. From the outside looking in, he was living a successful life. But behind the scenes, alcohol, marijuana, and meth began to control Michael. "I was a functioning addict," he says. "It really robbed me of all my joy."

UNRAVELING

Michael wandered further and further down a path of destruction. He began profiting off of growing marijuana in his own home. "What started as a recreational grow lab turned into a big business that got me in trouble," he says. Michael found himself facing charges and probation.

By the time Michael was off probation, homelessness was becoming a harsh reality. "Addiction made it so hard for me to keep a job," he says. "I wasn't paying my mortgage and eventually lost my house." The dream

READ MORE OF MICHAEL'S STORY INSIDE ►



**YOU HELP
MAKE LIFE
CHANGE
POSSIBLE**



Share vital care and Gospel hope with people facing



At Haven of Rest, Michael was changed by compassionate care and God's redeeming love. Thank you for making his life-transformation possible!

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Ready to change . . .

life that Michael had built was completely unraveling.

For a year, Michael stayed at friends' houses, on couches, in abandoned vehicles, and on park benches. His dad tried to help him get back on track, but Michael burned every bridge. He realized the solid foundation he had growing up was gone.

"I reached a point where the pain of changing was less than the pain of my current circumstances," says Michael. Ready to make necessary changes in his life, Michael came to Haven of Rest.

REBUILDING A FOUNDATION

It took a few weeks for Michael to fully surrender to God. But when he did, he began to realize this was more than an addiction and homelessness issue — it was a heart issue.

Michael poured everything he had into the programs you make possible at Haven of Rest. After 10 months, he was offered an internship at our Client Services Center. "That's when I realized I'm passionate about meeting the mental health needs of people facing homelessness and addiction."

*"Haven of Rest
provided a safe
place . . ."*

— Michael

MADE NEW

Today, Michael is a social worker, has a beautiful family, and owns a home again. He repaired all the burned bridges with his family members and restored the foundation of his faith.

"Haven of Rest provided a safe place of refuge for me where I could look at my life from a biblical perspective," says Michael. "I came here with only a backpack. Now look at my life!"

You can help other men and women — just like you helped Michael — find stability and hope after homelessness!

EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE

Help boys and girls succeed!

The back-to-school season is here . . . but not every child in our community has access to the essentials needed for success in the classroom. You can help Haven of Rest support children's needs for education supplies, clothing, personal care products, and more!

As counselors from local schools request items on behalf of children in need, Haven of Rest's staff will collect what's needed and distribute it to the schools. The impact this has on local children and their families is vital.

3 WAYS PARTNERING WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS CHANGES CHILDREN'S LIVES

- 1 When a child's basic needs are met, they can focus better in school. No boy or girl should have to worry about their lack of clean clothing, food, or school supplies while they're trying to learn and grow.
- 2 Children in need can receive the opportunity to enjoy school activities and sports because of supplies they receive through this project.
- 3 You'll help change not only children's lives, but also parents' lives! Parents who are struggling to make ends meet can find help and hope through vital services at Haven of Rest.

Any gift you send today will be a tremendous blessing for a struggling child and their parents, who just want to provide their little boy or girl with everything they need. Give now, and an anonymous donor will match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$5,000! Together, we can make a difference in every child's life!



To give now, scan this QR code with your mobile device. Or visit havenofrest.org. Make sure to select "Designated for" and "Every Child, Every Chance" in the drop-down menu. Thank you for your gift!



RESTORING STABILITY AND DIGNITY



REV. JEFF KAISER
CEO

As summer ends and the fall season starts, we're each stepping back into our routines.

Maybe for you it's a hot cup of coffee every morning before

work. Or reading a storybook with your children each night.

But a man struggling on the streets doesn't have a routine. Neither does the child living out of a car with their single mother.

There's no bed to make, no breakfast each morning, and no bedtime teeth-brushing. Everything that should be consistent is missing. They're hungry, worn out, and unsure if they'll ever find stability.

You help provide individuals and families in Akron with essential needs and solutions that lead to self-sufficiency.

Because of your compassion, men, women, and children can build a firm foundation after hunger and homelessness. Then, they can start to establish those daily routines that bring back a feeling of normalcy.

Thank you for helping us restore stability, dignity, and hope. You truly are changing lives with God's love!

Jeff

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL FASHION SHOW

Join Haven of Rest's Women's Auxiliary at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, for the popular Annual Fall Fashion Show!

Located at Haven of Rest in downtown Akron, volunteers and staff will model some of the quality clothing donated to help men, women, and children in need.

Last year, Haven's clothing department was able to outfit more than 10,000 people with free garments!

To enjoy some bargain shopping that supports life-change at Haven of Rest, arrive early at 10 a.m. Then, join us for a light lunch at noon before the Fashion Show.

For more information, email Rose at rrose@havenofrest.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 3 @ 1 p.m.
175 E. Market St.



SUMMER OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Hope Fest Annual Community Picnic

On June 28th, Haven of Rest's free annual community picnic was more than just a time of family fellowship and good food. It was a time of serving and interceding for our community!

We were able to bless more than 450 people with fun summer activities, new clothing, personal care items, connections with local agencies that provide community support, and, most important of all, Gospel hope.

Hope Sports Camp

This past month, children grades 3-8 across Summit County received the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of team sports in a safe, faith-focused environment. Boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball made for lots of summer fun! It was a great time for campers to grow in their ball skills on the court and strengthen their teamwork abilities with peers.

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

TRANSFORM LIVES WITH VITAL SERVICES AND HOPE

YES, JEFF! Here's my gift of care to help a neighbor in crisis find genuine life-change:
☐ \$_____ to provide life-changing care for as many people as possible!

Caring Friend
Street Address
City, State Zip

HAVEN of REST
MINISTRIES
PO. 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 see your credit card. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you!

