

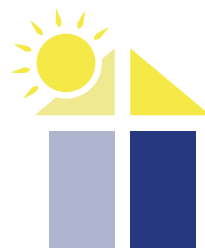
HOPE FOR TODAY



AUGUST 2025

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

- › **Joseph's Path to Hope**
- › **Spotlight: Bethany Grace Fellowship**
- › **Highlight: American Crane & Equipment Corp.**
- › **November's Journey at LightHouse**



HOPE
Rescue Mission

Joseph's Path: From Hardship to Hope at The Mission

What led you to The Mission?

I spent a few months in jail after an altercation with a family member. Being incarcerated was traumatizing for me, and I never want to have that experience again. While I was there, however, I had time to reflect on what meaning there was in my life. I read the Bible and decided to put my faith in Christ and become a born-again believer. Numerous people from fellow inmates to corrections officers to counselors all told me I needed to go to The Mission, because the people here would help me and it is a spiritual place. They saw I was trying to better myself, and they said the Mission is the place to go for people who want help walking the right path in life, and they were right. I don't know where I would be without this place.

What has been the best part about living at The Mission?

So many good people work and volunteer here. They care about the guests here and help uplift you in so many ways. I have been so blessed by some of the groups that come in to lead chapel every night, in the way that they powerfully preach God's Word, and also some of the talented musicians who play worship concerts here. I earned my own private room at the Mission, and I have been able to focus on my goal of earning a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity and AI studies through Strayer University. I take two classes per quarter for 11 weeks, but I like to get ahead on my work and finish early. I graduated from Exeter High, but school was always a struggle for me. I was diagnosed as a child with high-functioning autism, and I struggle with social relationships. My goal is to not be homeless, never experience jail again, and graduate from college and have my mother attend my graduation. My father suffers from severe mental health issues, and he is not in my life. My mother is like the Rock of Gibraltar. She is amazing and provided so much love and support all my life. She made me take piano lessons as a child, and now I love writing and playing music. I meet regularly with my counselor from Berks Counseling Center here at the Mission. This place has helped me in so many ways. I consider it a blessing from God to be here and focus again on my college courses.



Donor Highlight: American Crane & Equipment Corp.

Thank you to American Crane and Equipment Corporation for blessing our guests with Easter baskets in April. Each bag was filled with thoughtful gifts and necessities to brighten the holiday for men, women and children of Hope Rescue Mission.

One of their employees, David F., shared with us why American Crane supports Hope Rescue Mission and LightHouse:

"There's something truly powerful about coming full circle in life - when kindness you once received becomes the kindness you get to give. That's why working for a company like American Crane & Equipment Corporation and contributing to their Hoist Up! Outreach Committee's initiative to assemble Spring Care Bags for the Hope Rescue Mission resonates so deeply with me. As someone who grew up in Reading and faced similar tough circumstances, I know what it means to rely on the generosity of others, and local organizations like Hope Rescue Mission made a real difference in my life."



Volunteer Spotlight: Bethany Grace Fellowship

The week of July 14 through July 18, an incredible group from Bethany Grace Fellowship, located in Terre Hill hosted a Vacation Bible School at LightHouse Women & Children's Center. Each evening, many volunteers from the church joined the kids for games, activities and meaningful connection. On Friday evening they provided a delicious meal and encouraged the children to share a worship song and Bible verses they had learned throughout the week with guests and staff. We're deeply grateful for their time, generosity, compassion and selfless service. Their actions truly reflected the love of Christ in every moment they shared.



Finding Strength and Purpose: November's Journey at LightHouse

What led you to LightHouse?

I had been homeless for about two years, living on the street. I'm originally from Reading, Pennsylvania, and had moved to Philadelphia. After giving birth to my daughter, things became difficult with my boyfriend, and I knew I needed to leave that situation. I didn't want to be homeless or in an abusive relationship. I wanted a fresh start and decided to come back to Berks County to be near my family.

Now, I'm starting a new chapter. In August, I begin school at RACC as a work-study student, working toward my bachelor's degree in behavioral health. I've always wanted to help people, especially children—because if you help them early, you can prevent a lot of pain down the road. In September, I'll also begin classes to become a Certified Recovery Coach (CRC), so I can support people facing behavioral health challenges, addiction, or social barriers. I've been at rock bottom. I know how powerful it is to hear someone say, "It's going to get better."

What has been the best part about living at LightHouse?

I truly love it here. It's clean, safe, and the staff—especially my caseworker Jae—are supportive without being overbearing. Unlike some other places, we're not forced out during the day. The environment is faith-based and positive, and there are groups and supervision for our children, which gives us space to grow while knowing they're cared for.

LightHouse has given me the time and stability to focus on the future. My daughter, April-Daisy, is now three months old. She's the light of my life. I feel like she saved me. If I hadn't gotten pregnant, I might never have changed. My plan is to move in with my grandmother once she settles into her new home, and I'm working hard to create a safe, stable life for April-Daisy.

Being here feels like being in a real home. The rules are fair, the support is constant, and the resources—food, clothing, emotional safety—make all the difference. Healing isn't easy, but it's worth every step. LightHouse is a rare opportunity for women starting over, and I'm so grateful to be here.

Every day I wake up and feel thankful. I've found peace, purpose, and a deep love for the life I'm building. I want to break the cycle of trauma for my daughter and give her the attention and security I never had. LightHouse gave me the chance to rebuild—and I know now that success is possible.





5K PATRIOT *Run*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 9:00 A.M

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 well measured on mostly shaded trail along creek. Chip timing with instant results. Held 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, the Wednesday before race day.

Day of race Registration will be available.

RACE DIRECTOR

Sheri Golembiewski, Events@HopeForReading.org



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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/donations

