

115 Wilson Street Newark, OH 43055

# ST. VINCENT HAVEN | ANNUAL NEWS 2024

The Haven Fines

#### 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. Munhall

John Paul Munhall





JOHN URBAN PRESIDENT Representative Blessed Sacrament Parish

KELLY PARKER VICE PRESIDENT Representative SVDP Thrift Store

JIM JACKSON TREASURER Representative St. Edward

JOLENE BOGNER Representative Church of Ascension

**TOM HARVEY** President Emeritus Community Member

KEVIN MURPHY President Emeritus Representative SVDP Parish

DON RIESBECK Representative St. Leonard

> JIM TYZNIK Member

JOHN KLAUDER Community Member

ROD WILKINS Community Member

FATHER MIKE GENTRY Spiritual Director

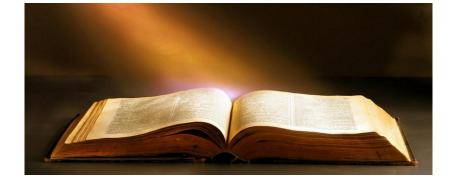
JOHN PAUL MUNHALL Executive Director

> RICK GUMMER President Emeritus

Ambassador MARC HAWK Ambassador

FRED ERNEST Ambassador

STEVE LAYMAN Ambassador



#### 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').

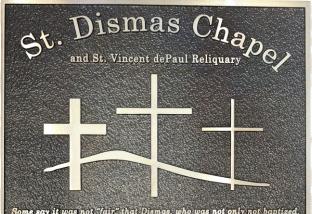
Solomon's flame is truly invaluable to this critical work. The Holy Spirit finds His way through many to serve as salve to our residents wounds; but in Solomon it is clear and bright, for all to give witness to His boundless love.







## An Apostolic Visitor Ushers in Eternal Hope



Some say it was not "fair" that Dismas, who was not only not baptized, but also a criminal who lived a life of sin and then in his final minutes of life on earth was sayed. It doesn't seem right, in our human sense of "justice" that one could live a life of sin, and then in one single act of faith, all be forgiven. In Dismas, we are reminded that with God, all things are possible.

Heavenly Father, in this moment now, give us the grace of St. Dismas, to utter, "this Man hath done no evil," so that soon, we too, would be with you in paradise.

> Consecrated by The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes On the Feest of St. Therese de Lisieux, October 1, 2024 Special thanks to Rick and Kathy Gummer,

for without whom this chapel would not have been possible.

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!





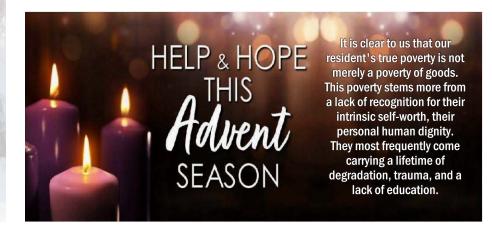


## Matthew

- ✤ 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.



## **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!

#### **Jack's Story**

By Shane Jewell

The Haven's work cannot be merely reduced to a set of tasks performed or read from a script to remove individuals' barriers. It takes a listening ear, an outstretched hand to pull someone up, or eyes meeting eyes having tough, but necessary conversations to ensure true needs are met.

This is Jack's story. Jack is an elderly man. One day, a concerned citizen brought him to us. She was distraught, explaining that she had been trying to bring him meals and convince him to come to the shelter. She shared that Jack often sat alone on a park bench day and night, regardless of the weather. Other community members began calling in, voicing their concerns about Jack's safety as the weather began to turn for the worse.

Initially, Jack refused and didn't give an answer as to why. But after much convincing, Jack agreed to join us. Soon after becoming a resident, Jack left without any notice. This became a pattern, repeating itself three separate times. Each time, our staff began to learn more about Jack and his struggles.

Eventually, we convinced Jack to stay for the long haul. We began to learn about his past. He had a college degree and spent his life working as a pastor. He was previously married. He receives a reasonable monthly retirement income. Most would ask, "Well if he has an income, why doesn't he just go find housing?" It's almost never that easy. Jack suffers with severe mental illness and had been unmedicated for years. He spent a brief time in prison and was brutally attacked, triggering intense trauma. Despite his past, Jack began to trust staff to allow us to help.

Jack allowed us to help him find a doctor, get stabilized on psychiatric medications, obtain a phone, pay off all his outstanding debt and much more. After a few months, he had only one thing left to do; find housing. He went through the tedious application process and was granted approval for an apartment at a senior living complex.

Our staff worked with the SVDP Thrift Store and other local agencies to provide him with the items he needed for daily living in preparation for his move.

When the big day came, The Haven staff escorted him, and also delivered and built his furniture. Jack is now living independently with the help of community case management multiple times a week. The best answer I can think of when asked, "what do you do at The Haven?", is "everything I can."



The Haven's cook teams started in 2009 with a vision from Ruby Hall. She wanted our residents to have a home cooked meal every evening. Many said it would be impossible but Ruby knew the love a home cooked meal could bring to a persons soul. Thanks to her dedication, cook teams were born and have continued so that our residents get to experience the warmth of a wonderful home cooked meal each day. These meals don't just satisfy hunger, they allow our men to get a sense of community, reminding them they are not forgotten.

We do have open slots on our monthly calendar that need to be filled:

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday's, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays. If you would like to join our cook teams, please contact Natalie Freeman at (740) 670-0822 or nfreeman@svdphaven.org



- St. Vincent Haven opened in 2009 serving 26 residents.
- Our mission is motivated by Gospel Values.
- ✤ You can come in for a tour anytime.
- ✤ We serve males age 18 and older.
- Our residents must be drug/alcohol free to stay here.
- ✤ We are a PROGRAM focused shelter.
- Our Chapel now hosts Mass every 2nd Wednesday.
- We began serving 50 residents in March 2023.
- We need your partnership to make this all possible.

# DID YOU KNOW?

- 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

### What is The Haven to You?

by Shane Jewell

A special, and reoccurring, incident that happens at The Haven is the interaction residents and volunteers. For a between 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.

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-lime gift of \$		国統統領国
Gift to support the <b>BUILDING</b> Please choose one:	HOPE campaign \$	
Construction Programmir	ng 🗌 General Fund 🗌 E	ndowment
I would like to make a mon	thly 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
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Phone	_	<b>St. Vincent Haven</b> 115 Wilson Street, Newark OH 43055
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115 Wilson Street Newark, OH 43055

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



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!