

HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION – READING, PA

FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION

Lives Like John's

Most guests of The Mission Men's Center say one of their biggest struggles is a lack of money and resources. **John B.** says the opposite—having a lot of money ruined his life.

While working as a pipe fitter at an oil refinery just outside Philadelphia, John sustained life-threatening injuries after a serious accident.

John had a long medical road to recovery, and he was awarded a substantial monetary settlement.

John got married and started his own family. He bought an expensive house in Bucks County, a vacation shore house, a boat, a corvette, and he gave money to family members. John blames idle time from not working and access to a large amount of money as his downfall. He began abusing alcohol and cocaine.

John got divorced and saw his son fall into addiction. He went to different recovery programs, but when he entered a faith-based program and focused on his spiritual life, that's when he says he gained the clarity he needed to turn from his addiction and rebuild his life.

John bought a house in Reading and moved his mother in with him, so that he could take care of her in her retirement.

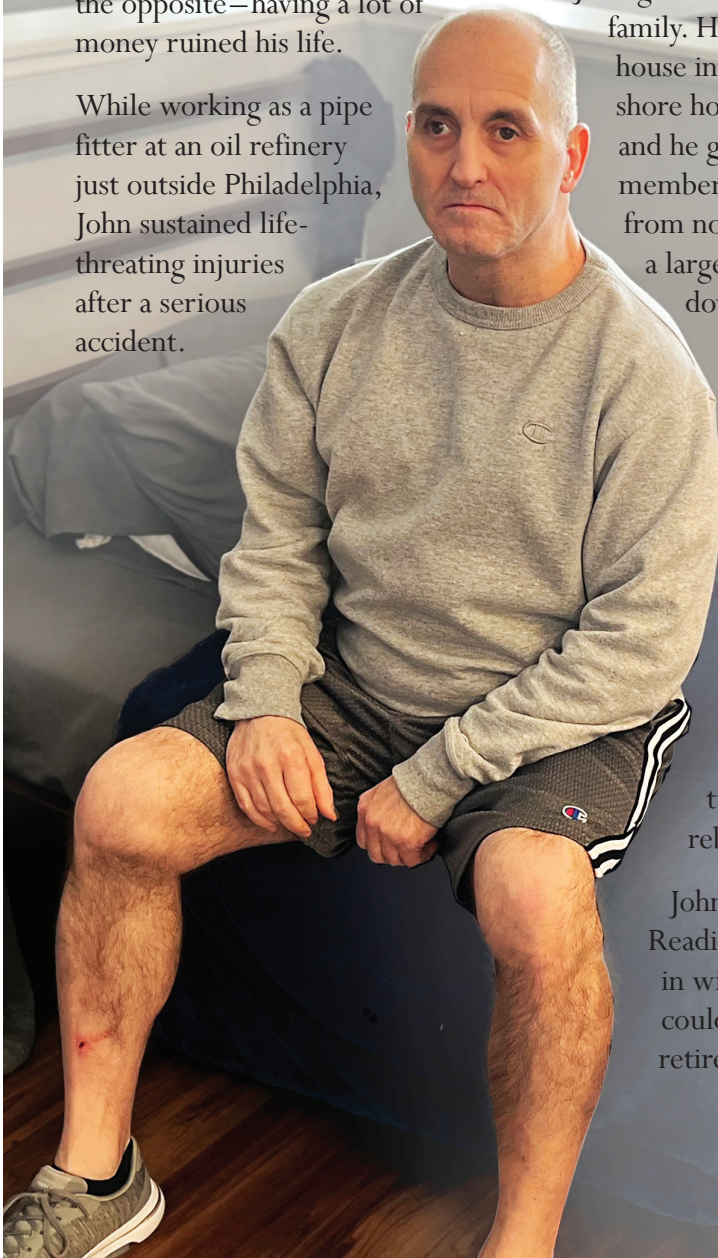
His mother passed away in October of 2021, and John wrestled with depression and temptation to turn back to his addictions. John learned of Hope and came in September 2022, because he knew he needed to be in a supportive environment that focused on faith.

John says he has felt much closer to God since he arrived. John says he needs encouragement and support not to fall back into addiction, as he struggles with temptations to return to what he knows is wrong.

To support John and many others who are either in active addiction or struggling to stay in recovery, Hope is now the host site of a drug and alcohol counseling clinic, Naaman Center, through PA Adult & Teen Challenge. Naaman Center staff have three state-licensed offices to offer intake interviews, individual counseling, and group counseling sessions.

Through this ministry partnership, guests of Hope have unprecedented access to on-site assessments and professional counseling.

*Lives are being rescued.
Lives are being rebuilt.
Lives like John's.*



Volunteer Spotlight: West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club



The West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, District 7430, an international service organization.

To better connect with and serve the community, several members suggested the club reach out to Hope to volunteer. Since 2017, this wonderful volunteer group has been providing and serving a meal every Thursday in the months that contain five Thursdays.

Depending on the events of the service evening, they have anywhere from 5-30 club members purchasing, preparing, and serving the food to the guests of Hope. The Rotarians enjoy serving and connecting with the gentlemen of Hope and putting smiles on their faces.

LightHouse

Please continue praying as the finish line is in sight. We are moving forward with drywalling the guest rooms, and you can see the beautiful space taking shape for the women and children who will live there.

Did you know that in Berks County 76% of people experiencing homelessness are experiencing it for the first time? The good news is that we will have a place for women and children to get back on their feet in a private, safe and dignified environment.



Hope Thrift Distributing



We have closed our retail thrift stores and no longer accept donations of furniture and home goods. However, we will continue accepting clothing donations through our free, at-home pickup service, and our donation bins throughout the community.

HopeThrift will continue its clothing distribution and recycle program to benefit the men at The Mission Men's Center as well as the women and children at The LightHouse. HopeThrift also provides clothing to other community agencies and directly to families in need.

In addition to all forms of clothing, we accept accessories such as shoes, belts, purses, book bags, blankets, towels and sheets.

If you are interested in donating clothing or hosting a clothing drive for the Mission, please call or email our Clothing Donation Coordinator, Antonio Rivera at (610) 741-1640 or ARivera@HopeForReading.org.

For our donation bin locations, please visit www.hopeforreading.org/donateitems or scan this QR Code:



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

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



www.hopeforreading.org/donations