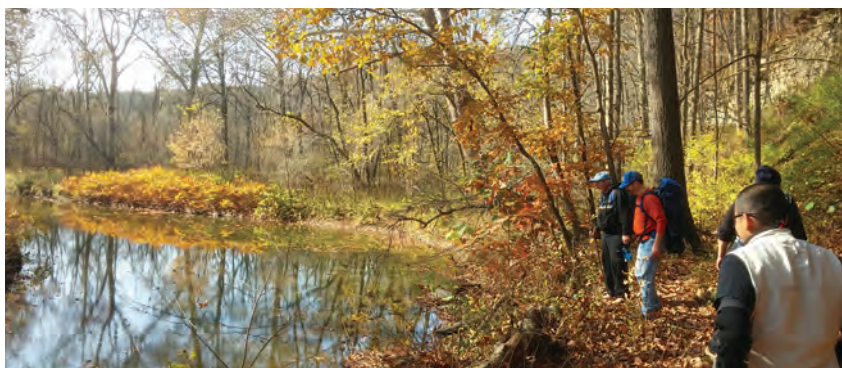


LIVING *by the* LIGHT

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Clockwise from top left: Nine-year-old Aimee collects donations for Light of Life; a runner in the Yinzer 5K shows her Pittsburgh spirit; a group of men and staff went camping; the women and children celebrate fall with a pumpkin-picking adventure.

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LIGHT *of* LIFE
rescue mission

Life sustaining. Life changing.

Debra's Story

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a cause that is close to the hearts of our Women and Children's Program because most of the families that come into our program have experienced some form of abuse. At Light of Life, women and children receive love, support, healing and hope found in Jesus Christ in order to break the cycle.

Debra, a Light of Life graduate, is an example of how Christ changed her life through our program. She had a history of being in relationships with men who were unhealthy for her, often times because they were in active addiction.

Early in her relationship with her now ex-husband, Debra started to see the way he kept her isolated and tried to control her. Shortly after they wed Debra spent the first three years of their marriage in jail for a DUI. Although she had accepted Christ as her savior when she was 12, she learned for the first time in jail what it meant to have Jesus as the Lord of her life.

When she got out of jail, her husband wasn't happy that she was learning and growing on her own. Debra said, "There was physical abuse, but the hardest was the emotional and verbal abuse because you're told you are selfish and you'll be nothing without him."

Debra was a stay-at-home mother with no family around and she felt very alone. "No matter what decision I made I was



Original watercolor by Debra. The image reflects the residual effects of and the stigma that is faced when dealing with or coming out of domestic violence.

“... It's a passion. I'm trying to give experience, strength and hope to others.”

– Debra, Women's Program Graduate, on her art therapy instruction to help recovering victims of abuse

wrong,” said Debra. “Somewhere along the line, I started to just exist.”

One night after being kicked out again, Debra took her four kids to her daughter's friends house. She was told that her kids could stay, but she couldn't. “I went there several times before,” said Debra. “If I went to my husband again, I could no longer go back to her house.” Her children asked her to leave their father and Debra said, “I finally heard the kids say, ‘Protect me.’ My mind shifted.”

While living with her friend, Debra's husband came to her friend's house, threatened Debra, chased her and put the entire household in jeopardy. She was scared to call the police because she had a drug charge, but she did call and got a PFA. After 20 years of marriage, Debra finally left the abusive relationship.

That is when Debra began the program at Light of Life. She and her children received housing and a safe environment to grow and heal. Debra started to think about what she wanted to do with her life. In 2011 Debra began classes for her master's degree in art therapy and this December she will graduate.

“It feels good,” said Debra. “It's a passion. I'm trying to give experience, strength and hope to others.” Currently Debra is the

Family Development Coordinator in Light of Life's Women & Children's Program. She uses art as a creative outlet to help women and children deal with recovery, grief and stress management. “Art is my way of connecting with people,” said Debra.

Today, Debra is married to a man who is very good and kind to her and her children, and she sees how God is using her past experiences to bring hope to women who may be facing a similar situation.

Thank you for the ways you support Light of Life! Your prayers, financial support and time volunteering help make it possible to create a safe place for women and children who need safety and recovery.



Run for the Mission

Join Team Light of Life by signing up to run the Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon, half-marathon, relay, 5k or kids' run for us and we will pay your registration fee! All you have to do is raise money for Light of Life, which is easier than you think. Our team finished in 7th place overall in fundraising out of all the Pittsburgh Marathon Charities in 2014! Register at www.crowdrise.com/lightoflifepittsburgh2015. If you have questions, contact Leah at lroberts@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6163.

Light of Life's "More Than a Meal" Gala



Emcees Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley share a story about playing for the Steelers.

Former Pittsburgh Steelers and current radio sportscasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley were the hosts of Light of Life Rescue Mission's "More Than a Meal" gala on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

The evening featured delicious food at the Hyundai Club West in Heinz Field, a silent and live auction, and inspirational stories of lives changed. After telling stories about when they played together for the Steelers, Tunch and Wolf shared their experiences of being involved with Light of Life for the past 27 years. They encouraged others to come to the North Side of Pittsburgh to take a tour of the Mission. Gala guests heard how current clients and alumni from Light of Life have changed as a result of receiving food, shelter and hope. Executive Director Craig Schweiger and Board Chairman Don Foster also spoke during the event.

Over 300 people attended the gala and more than \$100,000 was raised to support

the life-sustaining and life-changing programs at the Mission. Light of Life is celebrating 62 years of providing "more than a meal" to poor and homeless men, women and children! To watch the videos debuted at the gala of graduates Robert and Angela sharing their stories of how their lives have changed, visit www.youtube.com/lorescuemission.

We would like to especially thank the "More Than a Meal" title sponsor Workscape for their partnership and support of the Mission.

workscape

A Woman Owned Business Enterprise

Aimee Makes a Difference

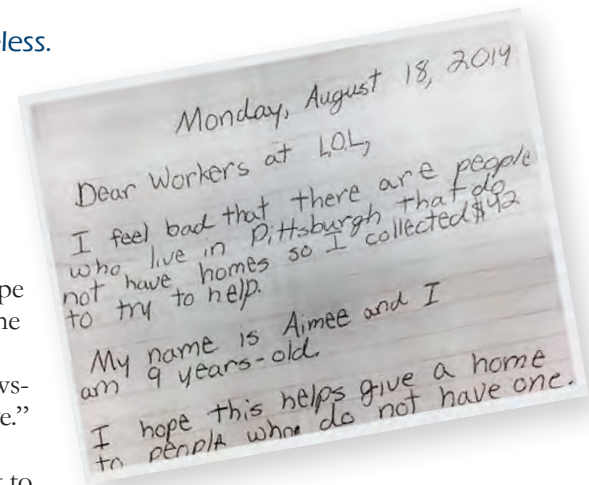
Nine-year-old Aimee decided she wanted to make a difference for the homeless. She learned that some people don't have homes and after talking with her grandmother, Carol, Aimee decided to raise money for the Mission. "I thought 'Why don't I get donations and give people a home instead of them sleeping on the street,'" said Aimee.



Aimee made a colorful donation envelope all on her own initiative. "She came home one day with a donation envelope," said Carol. "I showed her Light of Life's newsletter and she decided she wanted to give."

Aimee admitted she was nervous at first to ask for money, but she would show family and friends the donation envelope she made and ask if they would like to donate money for the homeless. If someone said no, Aimee said, she would just ask another person and asking got easier to do.

In total, Aimee raised \$42 for the Mission! She and her family came to Light of Life to



drop off the donation and take a tour to see how the money people like her give make a difference to the men, women and children we serve. We are so grateful for Aimee and people of all ages who support Light of Life!

What are you thankful for?



"Today I am thankful for being clean for 9 months and for not being where I used to be."

–Karen, Women & Children's Program



"I'm thankful that there are still people who will listen to a weary soul and offer support and give that person a positive outlook in that time of need. God has allowed me to see and feel his grace and mercy every day. His love overwhelms me and I will forever be thankful."

–Charles, Men's Residential Program



"I am grateful for Christian leadership, accountability through brotherhood, spiritual growth, and God's grace and mercy provided via the principles of genuine love in recovery."

–Jason, Men's Residential Program



"Today I am thankful for my physical and mental health. Having come through so many changes this last year I can see how the Lord has carried me when I couldn't take another step. I never would have made it without Jesus Christ. For that I am so thankful."

–Pamela, Women & Children's Program



"I am thankful for many things. Most importantly I am thankful to have a relationship with God. I am thankful for 12-step groups and Light of Life for being here for me and my family through this journey. I am thankful for the lessons I have learned. I'm thankful for where I am today. I'm thankful knowing I am teachable and I am thankful I have a choice and I don't have to pick up [and use]..."

–Casey, Women & Children's Program



"I am thankful for my health. I am thankful for my sobriety. I am thankful for having my family back in my life again. I am thankful for Light of Life for taking me in. I am thankful for God and His guidance. I am thankful for God's love. I am thankful for my friends that have helped me so much with my recovery."

–Larry, Men's Residential Program



"I am very thankful for everything that Light of Life has done to get me back on my feet again in life and to help me finish school. Without the program, I would have never gotten back on my feet in life."

–Jason, Men's Residential Program



"What I'm thankful for is not losing my kids to CYS, starting a relationship with God, and for a new way of living."

–Darnella, Women & Children's Program

Rich Receives the Gift of Hearing

Rich came to Light of Life in July for food, shelter and a safe place to learn about God and recovery. He has already received so much more than he ever thought possible.

Within the first couple of weeks of Rich being in the program, his counselor, Jim Kneff, noticed that Rich had a significant hearing loss. “He was serious about the program,” said Jim, “but he could not really engage due to the profound hearing loss in both ears.”

Staffer Bill Rhoades contacted Dr. George Fyke, and he came very quickly to give a hearing exam to Rich. Rich received temporary hearing aids within 1-2 weeks and on October 23rd, Rich received his custom-fit hearing aids.

After spending time together, Dr. Fyke told Rich that he is a person worth investing in and made arrangements to have the cost of the hearing aids covered. Dr. Fyke’s words

and actions made a profound statement to Rich—that he is worth being loved.

“I just want him to pay it forward,” said Dr. Fyke. “For him to help someone else.”

When Rich first received his hearing aids, he said, “Is this the way normal people

Rich had this hearing loss since he was 6-years-old and it will take some getting used to. He said, “My hearing aid manual says, ‘Better hearing with hearing instruments is a learned skill combining desire and practice.’ When I read that, I thought that is just like my recovery.”

“My hearing aid manual says, ‘Better hearing with hearing instruments is a learned skill combining desire and practice.’ When I read that, I thought that is just like my recovery.”

– Rich, Men’s Residential Program



hear?” Now Rich is able to hear in classes at the Mission and 12-step recovery meetings, which allows him to be encouraged and challenged like never before.

We are so thankful for dedicated friends like you and Dr. Fyke who use your skills and abilities to change lives at Light of Life.

Light of Life’s Annual Christmas Ornament



Make sure you pick up the 2014 Christmas Ornament to support Light of Life! This year’s Wendell August ornament was designed by a participant in the Women & Children’s Program — a young mother recovering from the destruction of addiction. When asked what Christmas means to her, she responded, “Christmas is the celebration of Jesus’s life. His birth gave us a chance to live the lives we do today. It also means spending time with family, being together and giving to those in need.”

Suggested donation is \$20 per ornament if you are able to pick it up or \$25 per ornament if you would like it mailed. We have a limited number, so get your ornament today! Order online at www.lightoflife.org/ornament or contact Doug Smith at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161.

We want to thank Oxford Solutions for sponsoring the ornament production.

Yinzer 5k a Success

The 2nd annual Yinzer 5k was held on Saturday, August 16th at North Park. More than 160 runners came out to show their Pittsburgh pride and over \$10,000 was raised for the Mission!

We would like to say a special thank you to Sally Wiggin for being the event emcee, Dollar Bank for being the title sponsor, Trib Total Media for being the media sponsor, and to DJ Chuck for providing the Pittsburgh tunes.



Start thinking about your Pittsburgh costumes and join us next August!

BNY Mellon Gives to Light of Life

A team from BNY Mellon was recognized for being Pittsburgh's Outstanding Team within the organization. As part of their celebration, they were asked to donate \$2,500 to a charity of their choice through BNY Mellon's Community Partnership program and the committee selected Light of Life Rescue Mission. We are so grateful for all the way businesses support the Mission through donations and volunteering. If your business would like to get more involved, please contact Doug Smith at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161.



BNY Mellon employees present a check to Craig Schweiger.

Winter Donation Items

Winter is a very dangerous time for the homeless. You can help make a difference to all of the men, women and children who come through our doors by donating the following items:

- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Jackets
- Blankets
- Bibles
- New long underwear

Please contact Bri Feindt at bfeindt@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4160 to arrange a time to drop off your donation at our Ridge Avenue location.

End of Year Giving

Please remember Light of Life Rescue Mission as you consider making end-of-the-year donations to your favorite non-profits! All donations received by December 31st will be acknowledged by January 2015 with a tax-deductible receipt. Thank you for helping us provide food, shelter and hope to men, women and children in need.

Gift Cards for Christmas

We are looking for gift card donations this Christmas! Gift cards that are given to Light of Life will go toward our client's needs throughout the year. If you or your business/organization are interested in helping to meet this need, please contact Bri at 412-803-4160 or bfeindt@lightoflife.org. Thank you!

Light of Life Mission Statement

As a ministry of Jesus Christ, Light of Life will provide a home for the homeless and food for the hungry, and will build disciples for the Kingdom of God among the poor, addicted, abused and needy.

Upcoming

- ▶ **November 27 – The Great Thanksgiving Banquet at Light of Life Rescue Mission.** Men, women and children who do not have a place to go for Thanksgiving dinner are invited to Light of Life for a turkey, stuffing, and all the fixings between 1-6 p.m.
- ▶ **December 4 – Volunteer orientation at 6 p.m.** Please register for an orientation by completing the volunteer application online. It can be found at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab.
- ▶ **December 16 – Volunteer orientation at 6 p.m.** Please register for an orientation by completing the volunteer application online. It can be found at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab.
- ▶ **December 23 – Annual Christmas Banquet from 2 – 6 p.m. at Light of Life Rescue Mission.** This annual holiday feast is available to anyone in need.
- ▶ **May 2nd & 3rd – Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon.** Sign up to run for Team Light of Life. See "Run for the Mission" article for details.
- ▶ **Date TBD – Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless.** Join former Pittsburgh Steelers and current radio broadcasters this spring for their annual 10K walk for the homeless. More details to come, so check our website and social media for updated information. Proceeds raised benefit Light of Life.