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www.HopeForReading.org/donations

Dear

As we celebrate our hope of renewal and rebirth through Christ's resurrection, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support of The Mission and LightHouse Women & Children's Center. We are honored to share with you the profound impact your contributions have had on the men, women and children in our community.

This spring, as God's creation blooms and renews, we are reminded of the incredible power of renewal offered to each of us through a personal relationship with Jesus. At Hope Rescue Mission, we witness these transformations every day. We see the courage of men and women taking their first steps toward independence, the resilience of children overcoming adversity, and the strength of families rebuilding their lives. We would like to share two of these stories with you.

Each story is a testament to the support and compassion of donors like you. We humbly ask for your support once again. Your donation will directly fund the transformational programs and services that make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you and Happy Easter!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Turchi".

Rob Turchi
CEO, Hope Rescue Mission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Alley".

Kate Alley
Executive Director, LightHouse



Go to www.HopeForReading.org/events or call Emily at 610-413-9565 for more information.

The First Time in a Long Time

I was born at Reading Hospital in 1982. When I was a toddler, my father left us, and he spent most of his adult life going from prison to prison. I finally met my father when I was 28 years old. My younger sister and I were raised by our mother and stepfather. Our family was loving, caring, and hard-working. We never went without anything, and to be honest, we were spoiled. However, I never really felt like I belonged or fit in.

At the age of 12, I was diagnosed as bipolar. I was very intelligent and athletic and had a loving and supportive family, but I had difficulties with anger, anxiety, depression, and feelings of loneliness. I think my feelings inside led to me abusing drugs and alcohol.

I've been to prison, rehabs, and I haven't had much stability in my adulthood. I am ashamed to say I have overdosed four times, but I'm alive. A week before I found myself climbing the front steps of the Mission, I relapsed and went through three days of psychosis. I felt lost, alone, paranoid, with my mind racing as I walked up the steps of the Mission. Once I was told I could stay and they had a bed for me, my anxiety and fear started to go away. I remember taking a deep breath, letting it out, and my mind stopped racing and calmed for the first time in a long time. I was given clothes and food. I laid in my bed and was grateful, because I felt like I could have some hope again.

Counseling for my addictions and mental health, positive people and support, healthy hobbies, and daily prayer and meditation are key for me day to day. I have been here for six months, and I have shared many stories and laughs, trials and tribulations. I have had some challenges while here, but staff always listens, and they are caring and supportive.

I'm thankful to be working full-time now. My plans are to stay connected to the Mission and live clean and sober. I want to live each day being grateful and humble. I really want to give help to others and pass on the blessings that have been given to me here at Hope.

-Brian S.



My Husband Chose Drugs Over Us

Mary* and her six-year old daughter, Ally*, arrived at LightHouse with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They had to leave their home because her husband's drug use had escalated and he had become abusive.

In her own words, here is her experience at LightHouse:

What led you to come to LightHouse?

"We were going through a hard time over Christmas. I have never been through any of this before. We were living in a nice home, but we had to get out really quickly and lost everything, including our rabbit and our cat. Her Dad chose drugs over her. Most places don't accept children, but after my research I realized this was a safe place. It doesn't feel like a homeless shelter at all. It's a great place to get back on your feet. My daughter loves it.

My biggest fear was that I would lose my daughter if I came here. She is my life. I was never a single mom but since I've been here I've gotten so much accomplished with the support of the case managers and everybody who works here. The staff and the friends I've made here have made the transition so much easier. I instantly felt like I was at home."

Is there anything you want people to know?

You are not alone, especially here. It feels like you have a family. It's not the end of the road. It will be hard to leave here. You feel instantly welcomed. I went to a religious school all my life and religion felt forced on me. I haven't felt that here. Since I've been here I've been considering going back to church again. I read the Bible to my daughter every night. She wants to go to church on Sundays and learn more about God. You are not alone. There's help out there. You may feel like there are no other options, but there are."

We are so grateful that Mary and Ally found LightHouse and are rebuilding their lives in a safe, secure environment while growing closer to God in the process.

**Names changed to protect individuals.*

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