

Stan Found a Life Full of Blessings!



STAN GREEN

Running away from home when he was sixteen years old, Stan Green soon realized that associating with the wrong friends could lead him down a path that would dramatically change his life. A felony charge sent him to prison for the first time in 1979. But, through a renewed faith in God, freedom from his addictions and working at Refuge of Hope, Stan found his way back to a life full of blessings!

After 6 years, he was hired into manufacturing where he thrived for the next 12 years and even served as Vice President of his local union. It sounds like life should have been a smooth ride for Stan but as he explained, "Our company was sold and relocated to China and we were now unemployed. We received a severance package but by this time things in the economy were not good and I started working through temporary services."

Stan began living between his parents' home and sometimes with his daughter, basically homeless. In 2011, Stan was accepted into the Mature Services Program which helps those 55 years and older find employment. It is through this program that Stan began working at Refuge of Hope.

During the last two years, Stan has been able to see the other side of agencies that assist people with hot meals, food and clothing distribution. Part of Stan's responsibility has been to process donations for Refuge of Hope. "The donors are generous and I see just how much

continued on page 4

The magazine cover features a close-up photograph of several pink lilies. The title 'REFUGE of HOPE MINISTRIES' is printed in purple serif font. A large purple 'h' logo is on the right. A quote in italics reads: 'Open thy mouth, judge righteously and plead the cause of the poor and needy. Prov. 31:9 KJV'. The issue information 'Volume 6 Issue 1' and 'March 2013' is at the bottom.

WWW.REFUGEOFHOPE.ORG

REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 9361
Canton, Ohio 44711



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DID YOU KNOW...?

- ROH will never solicit money or donations door to door.
- The Canton Charge has donated several hundred tickets to our guests and residents during the 2012-2013 season.
- Our shelter residents are always in need of one ride SARTA bus passes.
- Whipple Heights CMA Church recently hosted a Southern Gospel Concert to benefit Refuge of Hope.



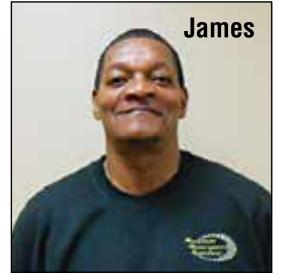
Refuge OF HOPE

COLLABORATES WITH SEVERAL LOCAL AGENCIES TO PROVIDE WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN STARK COUNTY

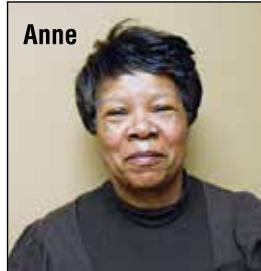
Mary Jane



James



Anne



Refuge of Hope began working with Mature Services in 2010. In 2012, Refuge of Hope expanded its community collaboration to include Job and Family Services WEP, foster children transitioning out of Foster Care to independent living, and J.R. Coleman's work assessment program. We currently have 11 workers from these agencies training and working in the Refuge of Hope Meal Ministry.

DJ



We also partner with Canton and Massillon Municipal Courts to provide opportunities for them to send Community Service Workers to us. All of these programs not only provide workers for Refuge of Hope but also allow us to collaborate with other agencies throughout the county.

"We have seen how being involved with our ministry can help offer hope to so many different people in a variety of situations," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager. "Combine this diverse work force with our faithful volunteers, dinner guests, men's shelter residents plus staff and you have the Refuge of Hope Family! We work and serve together learning to love and have compassion for each other no matter what our cultural differences may be."

"Our partnership with Mature Services provides training with day to day experience for those re-entering the work force after the age of 55," explained Refuge of Hope Executive Director, Duane Wykoff. "All of the workers from the different agencies have become part of the Refuge of Hope family and we appreciate their dedication to our Ministry."

Lisa & Ulonda



WALSH UNIVERSITY BLACK STUDENT UNION SPONSORS EVENT TO BENEFIT REFUGE OF HOPE

"My Funny Valentine Date Auction" was recently held at Walsh's Barette Business and Community Center to benefit Refuge of Hope. This event was sponsored by Walsh University's Black Student Union and for a first time affair it packed the house!!



Dates were auctioned off for Valentine's Day and almost \$1,000 was raised to help Refuge of Hope! "As I walked into the room of students I was overwhelmed with the turnout," said Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager at Refuge of Hope. "The atmosphere was full of energy and everyone was in the spirit to raise funds for the ministry."

A brief video about Refuge of Hope was presented before the auction and Jo Ann spoke to the students about how each dollar donated will impact hunger and homelessness in Stark County. *Thank you to all who participated in this evening and congratulations to the Walsh Black Student Union on a successful event!*

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

Richard Carlson wrote a book a few years back entitled "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and it's all Small Stuff." While it's difficult to agree "it's all small stuff," the point is well made that if we're honest with ourselves we spend an inordinate amount of time sweating stuff...stuff small and big and all the stuff in between.

Instead of worrying about stuff so much, maybe we should focus daily on how truly blessed we are. With food in the refrigerator, clothes on our backs and a safe place to sleep at night, we're richer than 75% of the seven billion people on earth today. Most, if not all, reading this undoubtedly fit somewhere in that "richer than" category.

There are Stark County men, women and children living in poverty wondering if there will be food available today and safe shelter tonight. With apologies to author Carlson, no food and sleeping in an alley or doorway tonight would not be small stuff to me or to my family. How about to you?

At Refuge of Hope, we deal daily with people suffering from hunger, homelessness and poverty. In our meal ministry, we served 14,500 meals in 2008, a number that rose to 68,687 in 2012. Our 34-bed men's emergency shelter has been occupied near, at or over capacity every night for nearly four years. As this is being written, we are housing over 50 homeless men.

It is possible to make a huge positive impact in the lives of so many in Stark County who live in dire circumstances every day. They don't need a handout from you and me but rather a helping hand up. When we offer that hand, it is a true blessing indeed.

REFUGE OF HOPE

Has been blessed to receive sponsorship funding from several outstanding companies listed below. Please support these local businesses and we thank each of them for their generosity in partnering with us to serve the less fortunate in our community.



Siegfried Enterprises, Inc.



ROH Executive Director Duane Wykoff with Canton Mayor William H. Healy, Dee Healy & Austin Healy



The Hoover Hi-Lo's



Eva & Tom Sieber, Shelley & Jason Tuma, Amy & Scott Sieber, Brett & Sonja White

If you had a great time at our 2012 Christmas Gala... wait until you see what we have in store for 2013!

You won't want to miss this event... mark your calendars and

SAVE THE DATE NOW!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013
AT THE NEW "PIAZZA" BANQUET FACILITY!**

Yes, I want to help men, women and children this Spring Season! Please use my gift to provide hot, nutritious meals and safe shelter to our neighbors in Stark County.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How you can contribute to Refuge of Hope Ministries:

\$50.00 \$150.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

Credit Card: Visa Master Card Expiration date: ____ / ____ / ____

Card Number: _____ Signature: _____

Thank you on behalf of those who benefit from the work of Refuge of Hope Ministries made possible through your generous gift. Tax deductible information will be mailed upon donation receipt.



REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES

For your convenience, Pay-Pal on-line donations are accepted on our website
www.refugeofhope.org



FUTURE *Picasso's*

Frazer Elementary School students created hundreds of dinner placements for ROH guests and residents to enjoy on Valentine's Day.



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Current Needs List



REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES

MEN'S SHELTER:

Socks, blankets, bed linens, wash cloths,
shower shoes, stick deodorant,
and men's underwear

MEAL MINISTRY:

Please call
Jo Ann Carpenter (330-453-1785)
to see what the most immediate need is
for the week.



REFUGE of HOPE Is Your Stark County Christian Rescue Mission

We are here to serve hot nourishing meals to your neighbors! We provide safe warm shelter to homeless men in your county.

Daily hundreds of people in Stark County face the prospect of going hungry. There are families with incomes so low they must decide whether to put food on their table or pay the rent and utilities. Refuge of Hope monthly provides thousands of free meals to help our community. We also house homeless men in our emergency/transitional housing shelter.

If you would like a staff member to speak at your church, civic organization, business, school or club, please contact Jo Ann Carpenter at 330-453-1785. We have an informative 4 minute video about our Ministry and would love to share information about the work we are doing locally in Stark County.

Stan Found a Life Full of Blessings! *continued from cover page*

time and effort is put into making delicious meals and serving them to people who are hungry, just like I was. It is so humbling," said Stan. "You can really see God working through Refuge of Hope and I am so happy to be a part of that, to give back, because I once needed help too."

With a \$450 monthly budget, Stan pays his rent, car payment and insurance. It is tough to make ends meet on such little income but that doesn't deter Stan. He is working, self-sufficient and full of hope for a bright future. Stan recently completed the necessary schooling to become a Certified Environmental Technician. He will continue working at Refuge of Hope while he looks for permanent full time employment.

"Stan is a blessing to us, a valued worker at Refuge of Hope," noted Meal Ministry Manager Jo Ann Carpenter. "He has a strong work ethic and is in charge of the kitchen and dining room for five of the six weekly meals we serve. And, more importantly, he is a dedicated father and grandfather."

It is a true pleasure and honor to have Stan be such an integral part of the Refuge of Hope family.