

HOPE FOR TODAY

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

DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

JOURNEY THROUGH THE WOODS..

Barry grew up in Berks County as an avid outdoorsman. After graduating from Schuylkill Valley High School, he served four years active duty and two years reserves in the Army with a deployment to Korea. After the service, Barry worked in a variety of maintenance and repair jobs throughout the county. After earning enough money to pursue a lifelong dream, he opened a Bed & Breakfast in Ontario, Canada and became a guide for hunting and fishing trips.

When the economy took a downturn, Barry was forced to return to Berks County and live with his father who died a week after his son's return. Lacking the money to maintain his father's home, he ended up living within a self-constructed shack of discarded building materials in the woods along Route 12. Barry lived in that shack for four years and mowed lawns to earn enough money to survive.

In September of 2017, Barry had enough of living in the woods and knew he needed to change his life. He came to Hope, and says his life found the change it needed. Barry feels safe and cared for. His physical needs are being met, and he is staying busy and productive as a volunteer in the recycling warehouse.

Barry has reconnected with the Lord and is attending church weekly. He wanted to make God a priority in his life again, but was too worried about people in the pews judging his appearance while he was living in the woods. Barry wants to find a job in early 2018 and work a few more years before collecting Social Security, since he has paid a lot into the system. He also wants to find and reconnect with his brother, who he believes is living in the Schuylkill Haven area. Barry has a message for all those supporting men like him through Hope, "Thank you. Everyone at the Mission has some kind of brokenness in their lives, but there are a lot of good men here putting their lives back together through your help. We also pray for you all everyday here at Hope."



BARRY K.

TESTIMONY TIME



FRONT DESK MGR., COACH

David, referred to as "Coach", is serving as Front Desk Manager. The former Ice Hockey coach arrived at the Hope Rescue Mission a year ago after losing his job and exhausting his savings. Coach is once again encouraging and challenging men to always move in a positive direction no matter what challenges lay ahead. Coach has overcome a difficult season of his life and openly shares his personal testimony with the residents of the mission.

He has reconnected with the Lord, and he believes the Lord is guiding him on a daily basis. David wants to move into his own place where his children once again can be part of his life. His greatest heartache is not participating in his children's lives on a daily basis. The enemy seeks to destroy families and isolate people who are going through difficult times. Thanks to our donors, the chains of darkness and isolation are being broken. Please pray for a beautiful reunion for David with his beloved children. God is in the restoration business.

THE STAFF AND RESIDENTS OF HOPE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE LORD'S BLESSINGS IN 2018!

HAPPENINGS

- Hope's Annual "Daylight Saving Dash" 5k fundraiser will be held on March 3, 2018 at PSU Berks! Please visit HopeForReading.org/dash to register online!
- Hope's Banquet held on October 7th was a huge blessing with over 450 guests in attendance and over \$100,000 raised!
- On Thanksgiving Day an army of volunteers served hundreds of guests a delicious meal, decorated our main building, and gave out hats, gloves, and toiletries to those in need!



FAITH IN ACTION



On Oct. 6th, staff and students from Alvernia's Physical Therapy Department cleaned and organized our work-out room and served lunch!



On Nov. 18th, volunteers from Berean Bible Church-Pottstown painted, organized donations, cleaned, performed an evangelistic skit, and served dinner!



On Nov. 22nd, staff from Tyson-Schoener Elementary volunteered and served lunch!

HOPE OUTLET IS EXPANDING

Hope Outlet Thrift Stores provide financial support for our ministry, as well as work development opportunities for men at the Mission until they find outside employment. We are excited to announce our new Thrift Store located in the Shillington Plaza at 1 Parkside Ave. Shillington, PA 19607. We are planning a Grand Opening celebration in January 2018, so please visit www.HopeOutlet.org or www.Facebook.com/HopeOutletStore or [@HopeOutletStore](https://twitter.com/HopeOutletStore) on Twitter and Instagram for details!

Donate. Shop. Restore Lives!



CODE BLUE



Over the winter months, Hope operates an overflow, emergency shelter program called Code Blue. Hundreds of different men will find refuge at the Mission and sleep on cots in our gymnasium. While the holiday season is full of enjoyment for many of us, many men at Hope battle depression and loneliness being apart from their loved ones. Code Blue offers more than a safe place to spend the night, a place to eat, shower, etc. While at Hope, men build friendships and are shown love by staff and hundreds of volunteers, as they learn of Christ's love and sacrifice for them. Please pray for the 60 men currently staying in Code Blue, and the hundreds who will be touched this season through this program.