

# HOPE FOR TODAY



**FEBRUARY 2026**

## **FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- › **Bill W.'s Story of Renewed Hope**
- › **New Beginning for Mother & Daughter**
- › **John's Great Cars - Volunteer Spotlight**
- › **Gabe's Gifts**



**HOPE**  
Rescue Mission

## Bill W. – A Story of Despair and Renewed Hope

Bill is a current guest of the Mission. He arrived eight months ago and would like to share his story.

"I was a drinker for 44 years. It started with a few drinks, and then I was drinking every weekend. Over the past 20 years I drank nonstop, every day and every night. I never missed a shift at work, but I ended up losing my job and my marriage due to my drinking.

I was charged with a DUI in October 2024, and I was so depressed and looked for a way out. I decided to end my life, so I jumped off a bridge, but I survived. I shattered my leg, and it could not be saved. It had to be amputated.

I arrived at Hope Rescue Mission in June 2025, and it was here that I found myself and God. Life has changed so much for me since my arrival. My relationships with my daughter and my brother have been restored, because I am not drinking anymore. I am celebrating nine months of sobriety.

I plan on moving into the ADA room at the HopeHouse transitional home and continue going to AA meetings and church. I want to keep the Lord in my heart.

Before coming to Hope, I did not know what it feels like to have God in my life and feel free. I want to continue my journey in sobriety. My life has completely turned around, and it is all because of God's work through Hope Rescue Mission. Thank you to everyone who supports this special place!"

*Your continued support offers renewed hope and a second chance to many guests like Bill.*



## Gabe's Gifts – A Legacy of Love

In memory of their beloved nephew Gabe, Kayla and Sam transformed their grief into a beautiful act of generosity for the families at LightHouse. This Christmas, they provided stockings and gifts for every woman and child staying in our shelter. Gabe was known for his joyful spirit, bright smile, and deep kindness. Through this meaningful gesture, his light continues to shine. For families facing hardship, these simple gifts brought comfort, dignity, and hope—proof that even in sorrow, love still gives and joy can still grow.



## Winter Cheer at LightHouse Thanks to John's Great Cars

John's Great Cars hosted a winter gathering at the LightHouse Women & Children's Center, treating guests to a Chick-fil-A meal and a lively magic show that brought joy to children and adults alike. The event offered a welcome break from the cold and reflected the company's ongoing commitment to supporting families in need. In addition to creating this special evening, John's Great Cars also donated Christmas gifts for every child staying at LightHouse, a gesture deeply appreciated by Hope Rescue Mission.



## A Mother, a Daughter, and a New Beginning

Did you know that at LightHouse Women & Children's Center there are 43 private rooms, two of which are designated emergency shelter rooms for women and mothers with children who need immediate, short-term housing during a crisis? These rooms provide a safe, temporary place to rest, regroup, and begin the journey out of homelessness. Since opening our doors, more than 400 women and children have found refuge, stability, and hope through these emergency shelter rooms.

This is the story of Demesis, a 32-year-old mother, and her 15-year-old daughter, Crystal.

Demesis became a mother at sixteen, and her father became her greatest source of support. They shared a close bond until 2015, when he was diagnosed with dementia. His health declined rapidly, and Demesis visited him every day for nine months until he passed away. After his death, staying in the same city felt unbearable. Seeking a fresh start, Demesis moved to Reading to be closer to family. When a relationship ended, housing instability followed. She and Crystal moved between relatives, often facing threats of eviction when landlords realized extra people were staying in the home.

Eventually, Demesis faced an impossible choice: continue moving from couch to couch or sleep in the car with her daughter. As the weather grew colder, the car felt increasingly unsafe. She applied to several shelters and was accepted into LightHouse. When Demesis and Crystal arrived, she felt immediate relief. "It was peaceful, clean, and quiet," she shared. After frightening experiences in other shelters, she knew LightHouse was different. "You can feel that you're safe just by being there."

Homelessness is overwhelming, especially with a child. Each day brings urgent questions about food, safety, and where to sleep. When Demesis received the email confirming her placement at LightHouse, hope returned. She felt God had not forgotten her or her daughter. "Being at LightHouse has brought me closer to God and given me so much more peace," Demesis said. "I finally feel like I can breathe again."

Today, Demesis works as an elder care worker and hopes to pursue a degree in geriatric caregiving. Reflecting on her experience, Demesis emphasized how vital emergency shelter truly is. "It's important to help people in the moment," she said. "Even a short stay can change everything."





# WELCOME 2026 home Party

Thursday, April 23rd | 5-8pm  
Redner's Event Center



## YOU'RE INVITED!

We are excited to announce the 4th annual Welcome Home Party on April 23rd! This event, hosted at the new Redner's Event Center at the R-Phils Stadium, supports our work to make a difference in the lives of women and children in our area. All proceeds support our mission to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those experiencing homelessness. Enjoy fun, food, and a fabulous selection of auction items and experiences.

**PURCHASE TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS** | [www.HopeForReading.org/events](http://www.HopeForReading.org/events)

Want to talk about additional Sponsorship opportunities and benefits? Contact Kate Alley:  
**(610) 484-4495** | [KAlley@HopeForReading.org](mailto:KAlley@HopeForReading.org)

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS!**

**ANNUAL GALA** - September 12th | **PATRIOT RUN** - November 14th



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



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