

HOPE FOR TODAY

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

SEPTEMBER 2018 EDITION

RENOVATIONS: FINAL PHASES

The successful completion of Phase I of renovations at Hope added 28 new resident rooms for men who have found full-time employment and veterans in crisis, as well as other critical upgrades to the facility. Over the summer, Phase II commenced with the complete renovations of the Safe Haven Emergency Shelter Dorm along with the bathroom, shower, and laundry facilities on the ground floor of the mission. A new concrete floor has been poured, and privacy cubicles have been installed throughout the dormitory. New metal beds with double-cushion mattresses and metal wardrobes will be placed within each new living space. A sprinkler system, new fire alarm system, and fresh-air intake heat and air conditioning system will provide a safer and healthier place of refuge for many at their greatest time of need. Our new ADA compliant bathroom and laundry facilities will allow us to provide shelter for disabled individuals and provide clean linens and clothing to each guest of the Mission weekly. We want each man to feel safe, clean, respected and loved, as we tell them about Jesus' love for them! Most of us take for granted having a warm bed, clean bathroom & shower, and a warm meal. The Safe Haven Dormitory will help residents stabilize the challenges of dealing with homelessness. When a Safe Haven resident begins to feel safe, welcomed, and loved, the spiritual, emotional, and physical restoration can begin.

The complete restoration of Hope's kitchen and walk-in fridge and freezers has just begun. We want to thank Penske Truck Leasing for providing two refrigeration trucks for the short-term storage of food and water. We need as much help with meals from October - December, so if you are able to help provide a meal, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Hillary Detwiler, at volunteer@hopeforreading.org or (610) 375-4224, ext. 202.



DORMITORY RENOVATIONS
PENSKE REFRIGERATION
TRUCKS



TESTIMONY TIME

Dylan K has a decade-long history of drug use, criminal charges, and repeated probation violations. After his last attempt to take his own life by way of opioid overdose, he was admitted to a behavioral health facility. It was there that he prayed for God's help to change and have a reason to live. Two weeks later, this 28 year old young man came to Hope Rescue Mission for help. After two months of sobriety, Dylan can't remember a time where he felt as good as he currently does. Dylan is volunteering in Hope's Thrift Store and voluntarily attending Discipleship classes. He states, "I am just taking it day by day, learning how to grow in my faith, and trusting that God will continue to sustain me, even on the tough days!"



HAPPENINGS

- Our Annual Banquet will be held on October 6th from 5-8pm at the DoubleTree- Reading. Please visit www.hopeforreading.org to purchase tickets and bid on special auction items pre-event!

- Due to renovations to Hope's Kitchen, our Thanksgiving Day Meal will be held at the DoubleTree on 11/22, so please sign-up now to volunteer by emailing Volunteer Coordinator, Hillary Detwiler, at volunteer@hopeforreading.org

- As we quickly approach our Code Blue winter overflow program, please pray for all of the extra individuals who will seek overnight refuge at the Mission. Please consider donating needed items from our supply wish-list found at:

<https://hopeforreading.org/wishlist>

FAITH IN ACTION



For the past year, Wendy has been a faithful kitchen volunteer coming in a few times a week to assist our staff with lunch preparation. We are so thankful for Wendy and her cheerful attitude!

Malsnee Tile along with BB&T Bank made it possible for us to upgrade our welcome center. We removed the top section of the welcome center and a beautiful granite counter top was installed.



The Potter Baseball Group toured Berks County in July and spent the weekend cleaning up our gardens and building a beautiful potting bench and picnic table!

HOPE FOR WOMAN AND CHILDREN

Does Berks County really need another emergency shelter? This was the first question I asked when approached about leading the project to determine if Hope Rescue Mission could and should expand shelter services to serve women and children. HRM has been in the business of changing the lives of men who have lost their way for over 124 years! Why women and children and why now? As I delved into the question of the need, I learned some important facts. Fact, if you are a women with a teenage son and are homeless, there is no emergency shelter that will take you in. If you are not fleeing an abusive relationship, if you are not pregnant with your first child, you may not find space in any shelter network in the county. So what does a woman with a teenage son do?

Or a woman who has just been released from prison or the single mother with four small children who lost her job due to unforeseen circumstances and now is locked out of her apartment do? There are other shelters, but they are usually full or have program requirements that keep needy women and children out. The answers to the questions above are clear, Hope Rescue Mission is saying, "Come as you are, we care about you, we care about your children, and we will help you find your way." This is our vision for the future. We invite you to come to our Banquet on October 6th for an update on our future vision!



Gwendolyn F. Didden, MHS, Hope Rescue Mission Women's Ministry Consultant