

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

SUMMER 2016



Clockwise from top left: Two men from the Mission getting baptized at Moraine State Park by Pastor Harvey; Jackie Cain, Celina Pompeani, and Jim Krenn at the Yinzer 5K benefiting Light of Life; a sunflower from our garden adding beauty to the Mission; Chefs Hutch and Cory are two of the people who prepared over 109,000 for the community from January-June; Students from Allegheny Center Alliance Church's Young Professional Mentoring Program spending the day learning about Light of Life and volunteering in the neighborhood; The South Hills Bible Chapel team at Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless raises the most money and forms the biggest team.

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LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission
 Food. Shelter. Hope.

ANTHONY'S STORY

It is never too late to follow your dreams! After putting seven of his eight children through college and celebrating sobriety since December 31, 2014, Anthony is going to college for the first time this fall. "Now it's my turn," said Anthony.



Anthony, Men's Residential Program

When Anthony first came into the program, he was a little unsure of what to expect at Light of Life. He eventually realized this was a place where he could thrive. "The program is different than anything else I've ever been in," said Anthony. "I wanted to give myself a chance and build a better relationship with not just myself, but with God."

Anthony did just that. In February, Anthony accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized by Light of Life's chaplain, Pastor Harvey Hall. Shortly after that, Anthony began working on getting into school. "I studied with my tutor and brought my math

skills up," said Anthony. "I did really well on the assessment test. I'm working on my dreams. Light of Life gave me the time to get my life back."

"I want to thank Light of Life for opening the doors for me and I give all my thanks to God," said Anthony.

We are all so grateful for your investment in the men, women and children at Light of Life. Because you tutor, donate financially, and pray, lives like Anthony's are changed.

Anthony is planning to spend the next year getting his education for drug and alcohol counseling so he can give back all that's been given to him. If you think of him, Anthony said, "Wish me luck and say a little prayer."

THANK YOU FROM THE TAYLOR FAMILY

On July 25, 2016, a tragedy struck the family of a Light of Life graduate. There was a house fire at around 10 a.m. in the home of Jennifer, a Women & Children Program graduate, and while she and two of her children escaped, her two middle boys were lost in the fire.

As you can imagine, this is been devastating to the family, to the staff, and to the other women and children in the program who know and love the family. In addition to their grief, the family didn't

know how they would pay for the funeral of their two precious boys, let alone how they were going to start to rebuild a new home after losing everything in the fire. But you stepped up and showed love, kindness and compassion beyond what we could imagine.



In less than 2 weeks, over \$26,000 was donated to go directly to meeting the needs of the family. You made food for the funeral

luncheon, you volunteered to serve at the luncheon, Bistro-to-Go donated side dishes, and K.S. Kennedy offered help with flowers. Your prayers and kind words spoke right to the heart of the family.

Jennifer wrote a note to tell you in her own words what this meant the family:

"On behalf of myself and family I would like to say that we are amazed and blessed by everyone's outpouring of love. I hope in some way our children have touched your lives in some small way. In all this tragedy I thank you for letting us see and feel God's love through each of you. Your thoughts, prayers, love, and financial support has been overwhelming. There are not enough words to express our gratitude."

– Sincerely the Taylor Family

We thank God for your provision. Please keep the Taylors and all who love them in your prayers as God continues to meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. May God bless you for your generous response to the Taylor family. We couldn't do this without you.

June 30th marks the halfway point of 2016, and by this date Light of Life served 109,058 meals! This is close to 30,000 more than last year. God has truly blessed us with your faithful support, without which we couldn't do what we do. Because of God's provision through donors like you, we are able to provide meals to people in our community who are hungry and hurting. Thank you for your generosity – it helps change lives!

**109,058
MEALS!**





You are invited to our annual More Than a Meal Gala & Fundraiser!

Join us for this wonderful evening hosted by former Steelers and current sports broadcasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley.

When you come to the gala, you will hear how Light of Life provides more than a meal to Pittsburgh's poor and homeless. The evening will include a delicious dinner, silent and live auctions, and stories of how lives have been changed at Light of Life.

When: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Where: Hyundai Club West Lounge at Heinz Field Press Gate Entrance, across from the Carnegie Science Center Parking is available in the Carnegie Science Center parking lot. Cost \$7 per car.

Emcees: Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley

Registration: \$125 per person, a table of 8 is \$1,000, a table of 10 is \$1,250. For all registration questions or to sign up online, visit www.lightoflife.org/gala or contact Melanie at 412-258-6183 or mholcombe@lightoflife.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities: For information about business sponsorships, please contact Doug at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161.

Silent Auction Donations: For information on getting a group of friends or your church small group together to put together a silent auction basket, please contact Maggie at mjohnson@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4160.

All proceeds benefit Light of Life Rescue Mission.



Light of Life Rescue Mission is an official charity of the Pittsburgh Marathon. That means you can choose to run any of the Pittsburgh Marathon races for Light of Life and we will pay your registration fee. In return, you commit to raising money for Light of Life

Our goal this year is to recruit 150 runners and raise over \$150,000. Help us make this dream a reality!

For more information about fundraising minimums and all you get for running for Light of Life, visit www.lightoflife.org/marathon.

BAPTISM



Kenny, Men's Residential Program graduate

On June 25th, two men were baptized at Moraine State Park by Light of Life's chaplain Pastor Harvey Hall. Anthony, who is currently in the Men's Residential Program, and Kenny, a graduate of Light of Life, both decided to take this step in their journey of faith. Kenny said that being baptized helped him because he was "getting closer to Jesus."

Thank you so much for your prayers, donations, and time volunteering at Light of Life. You make an impact through your generosity so we can celebrate milestones such as these baptisms!

LIGHT OF LIFE'S GARDEN

If you came by the Mission this summer, you couldn't help but notice the beautiful vegetable and herb garden growing in the lot next door. The garden was planted and tended by a few men in our Men's Residential Program, but was primarily headed up by one man named Jason. There were green beans, squash, and plenty of herbs that were used in the Mission's kitchen to add a level of fresh and locally grown flavor to the meals.

The garden was featured on Pittsburgh Today Live with Chef Cory Miller cooking up a pasta bar using fresh herbs from the garden. The pasta bar is a meal Cory often makes for the men in our program and features Bolognese sauce, pesto, alfredo sauce and a vegetable sauté. The men choose their toppings, Cory mixes it together and then each man enjoys his unique meal. "I find it really special when we get to put fresh vegetables into their food," said Cory. "Getting fresh, vibrant stuff is awesome!"

To view Chef Cory and the garden on Pittsburgh Today Live, visit our Facebook page and click on the video to see it in its entirety.

CHEF CORY'S PESTO SAUCE

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 2 cups basil leaves | ¼ cup grated Parmesan |
| 1 cup parsley leaves | ¾ cups extra virgin olive oil |
| 2 cloves garlic | Salt and pepper |
| ¼ cup Pine nuts (Cory uses whatever is available at the Mission, often times substituting for walnuts) | |

Directions: Add basil, parsley, garlic, pine nuts, and olive oil to a food processor and puree until all items are finely minced. Pulse contents while slowly adding the Parmesan. Season with salt and pepper.

WHAT DID THIS SUMMER AT LIGHT OF LIFE MEAN TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

The Women & Children's Program is intentional about making positive family memories. The summer time provides many opportunities for family fun since the children are not in school. From going to Kennywood to picnics in the park, the families in our program were strengthened. We asked them, "What did this summer at Light of Life mean to you and your family?" Here are their answers!



"We were able to make some fantastic memories that I know my children will remember. The gospel concert with my daughter was just an awesome sight to behold, with all the special effects!...The kids and I had fun

in the lake [at Raccoon Park], which they had never been before. They just blossomed! They were able to use a tandem canoe and really enjoyed that. This was a summer they will never forget and I'm so glad for Light of Life and the many opportunities my family has been able to experience."

– Marion, Women & Children's Program



"To find the accurate words to express the magnitude of what Light of Life has done for me is difficult. This program has awakened my soul and has provided a purpose to live again, which I struggled to find at the start of this journey. It has

sparked a sense of motivation to reflect on who I am, the issues I face, the changes that are needed, and the support to do it. I am building friendships with other amazing women who have taught me to laugh again, who inspire me on a daily basis, and show me unmeasurable strength. It has given me a safe environment to open up and dig deep through the pain that has plagued my life, thus ensuring a clean start and transformation to the woman and mother I know I am. I have created unforgettable magical memories with my sons that I can relive and cherish for a lifetime. Thank you Light of Life for loving me."

– Clarissa, Women & Children's Program



"We did summer devotions and it gave us something to talk about at dinner time."

– Kelly, Women & Children's Program



"This summer at Light of Life was one of the best summers I've ever had. It brought my family closer together. Without this program, I wouldn't have been able to do half of the fun family activities. It also brought

me closer with the amazing females in this program. I haven't had a sober friendship ever and my kids have made great friends here...This program was such a blessing from God because He knew just how bad I needed the family bond as well as my sons. I have so much gratitude because of Light of Life. Thank you!"

– Stephanie, Women & Children's Program



"It gave me a summer full of memories with my son. He will be 3-years-old, so it meant a lot to me to see his reactions to his first time at the beach, at the pool, first time camping and going to Idlewild. Our bond grew stronger and I learned

a lot about him. God has really blessed us this summer. Thank you very much for everything you do for us. It is greatly appreciated."

– Cristy, Women & Children's Program

There are so many of you who make these outings a reality for the moms and children! Thank you so much for loving these families. Generations are being impacted and we appreciate your support in making these outings possible!



YINZER 5K RECAP



The 4th annual Yinzer 5k, a race geared toward celebrating the 'Burgh and raising funds for Light of Life, was held on August 6th at North Park.

Emceed by Pittsburgh's own comic and radio personality Jim Krenn, runners were encouraged to dress up in ways that represented Pittsburgh to them – anything from black and gold to representing their favorite Pittsburgh landmark.

Appearing for the first time this year, the Pittsburgh Pedaler was cycled around by emcee Jim Krenn; WTAE's Jackie Cain and Ryan Recker; Pens TV host Celina Pompeani; YaJagoff Podcast; and Pittsburgh Podcast Network. Turner Dairy Black & Gold Tea Lemonade was served on the Pedaler and to runners.

A Pittsburgh-themed photo booth was set up and after the race barbecued Islay's chip-chopped ham sandwiches, pirogies, and Eat 'n Park smiley cookies were available. DJ Chick 412 provided all the best Pittsburgh tunes. Over \$6,000 was raised and 135 runners came out with prizes given to top runners and the best-dressed Pittsburgher.

Thank you to the Yinzer 5K sponsors Swimming Pool Discounters and Trib Total Media. Start thinking about your Pittsburgh costumes, grab your terrible towels and join us next year for the Yinzer 5k!

On Saturday, June 11th, we held our 14th Annual Tunch and Wolf's Walk for the Homeless. Over 900 walkers came out to the The Great Hall at Heinz Field and you helped us raise over \$100,000! The proceeds support the Christ-centered services offered to men, women and children at Light of Life.

We had beautiful weather to walk along the North Shore Trails, a great lunch provided by Pittsburgh BBQ, music provided by DJ Chuck 412 and lots of fun together. Make sure to join us next year and bring a friend!

A special thank you to our sponsors:

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DAY OF HOPE PICNIC

On Thursday, July 21, we had our Day of Hope Picnic in West Park. This event brings together the North Side community to celebrate the hope we have in Christ. Here is a recap of the day:

Community Cookout – We served 925 meals to those in need in our community! Our staff and volunteers made hot dogs and hamburgers as well as macaroni salad and fresh watermelon.

Community Clean-up – One of our goals is to be a great community partner. One way we do this is through our Community clean-up initiative. For the Day of Hope we had volunteers cleaning the streets of the North Side all day.

Community Resources – We also had over 40 agencies and numerous volunteers that helped us provide information

and services to those in need. Some of these services included free vision tests, a prayer and bible tent, and a donation area giving out clothing.

Hope – In addition to meals and services, we had live worship and testimonies throughout the day. Speakers and musicians from ACAC, h2o Church, Urban Impact and City Reach came to share the message of hope and good news we have in Jesus.

Thank you to our sponsors: Highmark, Wilke and Associates, Geno-Levi Salon, and Swimming Pool Discounters for your continued support to our mission. It was an amazing day and we appreciate all you do to support events like this one!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 8th & 21st/October 4th & 20th, November 1st, 17th & 30th, December 18th & 19th – Volunteer Orientations.** 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.
- **October 18th – More Than a Meal Fundraiser & Gala at the Hyundai Club West Lounge at Heinz Field.** Join us at 6 p.m. for a delicious dinner, silent and live auctions, and inspirational stories of lives changed. Tickets are \$125 per person. Visit www.lightoflife.org/gala to register or for more information.
- **October 31st – Trunk or Treat from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Volunteers decorate their cars and provide a safe alternative for children on the North Side to have a fun evening. **NEEDED:** Candy, hotdogs, and hot chocolate. We are also looking for volunteers to commit to being at Trunk-or-Treat with a decorated car to pass out candy. Please contact Emily at erabatin@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6128 for information and to sign up to help!
- **November 12th – ALIVE Event put on by the Northside Homeless Alliance.** **NEEDED:** Warm winter clothing such as sweaters, jeans, coats, winter accessories, etc. and volunteers to help on the day of the event. Please contact Emily at erabatin@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6128 for information.
- **November 24th – The Great Thanksgiving Banquet at the Mission.** 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 between 1-6 p.m. We are looking for volunteers for the entire day starting at 5 a.m. Please contact Emily at erabatin@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6128 to get involved.

NEEDED ITEMS

With the cold weather quickly approaching, we are currently accepting the following donations:

- Socks
- Underwear large and up
- T-shirts large and up
- Gloves
- Hats
- New or used coats

We are also accepting backpacks filled with school items throughout the fall so we can give one to every new child in our Women & Children’s Program throughout the year.

For elementary and middle school students:

- #2 pencils
- Erasers
- Box of 24 crayons
- Stickers (all sizes and shapes)
- 30 centimeter ruler
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Spiral notebooks & pocket folders

For high school students:

- Pocket folders & spiral notebooks
- Note cards
- 3-ring binder & loose leaf paper
- Solar-powered pocket calculator
- #2 pencils and erasers
- Fine tip magic markers,
- Ink pens and colored pencils

Please contact Emily at erabatin@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6128 to arrange a drop-off time.

Thank you so much for your generosity with these needed items. Being able to give the men, women and children who come to us for help these new items shows them there are people who care just when they might think they are forgotten. We love and appreciate you!

THANKS TO OUR INTERNS



Interns, L to R Lydia Schweiger, Ben Schweiger, Brady Figuly, Andrew Schilffarth, Allie Olson. Mission from photo is Taylor Irwin.

Thank you to our summer interns! Each intern added so much to our community this summer and we wish them well as they continue on their next steps.

If you know any college students interested in doing a summer internship with Light of Life next year, please contact Britaini Watterson at bwatterson@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6131.



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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