

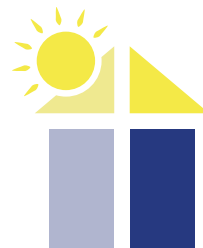
HOPE FOR TODAY



FEBRUARY 2025

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- > **2024 HRM News Recap**
- > **LightHouse Guest Story**
- > **LCBC Leesport - Volunteer Spotlight**
- > **Customers Bank Spotlight**



HOPE
Rescue Mission

2024 Recap – News

According to HUD, our country saw an 18.1% increase in individuals experiencing homelessness in 2024. PA reported a 12.2% increase over the past year – 14,088 individuals. Among them, 4,564 were identified as families with children, and 690 were unaccompanied youth. 719 were veterans.

Funded by your faithful and generous support, Hope provided life-saving and restoring shelter services to over 1,000 different men and 350 women and children in 2024. Each of those individuals were encouraged to turn in faith to Christ as their source of hope and healing.

Through our numerous onsite partnering agencies, many individuals were directed to treatment for addiction and mental illness, educational and vocational development opportunities, and permanent housing options to escape a vicious cycle of homelessness.

As our federal government continues to direct billions and billions of our taxpayer dollars to a problem that their policies have not improved, we will continue to rescue individuals out of homelessness in this life and the next through the Gospel. Showing and sharing the love of Jesus in a supportive, relational community that demands personal responsibility and accountability is something we cannot rely on a government program to provide.

LightHouse Senior Grateful for Her New Home

After a stay at critical care, Carrie found herself being discharged from the Reading Hospital with nowhere to go. “I began crying and a nurse asked me why. I told her I was crying because I had no place to go- I was homeless,” Carrie shared. The nurse then gave her a piece of paper with a list of Berks County shelters, including LightHouse. “I began making calls, and the next day I came here and got accepted into the program. That nurse was an angel of mercy to let me know about LightHouse.” Her new temporary home exceeded her expectations. “When I first got here, I thought to myself this looks like a hotel room,” she said. She doesn’t have a roommate and said her room feels like a small studio apartment. “I have my own large bathroom, microwave, refrigerator, kitchenette, bed and wardrobe for my things,” she said. “It is more than comfortable and truly my safe space. This is a beautiful, beautiful place when you hit rock bottom. God’s spirit is everywhere here.” Beyond the comfortable residence, Carrie has found a sense of community. “I have a supportive community where we are all experiencing the same thing: our homelessness.” Prior to retirement, Carrie, who has three grown sons, worked as an assistant director at an adult care facility for seniors until she developed serious health issues. “I became very ill and had to go on disability. I could no longer perform my duties, which was absolutely one of the most painful parts of my journey – saying goodbye to a beautiful work community that gave me so much purpose and love.” In an effort to find housing, she has seen that there is not enough supply to meet the demand for low-income housing for seniors. “I grew up in an affluent family, and my husband made very good money,” Carrie said. “Homelessness does not discriminate.” Carrie received wonderful news recently when she learned she was accepted into a senior housing program and will be moving out soon. Carrie has truly appreciated her time at LightHouse, particularly the friendships she has made. “They have become my family. It’s a compassionate and caring environment where every resident receives respect.”



Volunteer Spotlight – LCBC – Leesport Campus

Volunteers from the Leesport Campus of LCBC have been serving at Hope Rescue Mission for the past nine years. When asked why serving here is important to their church, Justin Yost, campus pastor, commented that volunteering provides a perspective shift on many different levels. “It shifts the way we view people and their circumstances and causes us to focus outwardly instead of on whatever is going on in our own lives.” Groups and individuals from LCBC come to Hope Rescue Mission regularly to help with serving meals, cleaning, sorting donations and even pulling weeds.

Justin encourages others to serve, “Volunteering at HRM is a super easy and safe way to help others and to live out the values that Jesus calls us to, in caring for others. I was surprised by how easy it was to step into a volunteering opportunity. HRM has so many different things for volunteers to do!”

We are so grateful for the way that LCBC makes their love easy to see at Hope Rescue Mission by bringing hope to those who need it most.



Donor Spotlight – Customers Bank

We are immensely grateful for the incredible support and partnership of Customers Bank. Their unwavering commitment to our mission has made a profound impact on our ability to serve the community.

Over the years, Customers Bank has provided significant direct financial support to us. This generous contribution has helped us sustain essential programs and services for men, women and children in need. Beyond this, their sponsorship has enabled us to secure substantial development construction grants, furthering the reach and effectiveness of The Mission, LightHouse, and HopeHouses.

The dedication of Customers Bank extends beyond financial contributions. Their employees have volunteered, participated in clothing drives, and demonstrated exceptional community partnership. Their actions exemplify the spirit of giving and collaboration that strengthens our community and uplifts those in need.

We are honored to spotlight Customers Bank as a valued donor and community partner. Their generosity and commitment inspire us every day as we work together to build a brighter future for those we serve.



**customers
bank**



WELCOME 2025 home Party

Thursday, May 8th | 5-8pm
Redner's Event Center



YOU'RE INVITED!

We are excited to announce the 3rd annual Welcome Home Party on May 8! This event, hosted at the new Redner's Event Center at the R-Phils Stadium, supports our work to make a difference in the lives of women and children in our area. All proceeds support our mission to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those experiencing homelessness. Enjoy fun, food, and a fabulous selection of auction items and experiences.

TICKETS ARE \$175 | www.HopeForReading.org/events

Want to do more? Individual and Business sponsorships offer many levels of recognition for your support. Sponsorship packages start at \$500 and can be purchased at:
www.HopeForReading.org/events

Want to talk about additional Sponsorship opportunities and benefits? Contact Kate Alley:
(610) 484-4495 | KAlley@HopeForReading.org



645 N. 6th Street
Reading, PA 19601
610-375-4224

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



www.HopeForReading.org/donations

