

# Mission Messenger - September 2011

## Plant the seeds of hope



The harvest is plentiful at Project Hope for the Homeless. With an increase in guest services comes the increase in physical and spiritual needs. Every day, volunteers play a critical role in meeting these needs. When volunteers give of themselves, through time, task and treasure, lives are changed and God rejoices in the harvest.

Everyone can tend the harvest and be celebrate as men, women and children restore their lives at Project Hope.

Here are some ways to help:

- Be a shelter volunteer, 7-11 p.m. or 5:30-6:45 a.m. Work with staff and guests, helping with dinner and support tasks. Scheduling is flexible and undemanding.
- Donate professional services or time to help the shelter, staff or guests.
- Help with the maintenance of the buildings and grounds.
- Spend time between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. helping with administrative tasks.
- Coordinate a collection of Wish List items at your church, school, organization or place of employment.
- Make a meal or side dish for the evening dinner.
- Donate funds, host a fund-raiser, or encourage your employer or church to consider charitable giving and/or involvement.

Project Hope for the Homeless is open to all offers and ideas to help. Visit our website to learn more and complete a volunteering application – [www.projecthopeonline.org](http://www.projecthopeonline.org).

Thank you Ridgecliff Foundation!

Your continued support of our aftercare program has changed lives and provided support to more than 90 individuals in the aftercare program!

### Shelter statistics through July 2011

**Total guests: ..... 225**

Men: ..... 132

Women: ..... 64

Children: ..... 29

**U.S. veterans: ..... 6%**

**Average length stay: ..... 23 days**

### Primary reason for homelessness

**Mental health issue, addiction  
or dually diagnosed: ..... 65%**

Lack of funds: ..... 21%

Parents are homeless:.. 13%

### Last permanent residence:

Mentor area: ..... 13%

Painesville area: ..... 35%

Willoughby area: ..... 14%

Other western Lake: .... 6%

Other central Lake: ..... 3%

Eastern Lake: ..... 3%

Out of county: ..... 26%

**Positive outcomes: ..... 50%**

### Upcoming events

#### Quarterly network meeting:

September 22

7:30 p.m.

St. Gabriel Church

Community Center

#### Holiday open house and tour:

November 19

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

25 Freedom Road, Painesville

For more information, call

(440) 354-6417 or visit

[www.projecthopeonline.org](http://www.projecthopeonline.org).

### From a former guest

I was a guest in 2004, and am now almost 6 years sober. I've established myself in the community and am doing things I never thought were possible. Project Hope helped me see a light at the end of the tunnel that I for so long thought was unobtainable.

Project Hope instilled in me things I use to this very day, helping me become sober, get a job and deal with emotional issues I was having. I may very well not be here if it weren't for them. I have never met a group of more selfless, loving, and encouraging individuals. The staff have been a God-send and have even stayed in touch after I left.

I didn't feel like a number or a statistic. I never felt judged or looked down upon. I would have rather not been homeless but I couldn't have asked to land in a better place. The staff was instrumental to my growth as a person, allowing me to get sober and follow my dreams as an artist. Since leaving Project Hope, I have had artwork in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Project Hope, keep doing what you're doing cause you are impacting people. I know its hard work and I know you may not receive the appreciation you so deserve but I am grateful and as much as it may go unsaid I am positive I am not the only one. Thank you for being the stepping stone to my life's change.....C.Raab