

# HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION, 645 N 6TH ST, READING PA 19601

SEPTEMBER 2019 EDITION

## TESTIMONY TIME

### BRETT'S JOURNEY

Brett McGlynn's story begins in 2012 where he found himself desperately addicted to crack cocaine. His acute addiction led him into a life of crime, and after being convicted of a robbery that he committed to support his ever-growing need for drugs he found himself in state prison.

While there he found Jesus, and upon his release in April of 2017, Brett struggled to find work and continue in his sobriety. He continued this up and down rollercoaster until June of this year when he re-dedicated his life to Christ. Funny how God works, as immediately after re-establishing his relationship with Christ he found himself homeless and wound up at the Hope Rescue Mission. Once at the Mission, Brett was accepted into the R3 Workforce Development Program at a partnering agency and has since graduated and found full-time employment at a local company.

He currently is in Hope's Transitional Housing Program, saving money to buy a vehicle so he can pursue an awesome plumbing apprenticeship opportunity. Meanwhile he attends Bible studies, has been maintaining his sobriety, and has found a wonderful Christian girlfriend who supports him and encourages him in his faith and recovery.



**BRETT MCGLYNN**

## THE STAFF AND RESIDENTS OF HOPE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### CASE MANAGEMENT



**CASE MANAGEMENT  
TEAM**

Meet the Hope Case Mgmt Dream Team! They are a huge part of the programmatic success that has evolved over the past few years at HRM. From left to right we have Rabiell T. with over 15 years of social work experience, Rachel C. who just completed her BSW at Kutztown and is currently enrolled in the KU MSW program, and Elise M. who's working towards her BSW while having worked in social services several years with her Associates Degree.

Together this team does everything from intakes to establishing and tracking the goals of all men residing at Hope. They refer men to and liaise with other partnering agencies, and also track all of our organizational data. They are the first connection point when men come up the 19 steps for the first time and the last face the men see when graduating men out into independent living. As we continue to cast a wider and deeper net in our men's ministry, please join us in celebrating this team and praying for them continually. They truly are fighting on the front lines of Hope's war against homelessness!

## CURRENTS

- Hope's Annual Banquet will be held on October 5th, 2019 from 5-8pm at the Double Tree - Reading. We will be celebrating 125 years of serving the homeless in Berks County and unveiling our plans for our new Women's and Children Shelter. Please visit [www.HopeForReading.org](http://www.HopeForReading.org) to purchase tickets!
- As we quickly approach our Code Blue winter overflow program, please pray for all the extra individuals who will seek overnight refuge at the Mission. Please consider donating needed items from our supply wish-list found at: <http://hopeforreading.org/wishlist>

## PARTNERS IN HOPE

### "The 72"

LCBC Berks Student Ministry sent a wonderful group of teenagers to Hope, and other areas around Reading, for three days to serve the community. We appreciated their hard work and upbeat attitude towards serving those in need. Thank you for spending 72 hours of service in Reading!

On July 13th we asked our volunteers, donors, and the local community to join us in celebrating 125 years of Hope Rescue Mission serving the homeless community in Reading. We celebrated with food, kids' games and crafts, bounce houses, and music. We want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has been a part of restoring lives for the past 125 years!



## MEET KEITH BELLES

All my life I have had a seed of faith in Jesus, as I was raised going to church. The lure of sin was a big problem in my life though, but somehow even through all the bad times and stupid decisions I still felt God's Hand on my life. After 22 years of addiction I found myself in massive debt, unable to see my only son, and in prison.

In prison the loneliness and monotony was unbearable, and just to get out of my cell I would go to church. There I was able to reconnect with my childhood faith and values. One day it was put to me this way by a fellow inmate, "You've tried for everyone else, why not try for God?" And I thought, "Why not?"

Once I was released from prison I ended up at Hope Rescue Mission because I was homeless and no one wanted to take me in. And again looking back now, that too was the Hand of God leading me to Him! At the mission I have found genuine friends who guide me and help maintain my sobriety, and I attend classes and have peer support through the comradery at HRM. The Hope Rescue Mission is just what the name says: It has given me Hope through my faith, has rescued me from myself, and has given me a mission to accomplish. No longer steeped in hate, anger, and addiction, I am now able to love others and myself (which is a big deal for me) and actually believe and envision myself fully restored.

Without the mission I can't imagine where I would be, but I know it wouldn't be anywhere near where I am today spiritually, emotionally, or physically, and I know the love I feel wouldn't be present in my heart. For the first time in my life I can truly say I am looking forward with Hope and not back with regret.