

# Meet Alan Noah,

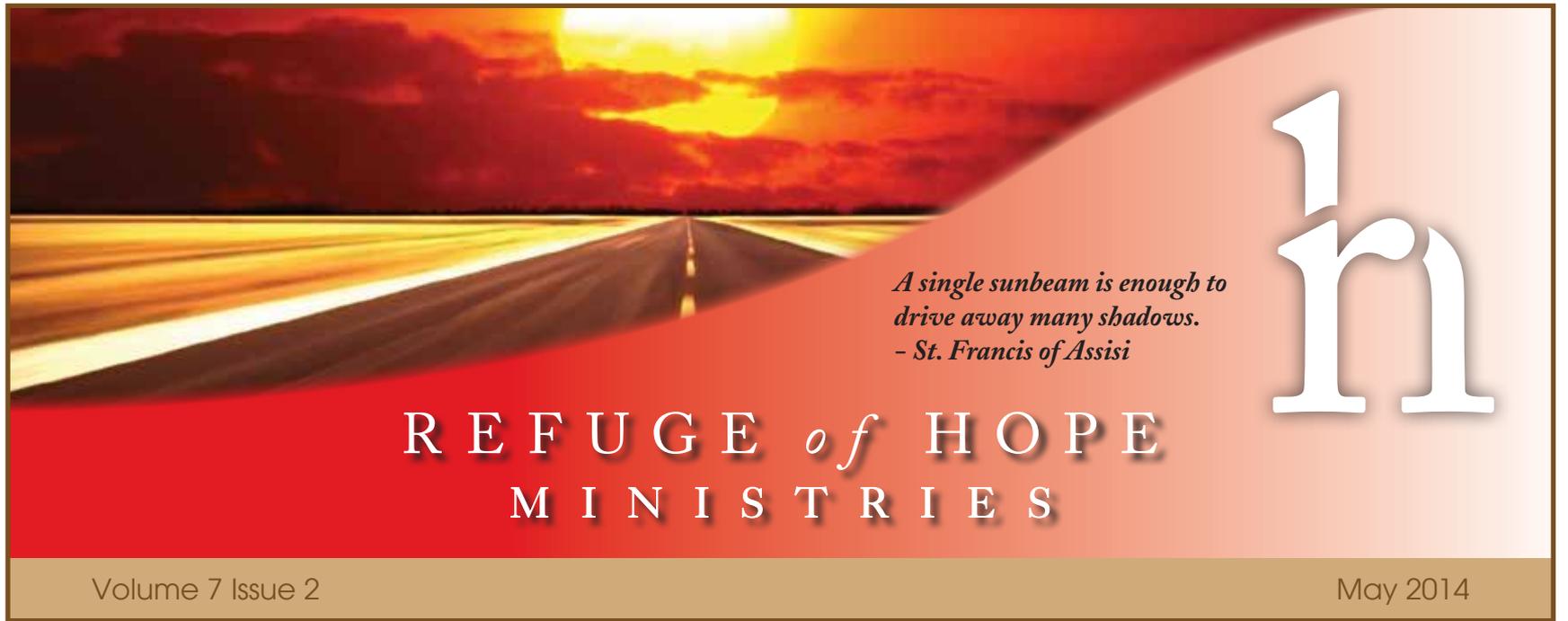
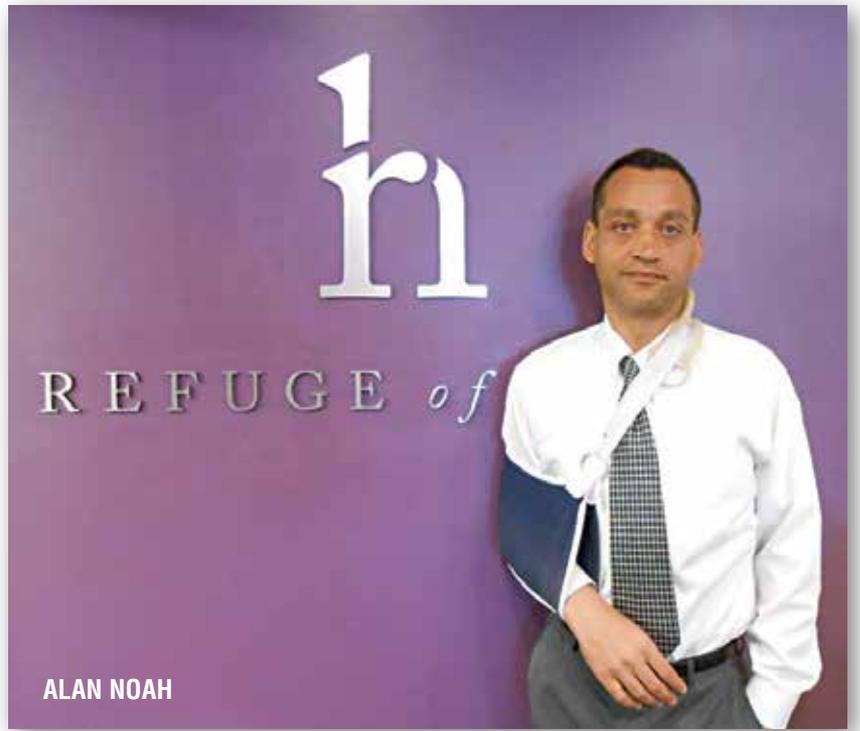
*educated..professional..unemployed..homeless.*

Alan Noah is 46 years old with a BA in Mechanical Engineering. His wife is an elementary school teacher who gave up teaching to stay at home with their two children. Perfect life...or is it?

As a contract engineer, Alan and his family traveled in the southern part of the country where there was plenty of work. With a slow economy he experienced manufacturing engineering slowing down due to layoffs and job cuts. While this should have helped his efforts to secure more contractual jobs, the market instead became extremely competitive with more engineers turning to the contract option.

Working in Iowa, with his family living in their rented house in Ohio, Alan was on his way home to visit his wife and kids. He stopped to help a friend and unusual circumstances landed him in jail. After resolving the issue, he headed back home by bus. At a stop, he tripped on a sidewalk curb and fractured his collar bone.

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## DID YOU KNOW...?

- We have added Friday dinner (same 5:00 starting time) for our meal ministry guests. We now serve seven meals per week, the most of any such agency in Stark County.
- Refuge of Hope recently celebrated its 3rd Anniversary at The Hartville Kitchen.
- Refuge of Hope has served 4,000 or more meals per month for 33 consecutive months and 5,000 or more meals per month for 26 consecutive months.
- Nearly a third of the people who reside in Canton live at the poverty level or below.
- Blues playing, gumbo cooking Bill "the Sauce Boss" Wharton will perform at ROH on Wednesday, June 4.

- Twenty six Aultman College of Nursing and Health Services students made blankets for our shelter. It took over 165 hours to make the blankets which were distributed to ROH and YWCA's women and children shelter. Aultman College of Nursing Debbie Stimmel, RN (on the left) and Amy Erb, RN delivered the blankets.



## North Canton Middle School "Pays it Forward!"



North Canton Middle School's Student Leadership Council, supported by the Character Counts Committee, recently focused on character development and the fact that character is a choice. The students and staff decided to *Pay It Forward* by collecting liquid laundry detergent and men's hygiene products for Refuge of Hope. They obviously took their mission seriously and donated over 1,700 items to our ministry (see photo above). Refuge of Hope is pleased and very thankful to be the recipient of such a kind and generous donation. Thank you to everyone at North Canton Middle School who made this blessing possible.

## WELCOME DAWN BOWMAN, NEW DIRECTOR MEAL MINISTRY



Jo Ann Carpenter (right), former Meal Ministry Manager, passing the torch, or, in this case, the kitchen pot, to Dawn Bowman, new Meal Ministry Manager.

Jo Ann Carpenter has faithfully served as Refuge of Hope's Meal Ministry Manager for the past five years. In addition, she has actively contributed to the Development aspect of raising "funds and friends" for Refuge of Hope. Now serving seven hot meals every week to the community, this ministry anticipates serving 80,000 meals to hungry men, women and children in Stark County this year.

Jo Ann will now be working full time in Development as Refuge of Hope's first Director of Development! "At one point in my career I said I could not work on the front lines every day, but God stretched me to give me the opportunity of a lifetime by interacting with the Refuge of Hope family," Jo Ann said. "Now it is time to help them behind the scenes, so to speak, and focus on raising the funds necessary to continue the work that has become so vital to this community."

Dawn Bowman, hired in February of this year, has been training to take over as Meal Ministry Manager. Her compassion and heart for ministry are evident. "I enjoy sharing the scripture and praying at the meals with our dinner guests every evening. I love my daily interaction with them and sharing what we do here on Facebook," Dawn said. "Did you realize our oldest dinner guest, Russell, is 94 years old, and our youngest is just 2 months old!"

*Please help us to welcome Dawn to the staff  
at Refuge of Hope!*

Save the Date

1 REFUGE of HOPE  
Holiday Gala

Brookside Country Club  
6:00 pm on Saturday November 22, 2014

- \* Live Entertainment
- \* Cocktails & Dinner
- \* Amazing Auction Items

*Refuge of Hope is a Christian rescue mission located in our community. Hungry children, women, and men, who are homeless, hurting and living in poverty are the people we serve.*

Formal Invitation to Follow

# THE ECONOMY IS GETTING BETTER...REALLY?



The economy is improving every day. At least, that's what news reports indicate. It may be true in some areas the country and even so in pockets around Stark County. But, there are still a large number of people, many in our own community, who go to bed hungry or without a safe place to sleep at night. You have to wonder what they think about the claim of an improving economy.

It's bad enough when adults suffer from hunger, homelessness and poverty. But, when children don't have enough to eat, or safe shelter...that just seems so much worse. A recent article in The Canton Repository, based on a Feeding America report, indicated 20,000 Stark County children – nearly one in four - lacked a healthy food supply, a one percent increase from the previous year. In addition, more than 57,000 people in the county were food-insecure meaning they lacked reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

These are the men, women and children we serve at Refuge of Hope by providing hot, meals and safe shelter. Hunger and homelessness don't take vacations or celebrate holidays so we operate 365/24/7 because those in need in our community depend on us to be there for them. We, in turn, depend on you. We do not receive funding from United Way or the federal government. Without your generosity, there are no

meals or safe shelter, no hope for so many who have so little.

Studies have shown that children not suffering from constant hunger are healthier, miss less school time and achieve more academically (better grades, higher graduation rate) than children who go to school hungry every day. "Higher academic achievement usually translates into higher potential for gainful employment and earning potential," noted Refuge of Hope Executive Director Duane Wykoff. "It's sad to realize we have so many children in our community today who are facing a dismal future because they can't get enough to eat today." Be part of the solution by joining Refuge of Hope to fight against hunger. There are 20,000 hungry children (plus many hurting women and men) who depend on us to be true difference makers in Stark County.

## WELCOME WALTER ACKERMAN



Walter Ackerman is the new weekend supervisor for the ROH men's shelter but his is not the typical ROH employee story. Walt's life was on track until a severe back injury put him on disability. Turning to alcohol and drugs, he eventually lost two homes and saw his children placed in foster care.

Homeless and alone, Walt cried out to God for help. Refuge of Hope was the answer to Walter's heartfelt prayer. After 15 months of physical and spiritual support at Refuge of Hope, a sober and joyful Walt now has his own apartment, two jobs and is rebuilding his life a day at a time.

To give back, Walt has also been a regular ROH volunteer for several years. Walt's story is one of redemption and salvation by a loving God. We are happy to welcome him as part of the ROH staff.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY**

*"Too often we assume God has increased our income to increase our standard of living when His stated purpose is to increase our standard of giving."*  
 – Randy Alcorn

**Yes, I want to help people like the 20,000 Stark County children who lack a healthy food supply! Please use my gift to provide hot, nutritious meals, safe shelter and hope 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 with donation receipt.*



REFUGE of HOPE  
MINISTRIES



For your convenience, Pay-Pal on-line donations are accepted on our website [www.refugeofhope.org](http://www.refugeofhope.org)

# I NEED A NEW DOOR OPENED...DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS? CAN YOU SET ME FREE?

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, "One out of every five families in America has a member with a serious mental illness. Two out of every 100 young adults will be affected by serious brain diseases between the ages of 18 and 30."

Scotty Mull is just one among so many young people struggling with mental illness. His poem, written in about 3 minutes, expresses his deep insight into depression and the loss of hope.



SCOTTY MULL



Scotty is a bright young man with a sweet smile and infectious laugh. There is innocence about him, but through his eyes, you can also see a deep emptiness inside. He is alone and lost. He needs love and understanding which he earnestly seeks at Refuge of Hope and through social services agencies. But, as often is the case, the disease can override his efforts and once again he maybe looking for his "light inside" and "security."

As believers in Christ, we treat Scotty and so many others with the spiritual counseling we consider to be crucial in their lives. Our wish is this story will have a happy ending though, at this time, Scotty is unstable without his medications. He is often confused and frightened by his illness and is suffering as he writes in his poem.

In any given year, about **five million American adults experience** an acute

episode of one of the following mental illnesses: Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, Major Depression, Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder and Panic/Anxiety. Effective medicine, counseling, and therapy can help people live productive and rewarding lives. There is hope for Scotty and your prayers for him will certainly help!

## Meet Alan Noah *continued from front cover*

Financial problems were mounting and soon all of the family's savings were depleted. Alan's wife found employment but fell and broke her ankle and could not keep her job! By the time Alan finally returned home, they had lost the house they rented. His wife and kids had to move in with her parents to a home without enough room for Alan.

That is when Alan turned to Refuge of Hope for a safe place to stay while he began to get his family back together. With his resume intact and arm still in a sling, this determined husband and father hit the pavement to seek employment. At Refuge of Hope for only a month, he has already had several interviews with two excellent prospects.

"Refuge of Hope helped me with transportation to job interviews, including one in Michigan, helped with my resume, provided clothes, and gave me encouragement in a loving Christian atmosphere," said Alan. "You can feel the love of Christ through the staff and volunteers, and I am grateful for the chance to have stayed here! Yes, grateful to stay in a homeless shelter that treated me with respect and is helping my family get our life back together!"

**YOUR generous support allows Refuge of Hope to minister to men like Alan in his desperate time of need. Thank you!!**

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