

# LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

FALL 2015



Clockwise from top left: Light of Life program graduates and staff gather after graduation; Joe shows off a pie he made in cooking club; volunteers decorate their car for "Trunk-or-Treat"; coats and hats are shown off by a volunteer at Harvest of Hope; Heidi opens your donations everyday at the Mission.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- |   |                                  |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 2 | A Day at Light of Life           | 5 | Graduation Celebration     |
| 3 | More than a Meal Gala            | 5 | Annual Christmas Ornament  |
| 3 | Harvest of Hope                  | 6 | Gifts and Donations Needed |
| 3 | Trunk-or-Treat                   | 6 | Celebrating 25 Years       |
| 4 | Q & A                            | 6 | Upcoming Events            |
| 5 | Pittsburgh Foundation Gift Match |   |                            |

**LIGHT of LIFE**  
**rescue mission**  
Food. Shelter. Hope.



# A DAY AT LIGHT OF LIFE

Many times when people think of Light of Life they think of a soup kitchen. While we do serve meals every day of the year, we do so much more than that! Below is what a typical day a Light of Life may look like, although each day has its own unexpected twists and turns.

**12 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.** – The front office staff is answering the phones, taking applications and interviewing men interested in long-term programming, giving out personal care items, coats, etc. to those who stop in with a need, and so much more! ▶

**5 a.m.** – Our chefs come in to start cooking for the day. They are joined by men in our Men's Residential Program (MRP) who will help with prepping, cooking, serving and cleaning as part of their life-skills learning. ▶

**6:30 a.m.** – Men who spent the night in our emergency shelter wake up and get ready for the day. ▶

**7 a.m.** – A chapel service led by a volunteer is held for the men who come for breakfast. ▶

**8 a.m.** – Breakfast is served to men, women and children in the community who come to the Mission to eat. ▶

**8:30 a.m.** – Many of the staff members who work in administration or development typically begin their day. Throughout the day they work on various projects including accounting, opening mail, sorting donations, organizing volunteers, thanking donors, giving tours and so much more. Also, the maintenance staff are keeping up the buildings and the transportation driver is picking up mail and other deliveries. ▶

**9 a.m.** – Chapel service is led by a staff member or a guest preacher for men in the program.  
Families in the Women & Children's Program (W&C) begin to arrive for their day of programming. (The women and children in our long-term program live off-site and come to Light of Life for programming throughout the week.) ▶



**10 a.m.** – Care-team meetings are held in our men's program. Staff members who work closely with the men meet weekly as a team to ensure each man is receiving the best care. This is also a time where men can meet one-on-one with staff.  
  
Class begins in our women's program. Both men and women in their programs attend classes. Topics include addiction recovery, finances, peace-making and Bible study. Topics rotate throughout the year. ▶

**11 a.m.** – Men & women in our programs are in class. ▼  
  
**12 p.m.** – Lunch time for everyone in our programs. ▼  
  
**12:30 p.m.** – Men & women in our programs are in class. ▶

**1 p.m.** – ACTS groups take place in our mens program. A staff member called a care team leader meets with the same group of 8-12 men three times a week so the group has a chance to really get to know each other and support one another. ▶

**2 p.m.** – The women leave Light of Life to pick up their children from school. ▶

**2:30 p.m.** – Clubs or classes take place in our men's program. Clubs are a place to explore interests by topic and to deepen relationships with others through experiences. Examples of clubs that have been offered are cooking club, biking club, creativity club, and more. If it's not a club day, then a class is held. ▶



**4 p.m.** – Men in our program eat dinner. The men who have afternoon duty to help in the kitchen start work after dinner. ▶

**5 p.m.** – Dinner is served to men, women and children who come to the Mission to eat.  
  
On Tuesdays, women & children in our programs come to Light of Life in the evening instead of the daytime for programs. Dinner is served for women and children. ▶

**6:30 p.m.** – On tuesdays families gather for programs to begin. ▶

**7 p.m.** – Chapel service is led by a volunteer for men staying in the emergency shelter for the night.  
  
Men and women in our programs may attend recovery meetings or Bible studies. ▶

**8 p.m.** – Men staying in our emergency shelter begin to take showers. ▶

**10 p.m.** – Lights out in the emergency shelter.  
  
**11 p.m.** – Lights out for men in our program.

**Thank you for all of the ways you help to make the Mission run each day!** We can only do what we do because you volunteer, donate and pray. If you would like to get more involved with the Mission, please check out our website at [www.lightoflife.org](http://www.lightoflife.org) and sign up to volunteer or make a donation.

## MORE THAN A MEAL GALA



On October 6, 2015, we held our annual More Than a Meal Gala at the Hyundai Club West in Heinz Field. Hosted by Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley, the evening included a delicious dinner, live and silent auctions, and the opportunity to hear inspirational stories of how men and women have experienced life-transformation during their time at the Light of Life.

The theme for this year's fundraiser was the impact Light of Life has on families. Current clients and graduates of our men's and women's programs shared how not only their lives, but the lives of family members have been changed for the better. "My children have God in their lives now," said Light of Life graduate Barbara. "They talk about God on a daily basis, which is really cool compared to where we came from...It's beautiful."

Another graduate, Terry, graduated the men's program 10 years ago. Guests at the gala heard how Terry met his wife 5 years ago and the two of them are in the process of adopting their foster daughter. He credits it to the strength he has in God. "If it wasn't for Light of Life," said Terry, "I would have never found that strength. That strength has given me a beautiful wife, has given me a beautiful home...a life again because of Light of Life Rescue Mission." (To hear Terry's story in his own words, visit [www.youtube.com/lolrescuemission](http://www.youtube.com/lolrescuemission).)



Tunch Ilkin, Will Johnson, Glenn Graner and Craig Wolfley at the Gala.

In addition to these moving stories, out-going board chairman Don Foster introduced our new board chairman Glenn Graner, and Executive Director Craig Schweiger presented a token of thanks to the family of former board member Faye Ritter, who passed away earlier this year.

This gala was our biggest yet, with 340 people in attendance and in total, over \$130,000 was raised to help provide food, shelter and the hope of Christ at Light of Life! Thank you to all of you who were able to contribute to this year's gala through attending, sponsoring, volunteering, or donating auction items. We appreciate you all so much!

### THANKS!

We would like to say a special thank you to the following sponsors:

#### Title Sponsor



#### Platinum Sponsors:

- Foster Family Foundation
- UpperCut Studios

## HARVEST OF HOPE



On October 24th, we partnered with The Pittsburgh Project and put on an outreach event called The Harvest of Hope. Thanks to you, we had hundreds of coats, hats, gloves, scarves and baked goods to give out to anyone who stopped by the North Charles Street location where we set up for 3 hours. It was a festive atmosphere, with live music played by City Reach Church and hot dogs cooked on the grill. Your donations helped us get men, women and children ready for the cold months ahead.

We will have more outreach events this winter during our holiday meals, so if you would like to donate new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves or new long underwear, please contact Emily at [erabatin@lightoflife.org](mailto:erabatin@lightoflife.org) or 412-258-6128 to arrange a drop off time and date.

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Volunteers and Light of Life staff members gathered together in the Pittsburgh Project's parking lot this Halloween to create a safe, alternative experience for children on the North Side.

Instead of going door-to-door for candy, children dressed up and came trunk-to-trunk to collect treats. There were great car themes and costumes, such as Elsa and Anna from Frozen, a jellyfish, Mickey Mouse and much more! Thank you to everyone who participated.



We love being able to get outside of our walls at the Mission and get into neighborhoods to create a safe way for neighbors to get together. Outreach events like this also allow us to find out what needs people in the community have and then we can help meet the need.

If you would like to help with our outreach events, including connecting us with your church or community organization for a speaking engagement or donation collection, please contact Steve at [srorison@lightoflife.org](mailto:srorison@lightoflife.org) or 412-803-4128.

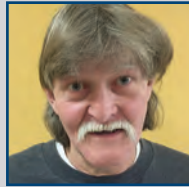
## WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

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“There are so many things I am thankful for. My kids – they are doing well in college and their jobs. I’m thankful to still be alive to see all that. I’m thankful to be back in the process of being in touch with God again. That’s the most important thing.”

–Joe, Men’s Residential Program



“Due to the grace of God and Light of Life, what can I not be grateful for? Even with wind and rain to my face, my gratefulness has no bounds. My life was empty, but now I have all I need. I love my life now. I have never experienced life like I am now. I’m 59-years-old and I have never experienced the joy of life like this.”

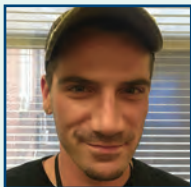
–Michael, Men’s Residential Program



“I am grateful for making things right. Gratefulness turns negative energy into positive energy. There is no situation

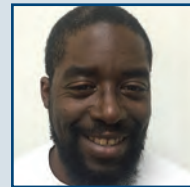
or circumstance so small or large that it is not susceptible to gratitude. Being grateful makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

–Harry, Men’s Residential Program



“I’m very thankful for having a strong relationship with God and all the grace he has for us all. I’m thankful for having a family who loves and cares for me. Most of all, I’m thankful for Light of Life for showing me a new way of life and helping me along my path.”

–Emmett, Men’s Residential Program



“I am grateful to still have family and friends who care. I am also grateful that humanity has not given up and that there is still love in the world.”

–Yohan, Men’s Residential Program

## Dollar for Dollar Match Opportunity Provided by the Pittsburgh Foundation

We wanted to inform you of an opportunity to have your donation to Light of Life matched dollar for dollar. On, Tuesday December 8th starting at 8 a.m. the Pittsburgh Foundation will be launching a critical alert campaign.

**Your donation to Light of Life made online at [www.pittsburghgives.org](http://www.pittsburghgives.org) that day will be matched dollar for dollar by the Pittsburgh Foundation up to \$100,000.**

IMPORTANT: The \$100,000 match is also available to 35 other organizations. Once the match is gone, it's gone. That being the case, we would like to ask you to give at 8 a.m. or as early as you possibly can. The earlier you donate the more likely it is that your donation will be matched.

### GIVING IS EASY!

**Starting on Tuesday, December 8th at 8 a.m., you can simply:**

- Go to [www.pittsburghgives.org](http://www.pittsburghgives.org)
- Click on **"Critical Campaign Alert"**.
- Click on **"Donate Now"**.
- Enter your name, email and phone number.
- From the drop down list of nonprofit(s), select **Light of Life Rescue Mission**.
- Enter gift amount (**\$25 minimum, \$10,000 maximum**).
- Enter your credit card information on the secure donation form and click **"Submit"**.
- You will receive confirmation that your donation has been received and an email will be sent to you for tax purposes.

### **Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to give!**

This is also a great chance to encourage your friends and family to give! We will send out a few reminder e-mails when we are closer to that date.

If you have any questions or concerns before then, please contact Doug at [dougsmith@lightoflife.org](mailto:dougsmith@lightoflife.org) or call 412-803-4161.

## Graduation Celebration



On Thursday, October 29th we held a graduation celebration for 2 women and 7 men in our long-term programs and 1 man in our high-commitment shelter program. It was a wonderful opportunity to see how God has been transforming hearts and lives at the Mission.

Larry, a graduate from that evening, said "When I first got to Light of Life, I went to a graduation ceremony and wondered if I would ever get there. Well, I got here!"

We are so happy for each of the men and women who worked hard and allowed God to work on their hearts during their time here. It truly is with your love, support, prayers, donations and time volunteering and investing in Light of Life that hurting men and women have a place to go and get another chance at life.

Many of the men and women who recently graduated are continuing in their full-time employment or are continuing their education while they work. Please keep them all in your prayers as they move from the Mission into the next phase of their lives.

## Light of Life's Annual Christmas Ornament



Make sure you pick up the 2015 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. Barb

chose Silent Night because it is her favorite song. Since being at Light of Life, Christmas is a beautiful day for Barb and her family. She said, "It's all about enjoying our time together, making memories and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ." 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](http://www.lightoflife.org/ornament) or contact Doug Smith at [dougsmith@lightoflife.org](mailto:dougsmith@lightoflife.org) or 412-803-4161. We want to thank Oxford Solutions for sponsoring the ornament production.

## 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 check out [www.lightoflife.org/winterdonations](http://www.lightoflife.org/winterdonations) for drop off days and times. If you have questions, contact Emily at [erabatin@lightoflife.org](mailto:erabatin@lightoflife.org) or 412-258-6128 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.

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

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 Emily at [erabatin@lightoflife.org](mailto:erabatin@lightoflife.org) or 412-258-6128. Thank you!

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



In October, Manager of Women & Children's Program Sherry Rorison celebrated 25 years of working at Light of Life! For those of you who know Sherry, you know that her calling is ministering to hurting women who want recovery and healing from God and providing a loving space their children. Thousands

of lives have been impacted by Sherry's investment in families through one-on-ones, group classes, Bible studies, activities and support outside the program when women face difficult life situations such as death of a loved one or a serious illness. We thank God for the Women & Children's Program, which has also been around for 25 years, and for the leadership of Sherry Rorison over the past two-and-a-half decades!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 27 – The Great Thanksgiving Banquet at Light of Life Rescue Mission from 1-6 p.m.** Men, women and children who do not have a place to go for Thanksgiving dinner are invited to Light of Life for turkey, stuffing and all the fixings.
- **December 14 – 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](http://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.
- **April 30th & May 1st – Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon.** Sign up to run for Team Light of Life! See the "Run for Team Light of Life" article for more details.
- **TBD – Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless.** Join former Pittsburgh Steelers and current radio broadcasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley in May for their annual 10k walk for the homeless. More details will come soon, so check out our website and social media for updated information. Proceeds raised benefit Light of Life.

## RUN FOR TEAM LIGHT OF LIFE



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 4th place overall in fundraising out of all the Pittsburgh Marathon Charities in 2015! The races are the weekend of April 30th – May 1st. Register at [www.crowdrise.com/lightoflifepittsburgh2016](http://www.crowdrise.com/lightoflifepittsburgh2016). If you have questions, contact Doug at [dougsmith@lightoflife.org](mailto:dougsmith@lightoflife.org) or 412-803-4161.



### 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.

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