

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

SUMMER 2014



Clockwise from top left: 3 of the men who graduated from the Men's Residential Program on June 12th; Gardens planted and tended by men in our program flourish; Runners raised money for Light of Life at the Pittsburgh Marathon; Women and children took meaningful field trips this summer; Tunch and Wolf enjoyed time at the Walk on May 24th.

► IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 2 Taunia's Story | 4 Q & A |
| 2 Annual More Than a Meal Gala | 5 Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless |
| 3 Day of Hope Picnic | 5 Pittsburgh Marathon |
| 3 Partnership Provides Lunches | 6 Graduation |
| 3 Summer Fun Builds Family Bonds | |

LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission

Life sustaining. Life changing.

Taunia's Story

When you're constantly told you're not smart enough, you'll never amount to anything and you'll always be a drug addict, you start to believe it. That's the message that Taunia, Light of Life graduate and current staff member, heard for years from a few people close to her. "They always called me dumb," said Taunia.



After years of being in the cycle of addiction and homelessness, Taunia came to Light of Life for help. She found a safe environment where she worked on recovery, learned about a relationship with Christ and found hope. As she began to think about her options for the future, Taunia met with someone outside Light of Life and was given the message she had been given for years. "She said that I wasn't college material," said Taunia. "She told me I was to go and make widgets."

“I wasn't doing well in class before...but Light of Life believed in me and my education. My tutoring was awesome, and I just excelled from there!”

— Taunia, Women's Program Graduate and Staff Member

That didn't stop Taunia from finding another way. Through her time at Light of Life, Taunia learned how to respond to challenges in a healthy and positive way. She began to receive tutoring from a Light of Life volunteer for a class she was already enrolled in at a community college. "I wasn't doing well in class before... but Light of Life believed in me and my

education," said Taunia. "My tutoring was awesome, and I just excelled from there!"

Not only did Taunia excel, but she went from people telling her she wasn't cut out for college to making the Dean's List! She received her certificate in drug and alcohol counseling, started working in the Women & Children's Program at Light of Life, and is continuing her education to receive an associate's degree in social work. Today

Taunia teaches other women at Light of Life the same lessons she learned – that they are worthy, capable women who, with some helpful encouragement, can reach goals they once thought were out of reach.

Thank you for all of the ways you encourage the men, women and children at Light of Life who are pursuing education or career training. Your donations, time volunteering, prayers and words of encouragement make a difference. If you would like to get involved today by volunteering or making a financial donation, please visit www.lightoflife.org.



Join us for our annual More Than a Meal Gala & Fundraiser!

This will be a wonderful evening hosted by former Steelers and current sports broadcasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley.

Save the date and plan to come hear how Light of Life provides more than a meal to Pittsburgh's poor and homeless. The evening will include a delicious dinner, a silent auction and stories of how lives have been changed at Light of Life.

When: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 6 p.m.

**Where: Hyundai Club West Lounge at Heinz Field Press Gate Entrance,
across from Carnegie Science Center**

Emcees: Tunch Ilkin & Craig Wolfley

Tickets: \$125 per person, a table of 8 is \$1,000, a table of 10 is \$1,250

Contact Leah at lroberts@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6163 to RSVP. Parking is available in the Carnegie Science Center parking lot. Cost of parking is \$7 per car.

For information about business sponsorships or buying a table for this event, please contact Doug Smith at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or at 412-803-4161. For information on getting your small group involved in making a silent auction basket, contact Leah at lroberts@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6163. All proceeds benefit Light of Life Rescue Mission.

Day of Hope Picnic

On Thursday, July 24th we held our annual Day of Hope Picnic in West Park across from the Mission.



Volunteers ready for action at the Day of Hope and CAP Picnic

This year we partnered with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's Community Action Project and Urban Impact Foundation for what was an incredible day. There was free food, children's activities, live music and entertainment, and stories of how Christ has changed lives. **More than 1,745 meals were served and over 40 community agencies were available to connect with community members who had need for their services!**

Volunteers were an important part of the day. Over 150 volunteers did service projects throughout the North Side, including:

- Handing out clothing
- Delivering flowers to neighbors all over the North Side to brighten their day
- Painting and repairing several buildings on East Ohio Street
- Praying with people who came to the prayer tent
- Entertaining through music and performing arts

- Serving food to everyone who came
- Setting up and cleaning up

This event helped to promote the Three Rivers Festival of Hope with Franklin Graham August 15-17 at the CONSOL Energy Center.

Your help at the Day of Hope Picnic allowed us to share the message of hope with so many people – thank you for caring!

Joining Together to Provide Meals for Children Involved with UIF

During the 2013-2014 school year, Light of Life had the opportunity to partner with Urban Impact Foundation (UIF), a non-profit working with children on the North Side. UIF organizes programming for at-risk youth, with a lot of the programs taking place after school. Thanks to a donation from Pittsburgh Children's Foundation and other generous donors, we were able to provide meals to the children involved with UIF!



Photo courtesy of Urban Impact Foundation

"Children and volunteers alike expressed that the quality of food we received from Light of Life was excellent," said UIF Director of Performing Arts, Tammy Glover. "Whenever we would say Light of Life was providing the evening's food, volunteers would give a sigh of relief knowing that

there would be plenty of food for all the children and that it would be delicious."

As children all across Pittsburgh get ready to start the school year, please remember those who don't always know where their next meal is coming from in your prayers.

Thanks to your support, Light of Life offers breakfast and dinner at the Mission to anyone in need 365 days a year. If you would like to make a donation to Light of Life, please visit www.lightoflife.org/give or mail your donation to Light of Life Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 6823, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.



Summer Fun Builds Family Bonds

The summer is a time when women and children in our program go on family outings together in order to help strengthen family

relationships. All activities are designed to bring the mothers and children opportunities to heal, grow and have positive experiences together in a healthy, safe environment. This summer, trips

included kayaking, a day at Raccoon State Park, Pirates baseball games, the Ducky Tour (featured on the front cover), and much more. Your support helps make important trips like these possible!

How has your life changed since coming to Light of Life?



"I think coming to Light of Life saved my life. If I had not come here I may not have survived the heart attack I had in March. God gave me a second chance. He has something for me. I think I can find what He wants me to do by being here."

– Gary S., Men's Residential Program

"I was tired of living in the streets and eating from dumpsters. God and the Light of Life has given me a second chance at life. It's time to live and be free from addiction."

– Jody Y., Men's Residential Program



"My life has changed since coming to Light of Life by showing me that my past is just that – my past. I don't have to live in it anymore. I can now focus on my present journey. The Lord paid a high price for me with the death of His Son, so now I never have to look back on the past. He has forgotten about it, so now I can, too. Light of Life has also showed me my assests and how I can use them in a positive way. How I can use them to be of better service to others. I am called to be a servant and the good things I have learned about myself will help me in that walk to be a Christ-like servant."

– Chris S., Men's Residential Program

"The biggest change in my life has been hope and opportunity. Every day when I wake up, my life is no longer hopeless and bleak-looking. I now look forward to each new day."

– Kris S., Men's Residential Program



"I've let God come back into my life. I'm more honest about how my thoughts and actions affect myself and others. Through the Holy Spirit I'm seeking guidance from God to be the man He wants me to be."

– Brendan M., Men's Residential Program

LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission

TUNCH & WOLF'S WALK FOR THE HOMELESS



From L to R: Howard Mincone entertained the crowd; friends come together for a good cause and lots of fun.

The 12th annual Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless was held on Saturday, May 24th at Heinz Field. Your generous walk donations helped us raise over \$100,000 for the 3rd year in a row that will go toward meeting the needs of the poor, addicted, homeless and abused. We are so thankful for your support!

In addition to delicious food from the Pittsburgh BBQ Company and The Post Office Deli, there was plenty of family fun with a photo booth from Clicks for a Cause, entertainment by performer Howard Mincone, music by Pittsburgh East Entertainment, and much more. We are thankful for all of the walkers, volunteers and sponsors who helped make this day such a success. We hope you will join us next year!

A special thank you to the following sponsors:

Title Sponsor

– Pittsburgh Kids Foundation

Touchdown Level

– Brady's Run Veterinary Hospital
– Fat Head's Saloon

End Zone Level

– AT&T
– Alcoa Alcoans in Motion
– Colussy Chevrolet
– Foster Family Foundation
– Sun Chevrolet
– UPMC Health Plan

Fan Club Level

– Federal Home Loan Bank
– Geno Levi Salon
– Interim HealthCare of Pittsburgh
– K & L Gates
– Management Science Associates
– Marjorie Peters Court Reporting
– Marketing Support Network
– PGT Trucking
– ReMax, Mark Ratti
– Swimming Pool Discounters

Pittsburgh Marathon

After a successful first year as a contributing charity for the Pittsburgh Marathon in 2013, Light of Life became an official charity for the first time this year. Seventy-six people ran for our team and together raised over \$76,270 for Light of Life! Our team finished in 7th place overall out of all of the Pittsburgh Marathon Charities. A huge thank you to everyone who ran for us and for those of you who supported our runners. If you are going to run the 2015 Pittsburgh Marathon, consider running for Light of Life's team!



Graduation



A few of the graduates and staff celebrate together.

On Thursday, June 12th, a celebration was held for 5 men and 1 woman who graduated from Light of Life's long-term program. The Men's Residential Program and Women & Children's Program both last 9-18 months and the men and women work on recovery, healing, and accomplishing goals for independent living when they leave.

“The amazing thing about God is that every single day I learned new things about myself...”

– Nate, Men's Residential Program Graduate

“When I first came to Light of Life, I was very sheltered and closed off,” said Nate, a June 2014 graduate. “But God gave me a chance, even though I was looking for love and my identity in all the wrong places. I didn't have any hope, no drive or ambition... The amazing thing about God is that every single day I learned new things about myself...”

Because of what these men and women learned about themselves and God while at Light of Life, they have hope today. Please pray for all of Light of Life's graduates as they continue to work on recovery, reach their goals and grow in their relationship with Christ.

Day of Giving Results

Thank you so much for your generosity during The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving on May 6th. You donated \$72,210 before the Pittsburgh Foundation's match, with a total of over \$82,000 donated to Light of Life after

the match! Because of your support, Light of Life finished in 6th place for amount raised out of 816 organizations. Your donation supports critical services for Pittsburgh's poor, homeless, addicted and abused. We are so thankful for 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

- ▶ **August 16th – Yinzer 5k at North Park.** Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the run starts at 9 a.m. Learn more at www.lightoflife.org/yinzer5k. Proceeds benefit Light of Life.
- ▶ **September 18th – Volunteer Appreciation Event** at Bistro To Go beginning at 6 p.m. Please contact Bri at 412-803-4160 or bfeindt@lightoflife.org for more information.
- ▶ **October 4th – Light of Life Open House from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Stop by the Mission located at 10 E. North Avenue to get a tour of our buildings and learn more about all of the programs offered at Light of Life.
- ▶ **October 21st – More Than a Meal Gala at the Hyundai Club West Lounge at Heinz Field.** Join us at 6 p.m. for a delicious dinner, silent auction and inspirational stories of lives changed. Tickets are \$125 per person. Contact Leah at 412-258-6163 or lroberts@lightoflife.org if you are interested in attending.
- ▶ **November 27th – 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.

Working Towards a Goal



Jason is in the Men's Residential Program and is currently in school to become a medical assistant. He is pictured here studying for an exam.

Please pray for all of the clients in Light of Life's programs as they work toward education and employment goals.