

# Hands of Hope

## LUKE 6:38

*“Give, and it will be given to you; A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”*

## Anna's Story Surviving month to month

“I never go anywhere else for my meals, only to Refuge of Hope,” says Anna Evey. “I have no stove in my apartment so the meals here are very important to me.”

Anna, or Annie as everyone in the Meal Ministry knows her, is one of our senior citizens surviving month to month on a limited fixed income. The hot nutritious meals she receives at Refuge of Hope are vital to her existence. The extra bread and food from the give-a-way table, along with second helpings, sustain Annie when she is unable to come for a meal.

“I remember my second week at Refuge of Hope, this sweet older lady offered me a plastic bag and it contained a new apron for me to wear while serving meals,” said Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager. “It was such a surprise to me that Annie would bring me a gift when she obviously has little herself.”



Annie enjoying her dinner

Annie spent many years working at Clay's Park in Canal Fulton and taking care of elderly people in their homes. Now she lives by herself relying solely on Social Security as her source of income. Annie comes to Refuge of Hope mainly for the meals but the social interaction is definitely a draw for her. She loves the volunteers and the other dinner guests! She comes early for an extra cup of coffee and conversation, and she enjoys eating her dessert first!

Many men, women and children in our community rely on Refuge of Hope to ease the burden of deciding on paying the rent or buying food. They know we are here for six meals every week and that makes a world of difference to the poor and needy families and individuals we serve. It is only because of your generous support we were able to increase the number of meals served in our dining room by 69% last year! Our staff and dinner guests sincerely thank you!!

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2011

Mid-Winter

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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

## Senior Employment

with ROH



Refuge of Hope and the Senior Employment Center partner for exciting new programs for Canton's unemployed over 55.

"This is truly a win/win for Refuge of Hope and trainees from the Senior Employment Center!" explains Jo Ann Carpenter, Meal Ministry Manager for Refuge of Hope. "Unemployed senior citizens can receive training at our ministry, learn new skills and collect a pay check from the Employment Center. We are helping people and in return they are working in the Meal Ministry to help the community."

Meet James Lawson. James goes to school every morning in preparation to take his GED and spends his afternoons learning how to work in a commercial kitchen at Refuge of Hope.

### James in the ROH kitchen

"I love to cook, it is my hobby but learning how to prepare meals for hundreds of people each day is astounding. I never realized the amount of planning and work that goes into each meal we serve here," James said.

James moved from Alabama in 2009 and is determined to remain in Ohio, employed. His goal is to own a catering business right here in Canton. Some of the skills he is learning include inventory control, menu planning, preparation of meals, Health Department regulations, and this summer, he will attend classes on nutrition and safe food handling.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Refuge of Hope to partner with another agency in the city. Because our Ministry is small, these trainees help to fill that void of much needed staff personnel," continues Jo Ann. "In return they receive training that will make their resume more attractive to a potential employer. It's an ideal program for the trainees and benefits our Meal Ministry as well."

## 2010

### YEAR IN REVIEW

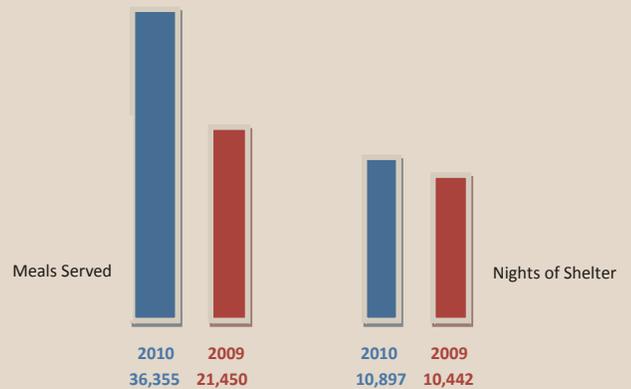
2010 was a tremendously difficult year for many people in our community, yet you provided generously for those in need. Your donations provided a warm, safe housing environment for homeless men and hot, nutritious meals for thousands upon thousands of hungry men, women and children.

**Men's Shelter** – you provided 10,897 bedded nights, up from 10,442 in 2009. Of those who stayed in the shelter, 43 men secured permanent housing, 16 found employment and most importantly, 2 men professed faith in Jesus Christ.

**Meal Ministry** – a down economy and a high number of unemployed in Stark County caused our 92-seat dining room to fill up at a record pace including several nights where over 180 meals were served. In 2010, 36,355 meals were served, a 69 percent increase over the previous year.

**Volunteers** – are a supreme blessing, the life blood of our ministry. Volunteers contributed 8,250 hours in varying capacities throughout 2010 to help fulfill the needs of the homeless and hungry.

God's richest blessings on each of you who were instrumental in 2010 in providing food, shelter, spiritual guidance and hope to those in need in Stark and neighboring counties.



# Feed them

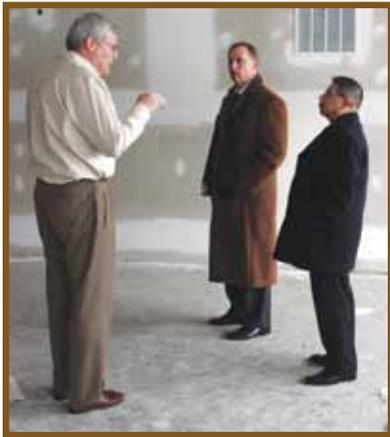
People are hungry

# Shelter them

Men are homeless

## Mavor's Visit

### recent visitors to Refuge of Hope



Duane Wykoff, left, with Mayor Healy, center, and Robert Torres, right.

Canton Mayor, William J. Healy, and Canton Director of Economic Development, Robert Torres, were recent visitors to Refuge of Hope.

Terry Seeberger, President of Refuge of Hope's Board of Directors, said that it was an honor to have Mayor Healy and Mr. Torres tour our facility and that their visit opened the doors to continued dialogue on a number of issues important to both the city and to Refuge of Hope.

"We had a good discussion regarding poverty, hunger and homelessness and the role Refuge of Hope has played and can continue to play in dealing with these issues in Canton" Seeberger said. "Our desire is to work effectively with Mayor Healy and his administration in meeting the needs of those who are less fortunate in our community."

Mayor Healy was impressed with the scope of Refuge of Hope's services and the positive impact we have on the Canton community. The Mayor and Mr. Torres were also interested in the renovation of our new facility and expressed a willingness to be involved with our grand opening of the site.

Speaking of the renovation, slow but steady progress continues. Furnaces have been installed, the electric work is being finished and the sprinkler system, which has been a major holdup, is now 50% complete. Next steps will include installation of the drop ceilings and interior doors. We are currently hoping to be in the new facility sometime in early Spring.

## Kids' Power

### A salute to Whipple Heights Elementary

Kids' Power! That's what was on display when the students of Bob Jeffreys' fourth grade class at Whipple Heights Elementary School set out to help some of the less fortunate in our community. Thankfully, Refuge of Hope was selected to be the beneficiary of these young entrepreneurs.

As a class project, the 25 members of Mr. Jeffreys' class made and sold key chains and bracelets before the Christmas holidays. They developed and distributed sales flyers that touted these crafted items as the perfect Christmas gift and their customers must have agreed. Key chains sold for one dollar while bracelets were quite the bargain at 50 cents each. Result – over \$325 collected and donated to Refuge of Hope.



Mr. Jeffreys' fourth grade students with ROH Executive Director, Duane Wykoff.

"We selected Refuge of Hope at the suggestion of our class president, Jason Lacourt," said Mr. Jeffreys. "He and his Dad discussed our project and felt Refuge of Hope would be an ideal place where a donation would be put to good use. Our class agreed. This project was an opportunity to make the kids aware that there are people in our community who need help because they are hungry and homeless."

Mr. Jeffreys and his class have already suggested another possible project they could do for Refuge of Hope – donating used books so children who come to Refuge of Hope's Meal Ministry will be able to take a free book with them when they are finished eating.

A salute to Whipple Heights Elementary, to Mr. Jeffreys, and to his students for their generosity and for having a true giving spirit.

# REFUGE OF HOPE

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## Volunteer Corner

### Meet husband and wife volunteer team

Though looking forward to retirement, Jim Hall knew he wanted to get involved with a ministry to help people. Thankfully, he checked Refuge of Hope to see if there were any service opportunities.

“I first visited Refuge of Hope with friends and we spent several hours volunteering,” Jim said. “Before leaving, I asked Meal Ministry Manager, Jo Ann Carpenter, if there were any other days she needed help. I started dropping by every Friday to serve lunch and now have the added privilege of picking up the grocery order at Akron/Canton Food Bank twice a month which allows Jo Ann to focus on other tasks at the mission.”

Jim’s excitement about volunteering at Refuge of Hope was apparent to his wife, Melanie (call her Mel), and she wondered if the organization would be a good fit for her, too. She found out that Jo Ann needed volunteers to help prepare meals and process food donations. Mel, who had retired from the restaurant industry after 32 years, decided to give it a try and the rest, as they say, is history.



Mel preparing sandwiches



Jim helping with lunch dishes

“June will mark my two year anniversary as a Refuge of Hope Meal Ministry volunteer and it’s been a great experience,” Mel said. “I really enjoy working in the kitchen and I’ve learned a lot from Jo Ann who is a great cook. I’ve also been impressed that men from the shelter are so appreciative. They always say thank you and are willing to pitch in when they are needed.”

Jim feels that volunteering at Refuge of Hope is part of filling Biblical scripture.

“We are called to take care of the poor and needy and you don’t realize the encouragement you can bring to someone who needs it,” Jim noted. “The Lord has richly blessed Mel and me for helping in the Meal Ministry. I expected to come one day a week but the Lord has brought us into the Refuge of Hope family.”

Jim and Melanie Hall are precious to the Refuge of Hope staff and clients. We treasure their friendship as well as the time, effort and service they provide to our ministry.