

HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION – READING, PA

FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION

Recovery begins with HOPE

At age 58, Paul found himself homeless and without a job due to his 43-year drug addiction. Since age 15, Paul's only times of sobriety were the years he spent in jail.

The past 12 months have been different! Paul credits his year of sobriety to the recovery classes offered at the Mission, sessions at Berks County Counseling, as well as the accountability his Case Manager from Hope has given him. Paul's road to recovery has been possible with hard work and dedication!

Gospel Centered Recovery, a faith-based recovery course offered at Hope and led by Dr. Barbara Friedman, combines a 12-step program with a central focus on the Gospel. The course promotes more than

freedom from addiction. It teaches the gift of eternal life, and rescue from all of life's struggles. While men attend Gospel Centered Recovery, we desire that they will seek transformation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul was given the opportunity and the tools he has needed to remain drug-free for a year. During that time, he has gone back to work full-time, began saving money, and is taking steps to restore his driving privileges.

His goal is to move out in the next six months, but Paul says this about the process, *"I want to do it right, because I have worked hard and have come too far to go back to where I was."*

In Berks County in 2020, there were at least 119 fatal overdoses and more

than 1,200 overdoses rescued through emergency intervention. Providing access to recovery resources is vital to saving and restoring lives.

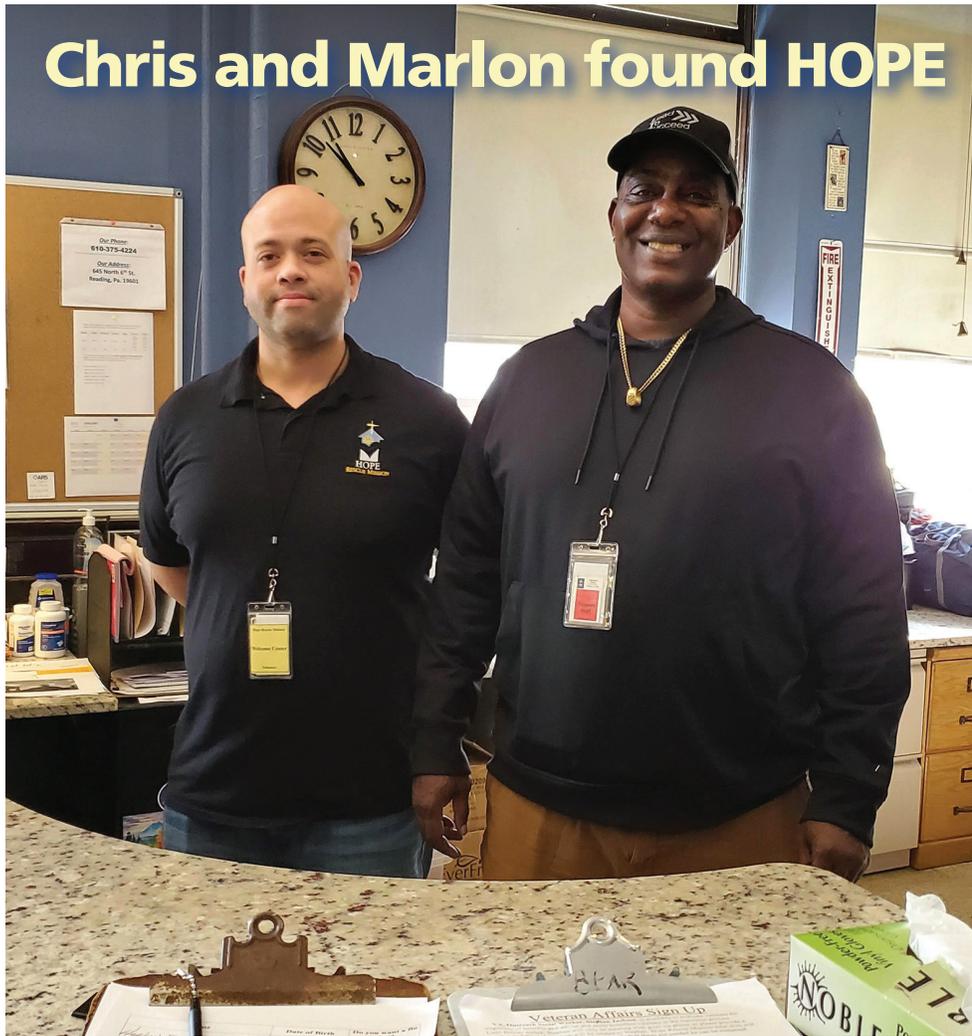
At Hope, over 80% of the men that come through our doors are battling addiction. Offering in-house courses, as well as connecting guests to partnering agencies, provides a well-rounded approach to address the overwhelming needs.

Our goal is to see every man reach his God-given potential and live a fully restored life of serving God and his community!

We are so proud of Paul and his hard work. He is on his way to reaching his goal of living an addiction-free life!



Chris and Marlon found HOPE



Chris (left) and Marlon (right) both battled what felt like an endless cycle of addiction to alcohol before coming to Hope.

Marlon has been in recovery from a drug addiction for many years, but his alcohol addiction continued and caused him to experience major health problems. He has been sober for five years and attributes his sobriety to God's grace, which enabled him to rebuild relationships with family.

Marlon came to Hope in early 2020, and he gives thanks for the support system he has found at Hope.

Chris was "living the dream" until he lost it all due to poor choices he made while ensnared in his alcohol addiction.

When he had nowhere else to turn, Chris came to Hope and celebrates four months of sobriety. He is receiving counseling support from a partnering agency. Chris also draws strength by attending recovery groups multiple times a week at Hope.

The road to recovery looks different for each individual, but it is marked with hard work and persistence. Pray for Chris, Marlon, and others like them as they continue to trust God with the process of restoring their lives.

New HVAC System in our Code Blue Area

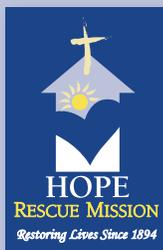


When men come to the Mission for help, they are often at their lowest point in life. Everything we do from the moment they arrive is meant to make them feel safe and special.

Over the past four years, our amazing supporters helped us complete over \$2 million of renovations to where our guests sleep, shower and use restrooms, do laundry, receive three meals daily, and access our building with ADA upgrades. We are so thankful to announce the completion of another critical upgrade improving our guest's quality of life.

Our 94-year-old gymnasium overflow sleeping area now has year-round, HEPA-filtered heat and air conditioning, as well as an air sanitization system using ultraviolet lights in the ductwork.

Thank you to the donors who made this possible, as well as M&M Mechanical, Kaiser-Martin Construction, and Keeler Electric for keeping our guests healthier year-round!



For more information and caring ways for you to support the Hope Rescue Mission, plus a list of most-needed items, visit our website:

www.HopeForReading.org

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