

HOPE FOR TODAY

HOPE RESCUE MISSION, 645 N 6TH ST, READING PA 19601

FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION

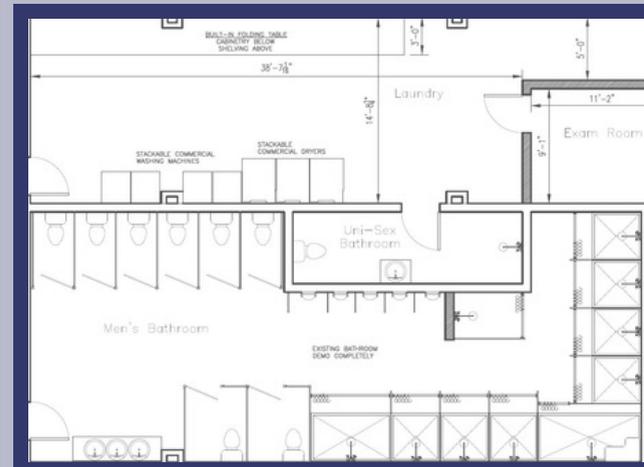
HOPE CAMPAIGN: PHASE 2

In 2017, we were able to complete crucial facility projects which included 28 new transitional housing rooms and a new Veteran's Social Center. Due to the overwhelming response of our supporters, this year we will complete additional upgrades to our 90 year old building. Plans for 2018 will directly bless every man who comes to Hope at the lowest point in his life. This year we will completely renovate Hope's Kitchen, the

Safe Haven emergency shelter dormitory, and the bathroom, showers, and laundry area used by both Safe Haven and Code Blue guests. Men do not feel proud of themselves when they run out of options and walk into Hope for the first time for help, but we want them to feel proud about the facilities they are using. Many in our society may treat men who have hit hard times like second-class citizens, but while at Hope, we want them to feel loved, cared for, safe and clean.

As our current leadership team reflects back on the last seven years, we recall that in early 2011 approximately 80 men were staying overnight at Hope. Presently, there are 240 men staying overnight in our four residential programs.

Each man is hearing the Gospel and being invited to surrender his life to Christ, as he is provided the immediate help he needs to be stabilized and get back on his feet. This incredible explosion in God's outreach to those in need is possible through the faithful partnership of our supporters. We believe God has placed His compassion in your hearts for the needy, and we thank Him daily for all of you! Together may we continue to completely transform this community, one broken life at a time!



PLAN FOR NEW BATHROOM, SHOWER & LAUNDRY AREA

“IF ANYONE HAS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS AND SEES A BROTHER OR SISTER IN NEED BUT HAS NO PITY ON THEM, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN THAT PERSON? DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.” - 1 JOHN 3:17-18

TESTIMONY TIME



DAVID, WEEKEND FRONT DESKMAN

David must battle against multiple mental health diagnosis and the pain of suffering many years of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. After receiving in-patient mental health treatment, hospital staff advised David that the Mission was the only place that would accept him. After successfully working his way through the programs at Hope over the last year, David served as our weekend Front Deskman. David recently moved out of Hope and into his own apartment and is focusing on growing his residential painting business. David says that his time at Hope, "has inspired me to be a better person, I have learned how to deal with stress, think better, act better and connect with God. I no longer run to drugs to help me deal with my problems. Without the Mission, I don't know where I would be. I want to come back often to volunteer and give back."

HAPPENINGS

- Hope's Annual "Daylight Saving Dash" 5k fundraiser will be held on March 3, 2018 at 9am - PSU Berks Campus! Please visit www.HopeForReading.org/dash to register online and consider raising \$120 in pledged donations to support a man at the Mission for a week!
- Please continue to pray as our Board of Directors consider options to open a Christ-centered outreach to homeless women and children at another site.
- Code Blue's nightly population has increased by 50% over the last month, from 60 to 90 men staying on cots in our gym for emergency refuge. Please consider a special financial gift or donation of toiletries or underwear to support so many coming to Hope with nothing.



FAITH IN ACTION



Since May of 2017, drug-sniffing K9 "Sadie" and her handler, Fred Nell, have performed random sweeps of Hope on a weekly basis. Sadie is helping to ensure the Mission remains a drug-free facility. DrugSearchTeam.com

On Dec. 15th, stylists from United Artists Salon & Spa donated toiletries and clothing and gifted over 70 haircuts to make Hope residents look and feel so special!



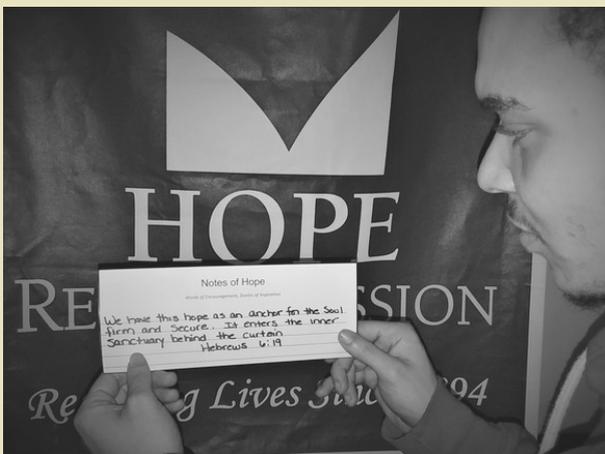
On Christmas Day, numerous volunteers served 300 guests a delicious lunch and brought many smiles and joy to the faces of those who would otherwise be alone over the holidays.

NEW LOCATION: HOPE OUTLET SHILLINGTON

Hope Outlet Thrift Stores provide financial support for our ministry, as well as work development opportunities for men at the Mission to train for outside employment. Our new Store located in the Shillington Plaza at 1 Parkside Ave. Shillington, PA 19607 is now open for business! Please stop by to visit and check out www.HopeOutlet.org Donate and Shop Today, Restore Lives Forever!



NOTES OF HOPE



Enclosed you will find a blank "Notes of Hope card". We would like to include this card with all of our newsletters to provide our supporters the opportunity to encourage guests of the Mission going through difficult times. We invite you to lift a man's spirit by sharing your favorite Bible verses, sharing how you or a loved one have persevered through a difficult time in life, or writing out a prayer. Please only include your first name on the note or leave it anonymous. We will post all of the Notes of Hope on a board in our lobby, and men will be welcome to take and keep any note for continual encouragement.