



... WHERE HOPE GROWS

DECEMBER 2019

THE SUCCESSFUL INTERACTIONS THAT ESCAPE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By: Susanne Miller-Urban

The past few newsletters have included "Success Stories," showcasing one or more residents who have graduated from The Haven by completing their full programs, procuring during their stay a set of skills and habits that enable them to function more autonomously in the Licking County community. Such residents have transitioned to more independent living and their progress is often heralded as the ultimate goal of the services that The Haven provides.

Interestingly, the "successful" individuals often demand less focus and fewer staff hours than the individuals in most critical need of The Haven's services. One of The Haven's founding principles was to improve accessibility to existing community services, never compete with them. To this end, The Haven staff spends much time in assessment, coordination, and placement. For example, The Haven is not a drug rehabilitation facility, but regularly assists individuals to enter both in- and out-patient programs. The relationships made during these interactions are not temporal. Rather, Haven staff follows up with such placements and becomes family for these non-residents. One such individual contacts us to share his successes. Since many residents are estranged from family, having people who care how they are doing can make the difference between carrying on and giving up.

The Executive Director instructs Haven staff that "our programming begins the first time that a potential resident graces our door and does not end at exit, but continues for the rest of their lives." Another example is an elderly gentleman who has been in and out of The Haven for years now. In an on again/off again marriage, he has now developed dementia on top of his existing mental health issues. Though he may never attain the desired "Voluntary Planned Exit" status, without the services provided by The Haven, he would have spent nights on the street and may never have secured a proper diagnosis for his condition.

Our "not told" stories are of the most-at-risk and hardest-to-impact members of our community; those for whom The Haven was founded. For many residents, it takes small progress over many stays before programming starts to make lasting change in their lives, or until we are able to connect them with the services that matches their needs. One Haven staff member stated, "It is all part of the process." While this part of the mission is difficult to quantify, explain, or celebrate; this is where the healing of hearts initiates, where the smallest, but most time-consuming transformations occur. Please pray for our residents, and staff as we face these daily challenges, but also that we may reach those not-yet-ready to be residents.

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We want to acknowledge and give special thanks to The Catholic Foundation who generously awarded St. Vincent Haven with \$50,000 for general funding in 2020. Their generosity, counsel, and partnership has been critical to our mission. Please visit them at www.catholic-foundation.org to learn more.



IN 2019...



>9,700
SHELTER NIGHTS
PROVIDED



>26,000
MEALS
SERVED



>75
PLACED IN
SUSTAINABLE JOBS



>5,700
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of The Haven,

I invite you to read the article within this newsletter titled, *"The Successful Interactions that Escape Acknowledgement,"* by Susanne Miller-Urban and ponder how the world's greatest highway would be worthless without an on-ramp.

This, our Advent letter does not include our typical resident "success stories." Instead we shared our "unsuccessful" successes, which are our typical daily battles. These demand our greatest investment of time, talent, and treasure (including your's). Our unsuccessful stories are the incubator, or atrium, where our headline successes are budded.

These stories are much more difficult to tell, but our mini-successes lead to incremental progress at a minimum, but often much more. These stories are made or broken by our ability to channel the Holy Spirit, infusing BIG LOVE into the little things we do. For those of you who read our newsletter regularly, you have seen this theme before. I desire to bring you into our story, more fully into our struggle.

In this season of Advent, we remember the darkness that the fallen, exiled world experienced between the fall of Adam and Eve and the arrival of the Light of the Son of God. As we remember this darkness in a season of repentance, our eyes are to be fixated on the light that we cannot yet see. This is the hope that carries us through our unsuccessful successes. We work with the foreknowledge that progress not only leads to success, but is a success itself. Therefore, our success is determined by our level of focus on the Light that we do not yet see.

The virtue of Hope is critical to sustaining this humble work that we are blessed to do. This truth, contained within the season of Advent and pointed toward the season of Christmas, the season of light, tells the story better than anything that my feeble mind can envision. In short, "This is what we do here at The Haven."

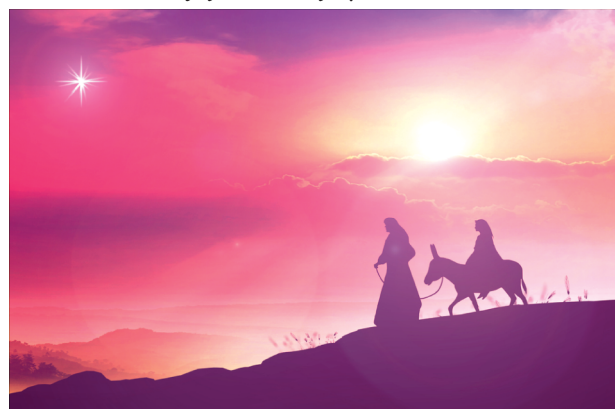
Our motto states: "where hope grows." This is a monumental task that we, together with you, undertake. You are part of our story which is bigger than us, and not possible without your help and the help of the Holy Spirit, to overshadow us, and make us new creations.

You, individual donors, make up about one-third of our total funding. We need your continued financial support and your continued, increased prayerful support as we try to do a job that is beyond any of our capabilities. Help us provide an on-ramp for our residents to healthier and happier lives.

Wishing you a very special thanks...

Luceat lux vestra,

John Paul Munhall



and a very Merry Christmas to all of our generous donors.

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

Please send checks to: 115 Wilson St., Newark, OH 43055

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___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ AmEx ___ Discover
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Signature: _____

If you have questions about St. Vincent Haven, please call 740-670-0822 or e-mail svh@svdphaven.org

☐ Please also contact me about volunteer opportunities.

SVH is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our tax ID# 80-0191758