



*...where hope grows*

115 Wilson Street  
Newark, OH 43055

# The Haven Times

ST. VINCENT HAVEN | ANNUAL NEWS 2024

# A Note From The Executive Director



Dear Friends of The Haven,

As the chill begins to wriggle itself into our bones this year, it seems to me to spark alive the kindling of a new hope. It strikes me that it is not mere machination, but a shared inspiration percolating upward and outward from the souls of many. Independent of this thought, I read just today that our Church has announced a year of Jubilee in 2025, calling on us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

At St. Vincent Haven, hope abounds. We are blessed to witness Our Lord's transformative power in near constant action. Our very slogan, "where hope grows," emanated from its own reality. What an incredible blessing it is to be the hands and feet of Our Creator in action!

You our friends, our donors and volunteers, I pray that you may be inspired by this hope that pulls our residents from the depths of their sufferings to the energetic and highly contagious joy that results from their renewed hope -- for it is by your hands and feet too, by your sufferings, and sacrifices too, that we all become sharers in this life giving work. Of course it is so, as we are 'pilgrims of hope,' together on our great adventure back home.

In this upcoming season of giving, we pray that you will join us in our pilgrimage by remembering those we serve this season, helping to pull them along the path, to build their hope, and to share our Love, which does not but belong to us, but to Him above. I pray that we may be all used as His conduit of His Love to all who are in need this season. And I humbly beg that you pray, and sacrifice, to the true Giver, that all we do may remain in His perfect active will.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Paul Munhall".

John Paul Munhall



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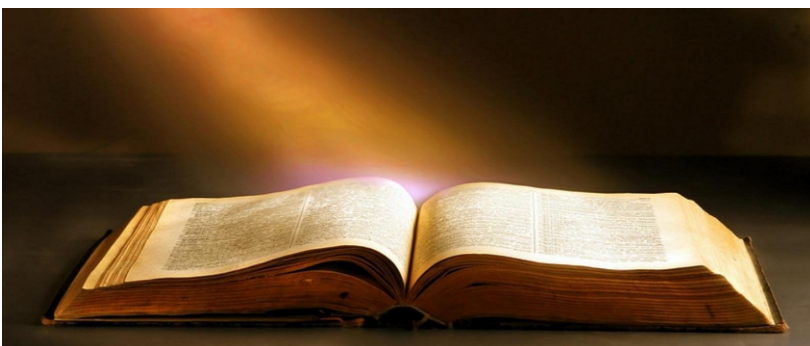
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## Where Hope Grows

With respect and compassion, motivated by gospel values, and following the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Vincent Haven will provide emergency housing to those men that are homeless with the goal of building the individual's life skills as a foundation for future growth and stability that will lead to housing security.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# Solomon Wheeler

## The Story of a Man



All credit due to The Holy Spirit Himself, it is difficult to delineate where His fire ends and Solomon's begins. This fire is indeed an inferno, inspiring a passion within Solomon, clearly intrinsic, its compass was discarded.

Solomon was born into a broken family of five children in Zanesville, Ohio. Beginning at a young age, his path to popularity and the relationships he craved, was paved by drugs. These choices led him to being discarded from his home on his 18th birthday. From there, an older friend welcomed him under his wings, moved him to Columbus, introduced him to the construction trade. This provided an income beyond what he'd ever known and a turn to harder drugs.

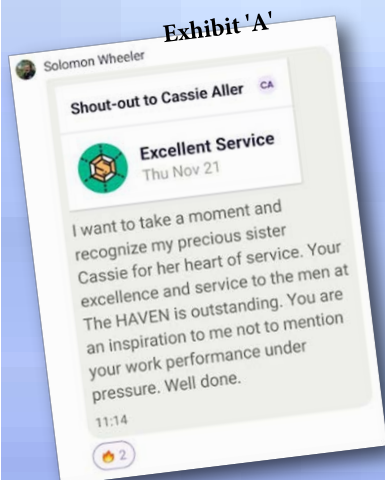
From here, Solomon spiraled down a long road of drug use, trouble with the law, and broken relationships. At 25, he moved to New Jersey, trying to run from the law, with the hope of starting a new version of himself, but it only drove him deeper down. For the next 21 years, his waywardness continued, but he grew increasingly tired.

In April of 2019, he got the break he was looking for in the form of an angel dressed in blue. Solomon was arrested in Newark, Ohio for drug trafficking, and sent to prison for two years. He didn't know it, few can realize it in the moment, but that was the wake up call he'd been praying for all along. In prison, he was circumstantially forced into sobriety, embraced Christ, and began to work the steps of recovery. The embers started to kindle, allowing The Holy Spirit's grace in; his passion had finally found its compass.

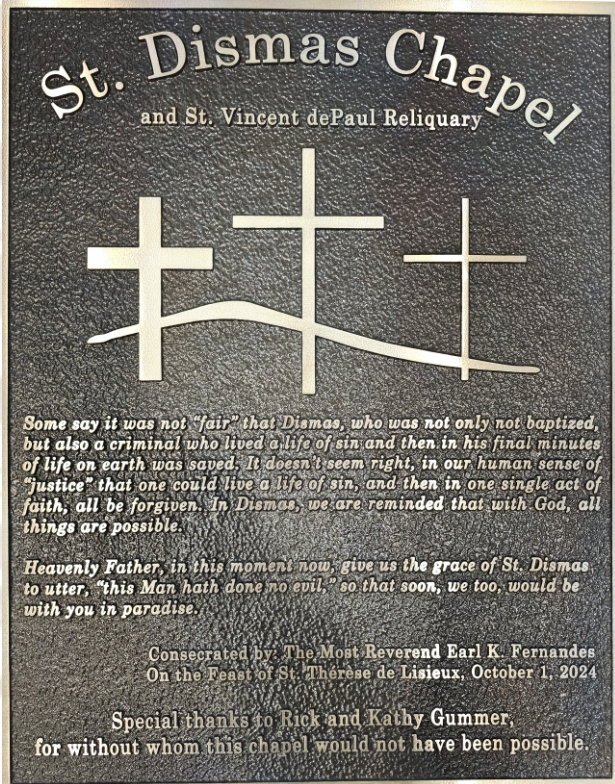
His surrender points to Christ. While Solomon could use his skills to earn a significant living in the construction trades, building things, he has chosen instead to build up others.

Overflowing with life and love, Solomon came to work at The Haven in June of 2023, but it feels as if he's always been here. He has become a truly integral part of our team. As a resident specialist he is firm, loving, and quick with a joke. Solomon, a lover of titles to go with his enormous and well loved personality, holds several other titles in his work here, including Resident Specialist-Specialist, Intake Extraordinaire, E.D.-'too', and Compliment Specialist (see Exhibit 'A').

Solomon's flame is truly invaluable to this critical work. The Holy Spirit finds His way through many to serve as salve to our residents wounds; but in Solomon it is clear and bright, for all to give witness to His boundless love.



# An Apostolic Visitor Ushers in Eternal Hope



His cup of blessings has truly overflowed upon us at St. Vincent Haven! On the Feast of St. Terese of Lisieux, October 1, we were so blessed by the presence of Bishop Earl Fernandes for the dedication of our St. Dismas Chapel.

St. Dismas was the penitent thief, crucified by Christ's side. To whom Christ uttered the words, "truly, truly I say to you, this day you will be with me in paradise." We pray through his intercession for the further infusion of hope into our residents.

In even bigger news, St. Dismas Chapel has been granted permission for the perpetual reservation of Our Precious Lord Jesus! Our Lord's spiritual presence has always been unmistakably clear in our work. Now, He is here in the flesh!

By His physical presence, may His transformative work be a beacon of hope to all our residents, staff, volunteers, and visitors -- bringing with it the everlasting and unshakable joy of the paradise to come. Amen!



# gratitude

Resident Snapshot

## Matthew

- ❖ 134 Days sober
- ❖ Linked with Mental Health Services
- ❖ Reignited his Christian faith through prayer Group at The Haven with encouragement from Kevin Murphy.
- ❖ Utilized the generosity of the SVDP Thrift Store to receive household items upon moving into his new apartment.

## Building Hope Campaign Update

The Haven's Building Hope Campaign is still going strong! By the generosity of Herb Murphy ensuring the cost of the building the community did not have to wait to realize the impact of the expansion. We are operating and working hard to raise the remaining \$1.4 Million of our goal. We need your help now more than ever. If you are interested in learning more about our mission or taking a tour of The Haven, please contact John Paul Munhall at (740) 670-0822 or [johnpaul@svdphaven.org](mailto:johnpaul@svdphaven.org).



## VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

### Sergeant Sargent - The Haven Grocer

A long time ago, in a land slightly pre-Covid, Mr. Sargent approached John PaulMunhall asking what he could do to serve St. Vincent Haven...

Wes was born in 1944 in Mansfield, Ohio. At the age of two, his family moved to Granville, where his father opened a meat market on Broadway. At nine years old, Wes began his work there as a stock boy and continued to learn the business as he worked there during high school and college summers. He remarks that he didn't always love going to work early in the morning before school, but in time, he developed a genuine fondness for the customers.

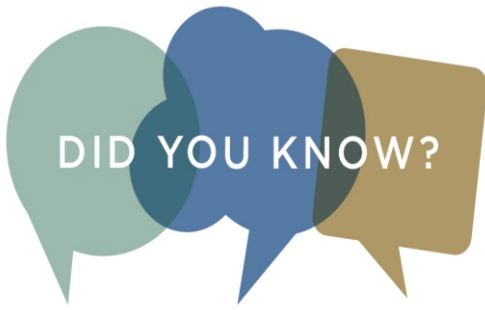
After graduating from college at Ohio University, he gave four years of his life in the U.S. Army, in service to our country. Sargent left the Army as a Sergeant. Sergeant Sargent's fond love for serving did not stop there. He continued to serve others for thirty-three years as a trainer at State Farm.

Throughout Wes's life, he has been a dedicated volunteer, serving as Granville Township Trustee, President of the Granville Athletic Boosters, board member of the Granville Foundation and the Old Colony Cemetery, among many other charitable pursuits. His life's work has now come full circle in a way. The once stock boy now manages our pantry and kitchen inventory. Wes comes once weekly to help keep The Haven's pantry in line.

The Haven is beyond thankful for Wes's continued service to our mission and to all of our dedicated volunteers. It takes quite an Army to run a shelter. It would not be possible without them. Thank you Wes, and thank you all!

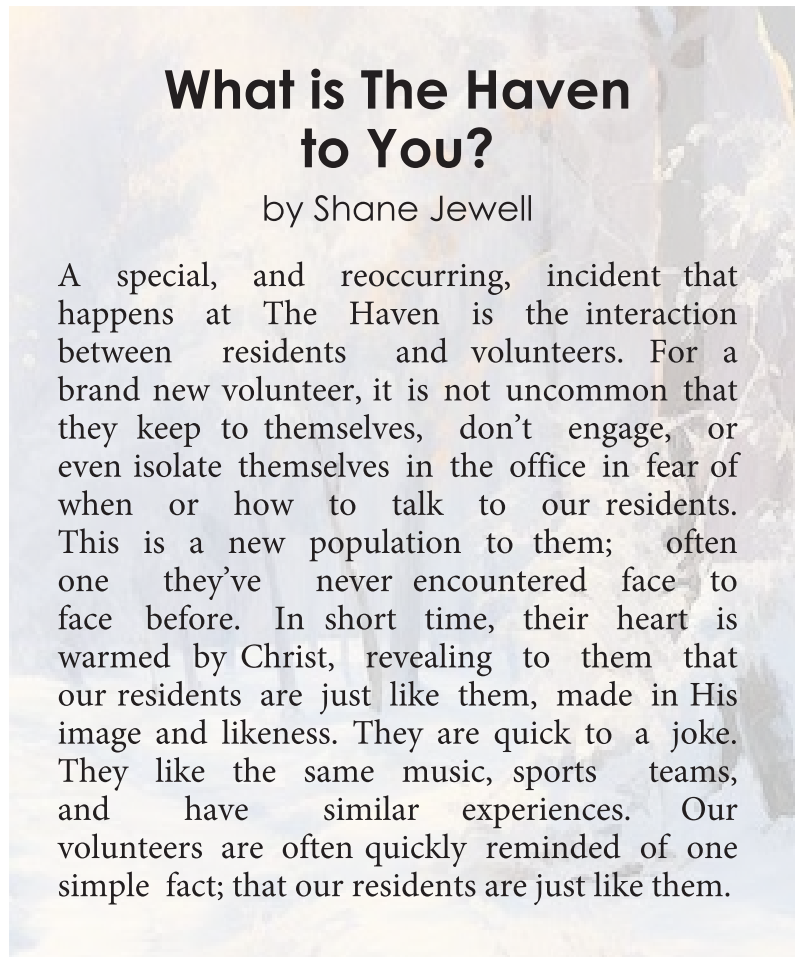






- ❖ 19% of the residents served in the past year have been age 60+
- ❖ Currently, .5% of children are in foster care, yet 16% of residents reported this experience.
- ❖ Most residents were raised without their biological father.
- ❖ More than 90% of residents have experienced severe trauma.

**Visit us at**  
**[www.svdphaven.org](http://www.svdphaven.org)**



## What is The Haven to You?

by Shane Jewell

A special, and reoccurring, incident that happens at The Haven is the interaction between residents and volunteers. For a brand new volunteer, it is not uncommon that they keep to themselves, don't engage, or even isolate themselves in the office in fear of when or how to talk to our residents. This is a new population to them; often one they've never encountered face to face before. In short time, their heart is warmed by Christ, revealing to them that our residents are just like them, made in His image and likeness. They are quick to a joke. They like the same music, sports teams, and have similar experiences. Our volunteers are often quickly reminded of one simple fact; that our residents are just like them.



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**Yes,** I want to support St. Vincent Haven's mission to provide caring support and advocacy for the homeless and strive to end homelessness in Licking County!

- One-Time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Gift to support the **BUILDING HOPE** campaign \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please choose one:*
- Construction    Programming    General Fund    Endowment



- I would like to make a monthly pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my credit card monthly.
- VISA    MasterCard    Discover    AMEX

If you have questions about St. Vincent Haven, please call (740) 670-0822 or email [johnpaul@svdphaven.org](mailto:johnpaul@svdphaven.org)

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Thank You!

Please return to:

**St. Vincent Haven**

115 Wilson Street, Newark OH 43055

*Thank You For Your Generosity & Support!*

*No goods or services have been or will be received for this contribution. St. Vincent Haven is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, Federal ID 80-0191758.*



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*We can't thank our donors enough for your generosity!*



*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!*