

# HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION – READING, PA

DECEMBER 2019 EDITION

## **“I need to be here. I’m proud to be here, and God put me here.”**

Nevin’s journey to renewing his faith in God and in himself has not been an easy one. But his story reminds us of the potential we all have within us to bring peace, love and joy to others this holiday season.

Nevin was born in Norristown but grew up at his uncle’s house in Montgomery County after being removed from his family home due to his parents’ fighting, drinking, and drug addiction. The first time he heard about God was at age five at his Grandmother’s house, his one “safe place,” and would regularly accompany her to church on Sundays.

Though Nevin completed ninth grade in school, his life became increasingly destructive. He spent a total of twenty years in jail for assault, DUIs, and drug possession. There were quite a few suicide attempts. He married three times, had three children, but never built the family life he truly craved.

However, at different times of his life, men mentored him spiritually and supported him in all aspects of life.

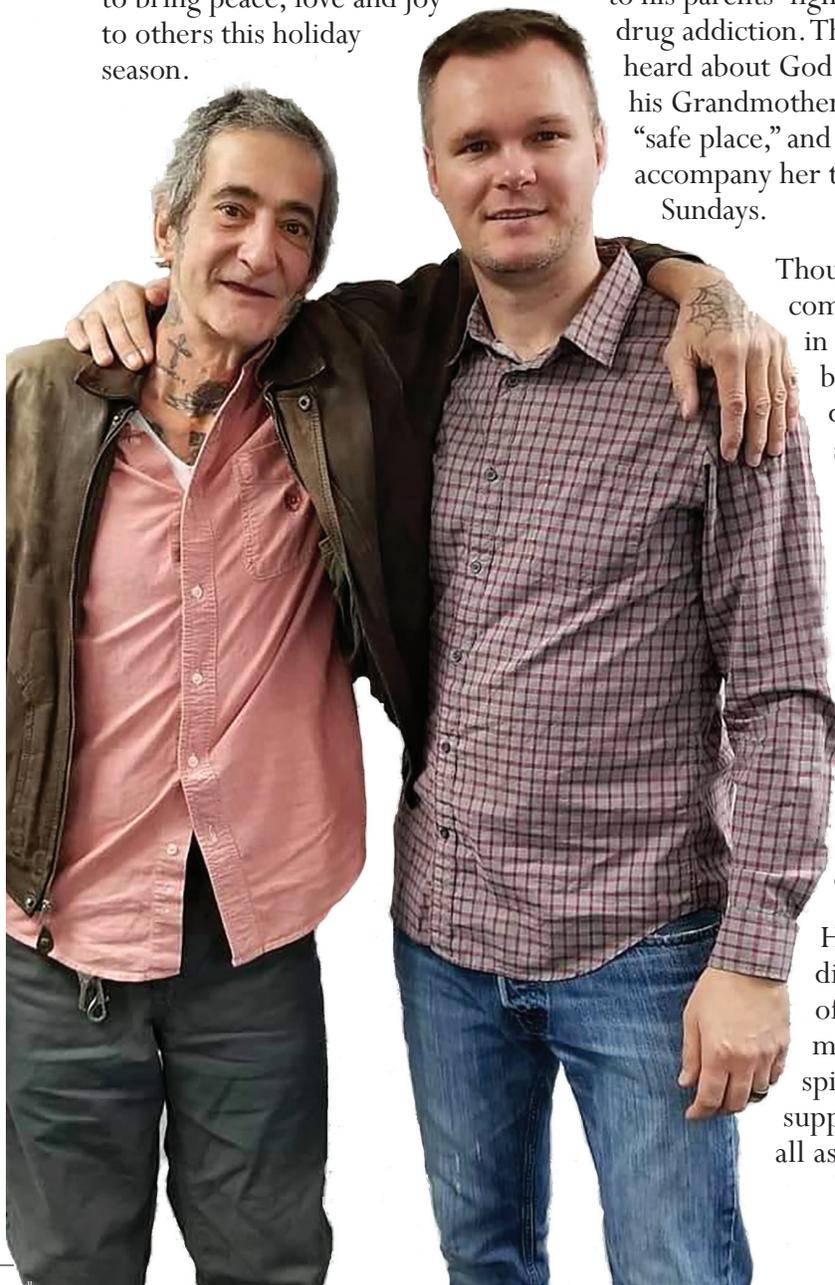
A local pastor named Devin helped him get into rehab and psychiatric treatment to work on his mental and physical health, and he encouraged Nevin to come to Hope Rescue Mission.

Nevin was greeted warmly when he first arrived by the men at the Welcome Center. Now, four months later, Nevin has a renewed faith and hope in the future. “Pastor Devin and Rus, HOPE’s Facility director, speak truth into my life and help me believe I can do better for myself.”



On November 24, 2019, Nevin was baptized to declare his personal relationship with God and demonstrate his commitment to being the man God wants him to be. He works closely with Rus on the Facilities crew, which helps him continue to learn and grow while encouraging and supporting others.

**“My life has been full of pain, suffering, and bad choices. Now it’s full of healing, growing, and a renewed sense of God’s purpose in my life.”**



# In the Forecast: Code Blue Season



As the cold winter months approach, our Code Blue refuge program delivers much needed food, shelter, and other resources to men in dire need of help, guidance, and support.

Although the temperatures have been mild so far, already our nightly numbers have increased rapidly – from 170 men to 225 men a night since Code Blue began. Once we see snow on the ground and even

colder nightly temperatures, we expect that number to grow much higher.

Many Code Blue guests are at their lowest point in life and yearn for love and compassion in their lives. For us, it's a great opportunity to restore their confidence and self-esteem not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually.



Our volunteers and donors are a crucial part of this healing process. Donations such as hats, socks, gloves, underwear, and warm coats are welcomed and appreciated.

As 2020 nears, we thank you for all the warm meals, beds, toothbrushes, and blankets you enable us to provide to those who need them most.

## Save the Date!



We are excited to announce that our goal of building a new Women and Children's Shelter on our campus is finally coming true. Please mark your calendars for the official start of our LightHouse Shelter Building Campaign – and learn what it means to our community.

**Date: January 23, 2020**

**Time: 7:30 a.m.**

**Place: DoubleTree Reading**

If you'd like to attend, contact:

**[Donate@hopeforreading.org](mailto:Donate@hopeforreading.org)**  
or sign up online.



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

**[www.HopeForReading.org](http://www.HopeForReading.org)**

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