

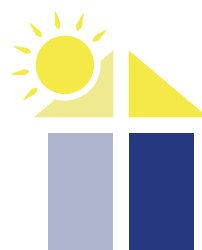
HOPE FOR TODAY



OCTOBER 2026

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- › **Erick Rivera's Story**
- › **Lori's Story of Hope**
- › **Penske Volunteers**
- › **Patriot Run 5K Signups**



HOPE
Rescue Mission

Guest Spotlight: Erick Rivera

As students head back to school this season, Erick Rivera is embracing a season of learning of his own. After seven months at Hope Rescue Mission, Erick describes his journey as one of growth, responsibility, renewed faith, and steady progress toward the future.

Before coming to Hope, Erick was working hard but struggling with alcohol addiction. He says that even though he always had a job and considered himself a hard worker, addiction made it difficult to stay responsible and keep moving forward. At Hope, he found the structure, support, and encouragement needed to begin changing the direction of his life.

Like any new school year, Erick's time at Hope has come with lessons. He has learned to follow through on responsibilities, stay focused on sobriety, and develop healthier ways to handle conflict and disappointment. Through therapy, recovery support, case management, and spiritual encouragement at Hope, Erick says he has been able to accomplish goal after goal.

Those goals have included rebuilding trust with his family, earning his driver's license, purchasing a car, working multiple jobs, and preparing for the next step in his career. Erick is now pursuing his CDL, a goal that represents both a new skill and a pathway toward greater financial stability and job security.

When asked what he would say to someone who feels stuck or discouraged, Erick offered a message of hope: "You got this. Everybody's time is different. You have a chance to make it, no matter where you started."

Looking ahead, Erick hopes to continue building his credit, work toward homeownership, grow in his career, and remain a positive example for others who come through Hope Rescue Mission. "I am living proof of having nothing and becoming something greater in my own life," he shared.

For Erick, this back-to-school season is a reminder that learning does not only happen in a classroom. Sometimes the most important lessons are found in rebuilding, persevering, and discovering that a brighter future is still possible with God's help.



Volunteer Spotlight: Penske

Huge thanks to Penske for showing up in a big way this summer! Three large groups of employees and interns spent their days painting, cleaning, gardening, and organizing donations. They also helped wrap gifts and decorate for our monthly birthday celebration, ensuring each child we serve feels celebrated and seen. Penske teams also assembled backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies, helping local students start the year with confidence and the tools they need to succeed.



Back to School: Lori's Story of Faith, Healing, and Hope

At 55, Lori is going "back to school" in a way she never expected. As an Admissions Representative at Berks Technical Institute, she now helps young adults—and adults returning to school later in life—enroll in career training programs and take steps toward a brighter future.

For Lori, the work feels like a calling.

Just last year, she was working two dead-end jobs, sometimes seven days a week, simply to pay rent, buy food, and survive. Through it all, she kept praying.

"No matter how hard things got, I kept praying," Lori says. "When I turned my life over to God, abundance just kept coming."

Today, her supervisor, Dana Kramer, Director of Admissions at Berks Technical Institute, tells Lori she is exactly where she is supposed to be and has a gift for helping people.

Lori says her time at LightHouse has been an important part of that transformation. After experiencing abuse, humiliation, and emotional pain, LightHouse gave her a safe place to begin healing.

"I am around women like me, no matter how we got here," she says. "I always have someone to encourage me, pray with me, or just laugh with."

Although her work keeps her busy, Lori has formed friendships and bonds at LightHouse that she believes will continue long after she moves into a home of her own.

Looking ahead, Lori hopes to become a Senior Admissions Representative, find safe and sustainable housing, continue giving back through her church, Glad Tidings, and one day mentor other women at LightHouse.

"I am a better person with support I know won't end when I leave."



Every task they completed helped create a brighter, more welcoming environment for the men, women and children we serve. Their enthusiasm and teamwork made a lasting impact, and we're so thankful for their partnership and heart for our community.

If you're searching for a meaningful way to give back, Hope Rescue Mission offers a place where your time and compassion truly matter. Reach out to Sheri Golembiewski at Volunteer@HopeForReading.org to get started.



HOPE Rescue Mission **PATRIOT RUN**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026 – 9:00 AM (REGISTRATION, 8:00 AM)

Benefits Homeless Veteran Services at Hope Rescue Mission

JOIN US TO HONOR ALL ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS IN OUR COMMUNITY!

COURSE

The course is flat, fast, and wheel measured on a mostly shaded trail along a creek. CHIP TIMING with instant results. The race is rain or shine. No refunds or mailed awards.

AWARDS

Top 3 Males & Females overall plus:
14 & under: 3M, 3F / 15-19: 3M, 3F / 20-29: 3M, 3F
30-39: 3M, 3F / 40-49: 3M, 3F / 50-59: 3M, 3F
60-69: 3M, 3F / 70-79: 3M, 3F / 80-89: 3M, 3F
90+: 3M, 3F

REGISTRATION

Not accepting Mail-in registrations!
REGISTER ONLINE at: [HopeForReading.org/5K](https://www.HopeForReading.org/5K)

Registration closes at midnight on November 11.

Day of race registration will be available.

RACE DIRECTOR

Sheri Golembiewski,
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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/donate

