



Hands of Hope

1 Timothy 6:18

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”

Circumstantial Homelessness ... But Hope for a new future

Imagine losing your job, your apartment, and your family is split apart. You are alone and it is getting dark. Soon destructive thoughts mixed with fear, anger and hopelessness invade your mind. Finding a ledge on the stairway of a building you make your bed for the night. Can this nightmare really be happening to you?

Chance Patrick did not have to imagine as this was truly a devastating day in his life. Suffering with depression from an early age, Chance struggles daily with suicidal thoughts but something keeps giving him hope. The next chapter in his life started at Refuge of Hope.

Expecting to find nothing more than men in make shift beds on the floor, Chance discovered that Refuge of Hope provides warm beds, hot showers, personal care items, clothing and lots of hot, nutritious food! It was a true refuge to Chance in his time of need. Knowing his son would be staying here with him added to his peace.



Chance and his medical transport vehicle

“The first time my son and I met with Scott Schnyders, who manages the men’s shelter, I knew he really cared about helping us,” said Chance. “Throughout our stay at Refuge of Hope all the staff treated us with this loving compassion and I soon realized we are in a family here. Different people, diverse cultures and yet that feeling of belonging brought me hope for my future.”

After finding employment, Chance stayed at Refuge of Hope and saved his money to move into his own place. Chance has a servant’s heart and often bought pizzas for the men after he finished his shift at work. “I wanted to share with them some of the blessings I had received by having a job and money,” Chance explains. “That is why I love my job at ABCD. I can help and encourage people who need non-emergency medical transportation to their appointments. By reaching out to others I realize my own problems are not as challenging and it keeps me going.”

Through the Christ-Centered services provided at Refuge of Hope we can help transform lives. Chance’s problems are not the result of drugs, alcohol or criminal activities. Chance was a victim of Circumstantial Homelessness, something we are witnessing more with the poor economy in our area. Your support allows us to provide the vital services needed to help Chance, his son and so many other men who want to step up out of homelessness and into a new life.

“I would like to sincerely thank each person who financially supports Refuge of Hope!” Chance continues. “Without your help I would never have survived the freezing winter or my depression. You gave me hope and a future, just like the Bible says in Jeremiah 29:11.”

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Refuge of Hope is growing and we want you to be a part of the experience!

REFUGE OF HOPE

330-453-1785

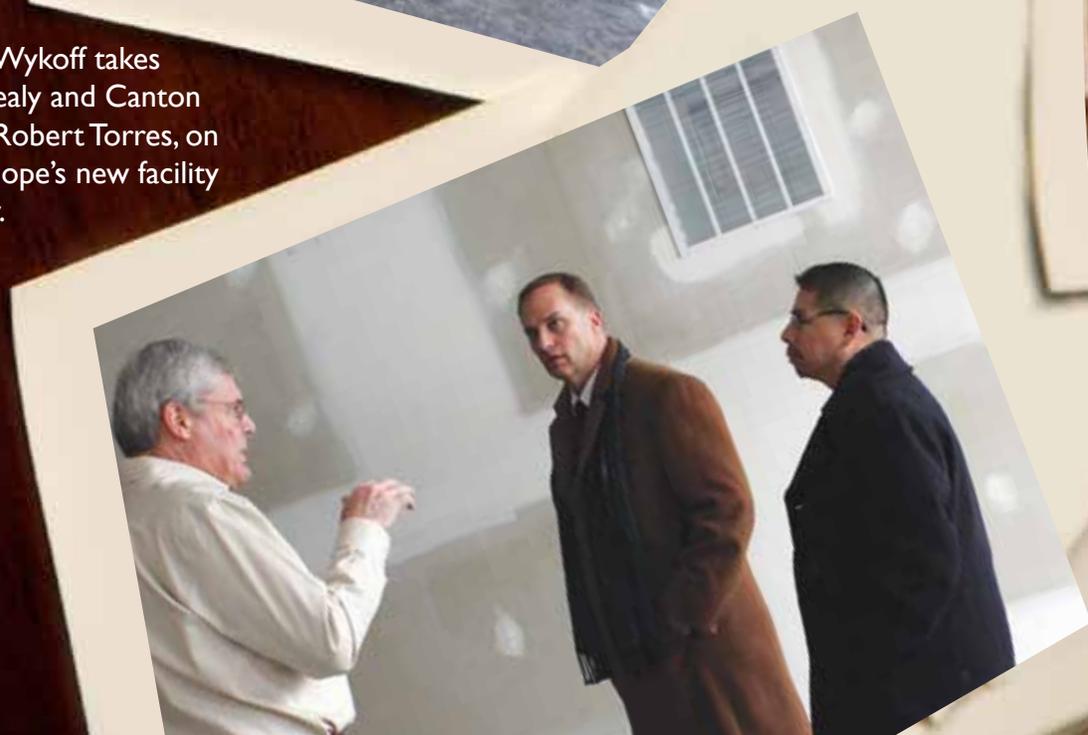
REFUGE OF HOPE

Partner with us

Fight poverty in Stark County



Executive Director Duane Wykoff takes Canton Mayor William J. Healy and Canton Director of Development, Robert Torres, on a tour through Refuge of Hope's new facility which will open in mid-May.



Feed them

People are hungry

Shelter them

Men are homeless



Building for God's Kingdom

with ROH

The pictures on these pages represent a journey, one that hasn't always gone smoothly. But, at the same time, they also illustrate that regardless of how long the road or how many bumps there are along the way, God is always walking with us and is in complete control despite our doubts and fears.

The building that will become the new home for Refuge of Hope was purchased in 2005. Those involved with our ministry at that time probably never thought that it would take six years to actually occupy the site. But, any journey we take always proceeds on God's timetable, not ours.

Finally, God willing, the official grand opening of our new location at 405 Third Ave. NE is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th. The Refuge of Hope Board and staff are excited to share this notable occasion with you. More information about the activities of that day is forthcoming in the near future.

In God's kingdom, when one journey ends, another begins. Please continue to partner with us as we follow where God leads. Your prayers and donations are appreciated more than any words can express. And, while we have no idea today where His path will take us, rest assured that the trip will be exhilarating for everyone involved.

Wish List

Help Stock our Pantry

- Large Containers of Coffee Creamer & Sugar Packets
- Canned Fruit - large size
- Canned Vegetables - large size
- Fruit Juice - large cans
- Cans of Creamed Soups
- Ground Meat
- Dish Cloths
- Dish Towels
- Dish Soap (Dawn)

Help Stock our Shelter

- 150 New Pillows (150)
- 500 Pairs of Flip-Flops
- 100 New Towels - bath size
- 500 Rolls of Toilet Paper
- 20 Liquid Laundry Detergent
- 50 Cans of Air Freshener
- 300 Bars of Deodorant
- 100 Bags of Socks
- 20 Bottles of Ibuprofen
- 20 Bottles of Cough/Flu Medicine (non alcohol)
- 12 Monthly Bus Passes

Facility / Maintenance

- Commercial Washer & Dryer
- Heavy Duty or Industrial Vacuum (2)
- Heavy-Duty Single Cots (5)

Furniture Needed- When men transition from our shelter into their own place, they are setting up their household with little or no furniture. As you "spring clean" your home, please consider donating your slightly used beds, dressers, tables, chairs, and upholstered items to ROH and turn a place to live into a home! Contact Scott at 330-453-1785 extension 204.



Dedication Ceremony
Tuesday, May 17 * 11:00am

Reservations are requested
please contact Mary at 330-453-1785 extension 202
if you are able to attend

REFUGE OF HOPE

PROVIDING HELP AND HOPE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

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Simon Horn, **Weekend Intake Supervisor**



Volunteer Corner

Meet Jill

The Lord does truly work in strange and mysterious ways. Ask Jill.

"I had no idea how the Lord planned to use me when I signed up for a class on finding your spiritual gifts at my church," said Jill, a licensed nurse at Mercy Medical. "About the same time the class began, interestingly I started to hear radio announcements about Refuge of Hope."

Jill knew she wanted to use her nursing skills to help others but admits that despite hearing about Refuge of Hope, she never gave the organization a second thought as far as volunteering there. But, the Lord had other ideas for her.

Several weeks later, Jill heard Refuge of Hope Executive Director Duane Wykoff speak at the church she attends and began to feel the Lord's leading. She scheduled a tour of Refuge of Hope and came away convinced that she had found the right place to use her medical skills. "I just felt it," she said.



Dave, a ROH shelter client, receiving his weekly check-up from Jill

Not certain what to expect when she started her weekly medical visit, Jill has found a variety of ways to help people medically. She also quickly realized that sometimes the best medicine is to just be a good listener. Whatever role she plays, Jill is just thankful that the Lord has given her the medical skills and experience necessary to serve those in need.

And, she notes, her time at Refuge of Hope has also proved beneficial to her.

"It helps me keep my life in prospective," Jill said. "I feel those I serve at Refuge of Hope actually do me a favor by allowing me to come here for them. Without a doubt, the people I've met have been more of a blessing to me than I have to them."