

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

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Clockwise from top left: Tim enjoys a Pirate's game, one of the six that churches are hosting; women at their spiritual retreat; Tunch and Wolf's Walk for the Homeless crowd; children posing with princesses at the Walk; Team Light of Life on Marathon morning.

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Food. Shelter. Hope.

David's Story

One thing David S. wants you to know is that addiction can happen to anyone at any time in his or her life. David did not use drugs for the first time until he was 30-years-old. He ended up around people who were using and thought he would try it without getting hooked. His friend begged him not to do it, but he did and quickly became addicted.

Over the years, David had periods of clean time and periods of using, with his worst and final time starting in 2007. After receiving some bad news from his family, David isolated from the world. "I picked up using again and that really took me down," David said. "Mentally I was gone, spiritually I was gone."

David sometimes used Light of Life's emergency shelter and he ate at the Mission hundreds of times. "I got to know [Light of Life chef] Hutch," said David. "He would always try and convince me to come into the program."

On a cold, winter day in February 2012, after 5 years of being homeless, David did come into Light of Life for the long-term Men's Residential Program. "I didn't have anything when I walked through the doors of Light of Life," said David. "When I came here, I just said that it is over."



David S. with his certificate.

"Once I got my brain back to normal functioning, I started testing myself in math and reading," said David. "I thought I could go back to school to do what I always wanted to do—to be a chef." And that is exactly what David did! He recently completed the Culinary Arts Program program at Bidwell, which meant completing 1,500 hours of classes such as basic cooking, how to cook ala carte and much more. He was recently approved for permanent housing and is doing what he loves as a banquet chef.

"I would probably be dead if it wasn't for this program," said David. He really benefited from having the time and space to heal at Light of Life.

“If it wasn't for you with it on your hearts to give and volunteer and help people, I don't know where I would be today.”

– David S., Men's Program Graduate

David formed relationships with the staff and was nurtured through some very difficult times. Classes about the Bible, prayer, and counseling at Light of Life were what made the biggest difference to David, especially early on. "It took about 7 months in the program to reach a turning point," said David. "I didn't think I was mentally in shape to finish the program. But the ministry part of the program is what heals you. Christ heals you."

David has one more thing he wants you to know: "If it wasn't for you with it on your hearts to give and volunteer and help people, I don't know where I would be today. I could never thank you and the staff enough because of how my life has been turned around in this program. It's like a dream."

Thank you so much for caring and supporting Light of Life. When you donate, volunteer and pray for the programs, you make a difference for people like David. To learn more about our long-term programs, visit www.lightoflife.org.



Light of Life an Official Charity for Marathon

This was Light of Life's second year as an official charity for the Pittsburgh Marathon. The weekend of May 1-2, we had 109 people running for Light of Life and together raised \$90,397! Our team finished 2nd place over all out of all of the Pittsburgh Marathon Charities. Thank you so much to everyone who ran

and supported runners for Light of Life. You all made a difference for the Mission. If you are thinking about running the 5k, relay, half-marathon or full-marathon next year, please consider running for Team Light of Life! Contact Doug at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161 if you have questions or would like more information about getting involved.



Women and Men's Camps

Every winter, the men and women in Light of Life's long-term program take a retreat to have a chance to get away from the everyday distractions and focus on God and personal growth.



Women at camp retreat pray.

The weekend of Feb. 21-22 women went to Crestfield. The theme of their retreat was "How Does Your Garden Grow? You Reap What You Sow." The women were asked to leave their phones and technology at home for the weekend and although many women thought that would be really hard, they ended up really enjoying spending undistracted time together and had a lot of time to spend with God. "Not too many people in the world get the opportunity to sit with God and amazing women, letting go of shame and guilt that have

kept me bonded," said Hallie, a woman in the program. "Besides how going on the retreat made me feel, it also helped me understand more the importance of reading the Word and putting in my time with God when I'm not on a retreat."

The men went to Pine Valley Camp the weekend of March 28-29 to focus on building a solid foundation. Various staff members talked about people in the Bible like Lot, Samson, Solomon, Judas and David to help the men identify cracks in their foundation. "We used characters and what happened to them, the different issues in their lives, and what caused them to fail," said Pastor Harvey Hall, the staff member who spear-headed the retreat. "The response was good. The men recognized some of those issues in themselves. We talked one-on-one and around the fire-place." One of the men accepted Christ as his Savior during the retreat. "I was praying on a bridge that is out there and I went back to the cabin," said Donald, a man in the program. "That night I went outside at 3 in the morning and it was peaceful, even though it was cold and snow was

everywhere. I realized that God was right there and I told him I would follow him. My attitude has change toward God."

These peaceful camp weekend retreats happen because of you and your generous donations. Thank you for providing these special opportunities for the men and women at Light of Life!

You showed me you love me and I knew it was true
It overwhelmed and scared me and I ran away from you.

Not quite understanding all the plans you had for me
Not knowing all the beauty there was left for me to see.

So I swallowed my pride and came right back to the start
You started at my soul and filled up my whole heart.

Although days aren't all great, I still stumble and fall
You pick me back up, Lord, and make good of it all.

Please remind me always that it's you I need
My testimony is now a mountain of faith that came from one little seed.

Written by
Barb, Women & Children's Program

Spring Open House



On Saturday, March 21, we held our annual Spring Open House. Clients and staff led tours of the Mission on North Avenue, our Western avenue location including the Women & Children's Program areas, and the Ridge Avenue building. It was a wonderful day and we would like to thank everyone who was able to join us for the day.

If you were not able to come to the open house but would like a tour of the Mission, please contact Kate at 412-803-4138 or kwadsworth@lightoflife.org.



Girl Scouts from Troop 51337 donate profits from their cookie sales to Light of Life.

What is something you learned at Light of Life that means a lot to you?



"The things I've learned at Light of Life are the most important and priceless values I apply in my life. First and foremost, learning to have a relationship with God. I've learned I can be completely honest and trust others today. I've learned to be accountable and to have structure. I have learned I can be loved and love others. Light of Life has become a safe place to call home."

–Casey, Women & Children's Program

"I learned that a lot of love, support and hope [have been given] through the ladies at Light of Life. The Light of Life has saved my life."

–Theresa, Women & Children's Program



"I have learned what it means to build a relationship with my adult sons since being in this program. I have built such a wonderful relationship. I have learned how to ask for forgiveness. This has meant the world to me."

–Karen, Women & Children's Program



"That I can stand on my own two feet finding strength in prayer."

–Tracy, Women & Children's Program



"I found out who and what God means to me. I found out he NEVER left me. I gave up on him. I was so mad at him for taking my mom from me, but I found out that it's a part of life and she's in a better place. And I'll never be alone just as long as I got him in my life. And it's all because of the Light of Life and everyone that works there and all the girls. There are people out there that care. I love you all."

–Gretchen, Women & Children's Program



"I have learned so much at the Light of Life. I have learned that having a relationship with God is very important. Having God in my life I can get through anything. I also learned I am not the only one in my situation and I am not alone. There is always hope."

–Desiree, Women & Children's Program



"I learned how to pray and to grow stronger in my faith and my walk with the Lord."

–Ashley, Women & Children's Program

"I now have accountability that I never had before. I now have a wonderful 'we' that I truly care about and I know they care about. They will always be a part of my life."

–Jen, Women & Children's Program

[She chose not to have her photo taken]

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TUNCH & WOLF'S WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you for being a part of the 13th annual Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless, whether you supported by walking, volunteering or donating!



This year the walk was outdoors at the Great Lawn and we had a beautiful, sunny day spent together raising awareness about poverty and homelessness as well as the Christ-centered services offered at Light of Life. Around 800 people came out to show their support at the walk.

You helped raise a record-breaking \$120,000 through the walk this year!

This is the highest amount we raised at the walk yet and we really appreciate your support. These are dollars that will go toward meals, shelter and supportive services at Light of Life. Hungry people will eat, homeless people will be sheltered, and people on the brink of hopelessness will encounter hope, kindness and support because of YOU!

In addition to delicious food from Pittsburgh BBQ Company, our kitchen staff and volunteers flipped burgers and hot dogs donated by The Post Office Deli. DJ Chuck 412 provided music while many businesses and groups set up tables and tents with fun, family-friendly activities. We hope to see you next year (bring a friend!) and we will keep setting records to help the Mission!

A special thank you to the following sponsors:

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Locker Room Leadership Award

Former Steelers and current sports broadcasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley presented the 5th annual Locker Room Leadership Awards on behalf of Light of Life Rescue Mission on May 1st in Market Square.

The three honorees that were honored with an award were: Aimee, a 10-year-old who raised \$1,404 for Light of Life;



L to R: Tunch Ilkin, Tom McGough, Aimee Keeley, Kimberly Heller, and Craig Wolfley.

Kimberly Heller, a dedicated Light of Life volunteer; and Tom McGough, General Manager of Pittsburgh's Faith & Family Channel and a weekly volunteer at Light of Life for 26 years.

The Locker Room Leadership Awards are given annually to local community members who go above and beyond to serve the homeless.

Easter Recap

Light of Life is a place where we believe Christ changes lives, so Easter is a wonderful time of celebration at the Mission.

On April 3, we held our annual Easter Outreach. In addition to the delicious meals served during extended hours at the Mission, volunteers delivered hot dinners to 15 local high-rise towers and women in the program were given hams to prepare for their families. The meals prepared by the Mission included spiced applesauce, a choice of pineapple glazed ham or fish with tartar sauce, au gratin potatoes, buttered peas, rolls and assorted pies. In total, over 1,200 meals were given through this outreach!

We also had the gospel message being shared throughout the day. One man who stopped by for dinner let us know how impactful Light of Life has been in his life. "I heard the gospel here for the first time when I was 4," said Jim, a meal guest. "I've been hearing the gospel in this place ever since I was a kid."

Thank you for helping provide a place for people to come and celebrate family holidays like Easter!



Light of Life guest enjoys dessert at Easter meal.



Saturday, August 16, 2014
North Park Boathouse

Registration at 8 a.m.

Race at 9 a.m.

Celebrate the 'Burgh!

Grab yer Terrible Tahls, sammitches and worsh rags and dress in yer oldest Still City uhtire aht'll represent da 'Burgh best to you. From yer black n' gold gear to showin' ahf yer favrit Picksburgh landmark, n'at.

Whether you're from Scroll Hill, Dahntahn or da Sah Sahd, get ahtside and join us for the Yinzer 5k!

**SO GET OUT YOUR BEST
PITTSBURGH GEAR AND
JOIN THE FUN!**

Register at XXXX

Pre-registration cost is \$25 per runner.

Day-of registration will be available beginning at 8am on Saturday and will cost \$35 per runner.

Questions? Contact Bri at
bfeindt@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4160

Upcoming Events

▶ **June 11th – 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.

▶ **June 24th – 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.

▶ **July 23rd – Day of Hope Picnic from 12-6 p.m. at West Park across from the Mission.** Join us for a day of service projects, free food, Christian music, stories about how God is changing lives, and access to various community resources.

▶ **August 8th – Yinzer 5k at North Park. Registration is at 8 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m.** Visit www.lightoflife.org for more information and to pre-register.

LIGHT of LIFE rescue mission

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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