

HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION – READING, PA

JUNE 2020 EDITION

“You came to the right place.”



Chaz A., 39, bounced from house to house in the foster care system in Oklahoma beginning at age four. He never knew what a loving family was and dropped out of high school. Over the years, he struggled with maintaining healthy relationships.

After being married for five years and having four children, he found himself divorced and estranged from his wife and kids.

In April of 2019, Chaz decided to move to the east coast on a whim. He made his way to Hershey, PA and began walking along 422. Eventually, a cop picked him up and brought him to Hope. Chaz has struggled with arthritis throughout his body and was barely able to walk up the front steps. When he made it through the doors Chaz said to the Welcome Center Staff, “I need help” and they responded, “You came to the right place.”

During his time at Hope, Chaz took advantage of the services that we offer. He worked with a faithful volunteer, Nicole T., to obtain his GED. Tower Health Street Medicine helped with his medical issues, and eventually Chaz was able to find a local family doctor. Chaz could not thank

the Case Management team enough for helping him connect to these services.

Through Hope’s partnership with the Downtown Improvement District (DID), Chaz was able to get a full-time job keeping the streets and sidewalks of Reading clean. In March 2020, Chaz moved into his own apartment and is enjoying his job with DID. When he looks back at his time at Hope, he cannot imagine what his life would be like if he did not make it up the 19 front steps. Chaz has always wanted to know what it is like to have a loving family. He plans to continue to improve his life, so someday he can reconnect with his children and make them proud of the life he has built.

“If it wasn’t for God guiding the donors to give money to Hope, most people wouldn’t have the advantage or ability to get the help they need.”

“There is so much accountability here.”

Ron P., 45, moved to the Reading area in 1985 with his loving Mom, stepdad, and 5 siblings. He graduated from Wyomissing High School and eventually received an associate degree in architectural drafting from Lincoln Tech. He has always felt loved and supported by his family and wanted to offer that same type of life to his wife and five children.

Over the years, he began to battle with addictions to alcohol and cocaine. In the early years of his addiction, he was able to work and carry on with life, but eventually it began to consume him and cause issues within his marriage and job. During the lowest point in his life, he had planned out his suicide.

When he was about to carry through with this plan, he thought of his daughter and he knew,

at that moment, that if he did not get help, he would eventually kill himself. With the encouragement of his family, Ron went to rehab. After completing rehab, Ron came to Hope. During his time at Hope, he has been helping in the kitchen and attending daily Bible studies and chapels. Hope has given Ron time and opportunities to grow his relationship with God.

Ron has worked hard to maintain his sobriety and plan for a future with his family. He moved out in early June and is living in a house with his children!

“There is so much accountability here. I had the urge to use drugs earlier in the year, but I talked to a few people, sat in the chapel and prayed, and got through it. I haven’t used in 2 years!”





COVID-19 Updates:

For 126 years our mission has been to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the homeless in Berks County. We have continued to preserve this mission and offer services to the most vulnerable through world wars, financial depressions, and multiple global pandemics. As He has done since 1894, we see the Lord providing for the Mission and those we serve. Some updates we are so thankful to share:

- **NO positive cases of COVID-19 at Hope!**
- **Ability to accept new guests, with restrictions on out of county travel and health screenings!**
- **Donations of PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, food and toiletries have been pouring in from across the community!**
- **Coordination across the county to ensure that the homeless are cared for!**

Because of generous donors, our doors will remain open to those that need a safe place to turn to! Hope Rescue Mission would not be able to serve over 1,000 individuals each year without your support!

LightHouse

Hope Rescue Mission Women & Children's Shelter

When we launched a \$3,000,000 building campaign in January, we had no idea a pandemic would put the world on hold just a few weeks later. Although we had to change our focus for a few months, the need for LightHouse has never been greater. A shelter for women and children which provides private rooms and private bathrooms is essential now, more than ever.

We need to raise another \$2,000,000 to push this campaign to the finish



line, so we can begin construction in early 2021. If you would like your donation to go toward the LightHouse Capital Campaign,

please make a note with your mailed in donation or give through the LightHouse page on our website.



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

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