

Thank You!

We are so thankful for the many businesses who generously donate to Light of Life and want to recognize the top business supporters of 2013:

- **Pittsburgh Kids Foundation**
- **Oxford Solutions**
- **Geno Levi Salon**

Every business donation makes a difference! If you would like to learn more about organizational giving and business sponsorship opportunities, please contact Doug at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161.

Boys Soccer State Champions Raise Money and Give Food to Help Homeless

On Saturday, December 14, 2013, members of the Upper St. Clair Boys Soccer Team made and delivered bagged lunches to Light of Life Rescue Mission. The USC Boys Soccer Boosters also gave a check for \$20,000 to the Mission. At the beginning of the soccer season, the soccer players asked friends and family members to pledge money for each goal scored during the regular season. Half of the money raised went to the USC Boys Soccer Boosters and half went to Light of Life Rescue Mission. The USC Boys

Soccer team scored a record number of goals during regular season and went on to win the PIAA Class AAA championship for the second year in a row.

We are grateful for all the ways students support the critical work at Light of Life Rescue Mission! If your school, club, church or office is interested in coordinating a fundraiser for Light of Life, please contact Kate at 412-803-4138 or kwadsworth@lightoflife.org.

Helping the Homeless During the Bitter Cold Winter

Light of Life provides emergency shelter for homeless men every day of the year. In 2013, Light of Life provided over 11,000 nights of emergency shelter! On extremely cold days like we had in January, the shelter can literally be life-saving. With wind chills down into the -30's, Pittsburgh's homeless faced serious danger of frostbite or hypothermia. Light of Life's emergency shelter was at or near capacity during the recent cold weather and we were able to provide shelter and safety to those in need. In addition to a safe place to sleep, men received a hot meal, a shower, chapel services and the opportunity to receive case management. Additionally, we gave out winter hats, coats, socks, hand-warmers and more throughout the day at the Mission and kept the heated waiting area open



Men in our heated waiting area.

when needed. These critical services are available because of the generous support of people like you!

Get Involved – Volunteer

Professional food photographer and Light of Life volunteer Michael Ray spent an afternoon taking Christmas portraits of the men in our residential program.

You can volunteer to use your skills and talents at Light of Life! Sign up for a volunteer orientation at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab. Upcoming volunteer orientation dates are: February 10, February 27, and March 11.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Bri at bfeindt@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4160.



Photographer Michael Ray

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.

LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission

P.O. Box 6823 | Pittsburgh, PA 15212 | 412-258-6100 | www.lightoflife.org | serve@lightoflife.org



Upcoming

- **February 27 – Volunteer orientation.** Please register for an orientation by completing the volunteer application online. It can be found at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab.
- **March 11 – Volunteer orientation.** Please register for an orientation by completing the volunteer application online. It can be found at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab.
- **March 29 – For Men Only at Stage AE.** We are looking for sponsors to provide the cost of tickets so men in our program can attend. Please contact dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161 if you can help. Visit www.ivmo.org for more information about the event.
- **April 5 – Open House.** Take a tour of the Mission and our Western Avenue location any time between 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tours begin at the Mission located at 10 E. North Avenue. Visit www.lightoflife.org/openhouse for more information.
- **April 18 – Easter Outreach Meal at the Mission.** In addition to serving an Easter meal to anyone in need at the Mission, our volunteers will deliver hot meals to local high-rises.
- **May 24 – Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless at the Great Hall at Heinz Field.** Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the walk starts at 10 a.m. Visit www.lightoflife.org/2014walk for more information.
- **June 7 – ManUp Pittsburgh at Orchard Hill Church.** We are looking for sponsors to provide the cost of tickets so men in our program can attend. Please contact dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161 if you can help. Visit www.manuppittsburgh.org for more information.
- **August 16 – Yinzer 5k at North Park.** See www.lightoflife.org and our social media for more information.

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

WINTER 2014



Clockwise from top left: Volunteers start preparations bright and early on Thanksgiving morning; a child looks for a gift to give to his sibling for Christmas; Mayor William Peduto serves the first meal at Thanksgiving; Upper St. Clair Boys Soccer team makes sandwiches for Light of Life (photo credit Cayla Zahoran); Volunteer Don Waite (a/k/a "The Green Bean Man") getting green beans ready for our Thanksgiving meal.

► IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Team Light of Life is Running
- 2 Volunteers and Donors Respond to Flood
- 3 Thanksgiving Baskets
- 3 Holiday Meals
- 4 Q & A
- 5 Soccer Champions Raise Money & Give Food
- 5 Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless
- 6 Cold Weather
- 6 Get Involved-Volunteer

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Life sustaining. Life changing.



Team Light of Life is Running for the Mission

Last year you helped Light of Life become an official charity for the Dick’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon! Thank you to all of the outstanding runners and donors who helped us reach our goal. This year the marathon and accompanying races are on May 3rd and 4th.



Light of Life volunteer Jenny Taylor is running the full-marathon for Team Light of Life this year. She has been familiar with Light of Life for a while and in

September she started volunteering two days a week in the Women and Children’s Program. “I like what Light of Life stands for,” said Jenny. “When I’m here, I feel like I’m at a place where I’m carrying out my beliefs.”

Jenny heard about Team Light of Life participating in the marathon last year, but didn’t end up signing up until this year.

“I was so scared to ask people for money – I still am!” said Jenny. “But I am learning that people want to give and I am giving them an opportunity.”

Every friend or family member who contributes to Jenny’s fundraising campaign is asked to provide a song for her running play list. “When I hear the song, I think of the person and pray,” said Jenny. She also created a Facebook page exclusively for her marathon fundraising and thanks people over social media whenever they make a donation. For her friends that don’t have Facebook, Jenny sent them an email explaining her cause.

“It’s been a positive experience. I do suggest it because the money goes to Light of Life,” said Jenny. “It’s not too late to start training!” Runners can choose the 5k, relay, half-marathon and full-marathon. If you would like to be part of Team Light of Life this year, contact Leah at lroberts@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6163.

If you are not a runner, you can donate online and see the progress of Team Light of Life here: www.crowdrise.com/lightoflifepittsburgh2014. You can also give by sending a check made out to Light of Life Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 6823, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, attn. Leah Roberts. Please write “Pittsburgh Marathon Team” in the memo.

Volunteers and Donors Respond to Water Damage at the Ridge Avenue Building

Record low temperatures quickly rising over the weekend of January 11th and 12th caused the fire sprinkler pipes to burst in our Ridge Avenue building. Water filled the basement – up to 5 feet in some

“Thank you for caring about Light of Life and the people we serve.”
– Craig Schweiger

areas – and flooded the first floor of the building where donations are stored. The area that was hardest hit was where we kept the children’s clothes and toys.

Volunteers learned about the water damage and spent time sorting through hundreds of bags of donations to assess the damage of donated goods. On Saturday, January 18th, another group of volunteers

came to the Ridge Avenue building and filled a dumpster with the ruined items. In addition to volunteering, the people of Pittsburgh responded to this disaster with donations and financial support. “The response has been overwhelming,” said executive director Craig Schweiger. “Thank you for caring about Light of Life and the people we serve.”

Due to the incredible response of donated goods already, the only specific items we are currently accepting are new socks, new underwear and new undershirts. Please drop those items off at the Mission located at 10 E. North Avenue. Financial donations can be made online at www.lightoflife.org/give or mailed to P.O. Box 6823, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 with “Flood” written in the memo line.

If you have questions about donations or volunteering, contact Bri at 412-803-4160 or bfeindt@lightoflife.org.



A room in our Ridge Avenue building when it was flooded and after volunteers helped clean.

Local Families Given Thanksgiving Meal in Their Homes

Volunteers Filled 273 Baskets with Turkeys and More for Holiday Meal

Light of Life provides food for a lot of people during the holiday season, in the Mission and in the community. The Monday before Thanksgiving, volunteers from Light of Life and other local non-profits filled up 273 laundry baskets with food. Later that day, the filled baskets were given to families in need. These Thanksgiving baskets were hand-delivered to families who would not otherwise have the means to purchase food for a Thanksgiving meal.

Families were identified through 10 local non-profits and churches: Light of Life Rescue Mission’s Women and Children’s Program, Urban Impact, The Pittsburgh Project, Circle of Hope Ministries, House of Manna, City View Church, Greater Allen AME Church, On the Wall Ministry, Lost But Not Forgotten, and New Dawn Beginnings.

“What makes this different than a handout is our partnership with other organizations that already have relationships with these

families,” said Craig Schweiger, Executive Director of Light of Life. “By investing in these organizations, we are investing in and helping strengthen relationships that are already there. This helps us share the love of Christ in a tangible way.”

Various churches and generous donors helped Light of Life collect 15 lb. turkeys, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, canned corn, canned green beans, canned yams, brown sugar, marshmallows, pies, rolls and butter. Each basket was intended to feed a family of four, so over 1,000 meals were provided to local families through this project.

This is the third year Light of Life has headed up the Thanksgiving Basket project. Diana Marshall from New Dawn



Thanksgiving baskets packed and ready to go.

Beginnings, who helped pack and deliver baskets, started giving Thanksgiving baskets to families in need 18 years ago.

We are only able to reach outside of our walls and continue to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need because of the generous support and partnership with you! Thank you for your donations, financial support, prayers and time volunteering. You make a difference!

2013 Holiday Meals

Every fall, Light of Life staff gears up for a whirlwind of holiday activity. There are people who might not have the means to provide a holiday meal, others who have no family around and are lonely, and others still who are active in an addiction and have nowhere to go. Whatever brings men, women and children to the Mission during the holidays, we strive to share a delicious meal and friendship in order for our hurting neighbors to experience the love of Christ. Here are some numbers that give you an idea of how many we served during our 2013 holiday meals.

- **Thanksgiving Basket Project – 273 baskets** filled with turkey and all the fixings were given to local families in need. These families were able cook Thanksgiving in their own homes and had the food to share with loved ones. We’d like to specially thank Tim West of Deerfield Management for donating 250 of the turkeys.
 - **The Great Thanksgiving Banquet – 1,017 dinners** were served at the Mission or delivered to local high-rise buildings on Thanksgiving Day. Our kitchen staff and volunteers worked hard all day – all month, really – to make sure everyone had plenty to eat. Mayor William Peduto served the first meals of the day.
 - **Christmas Outreach Meal – 925 dinners** were served on December 23, 2013, at the Mission and in local high-rise buildings. The meal included ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, applesauce and dessert. Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald served the first meals of the day.
- In addition to feeding our guests, we were able to give away hundreds of winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and more. All of the items we gave away were donated by you!

What are you working on now that is challenging you the most?

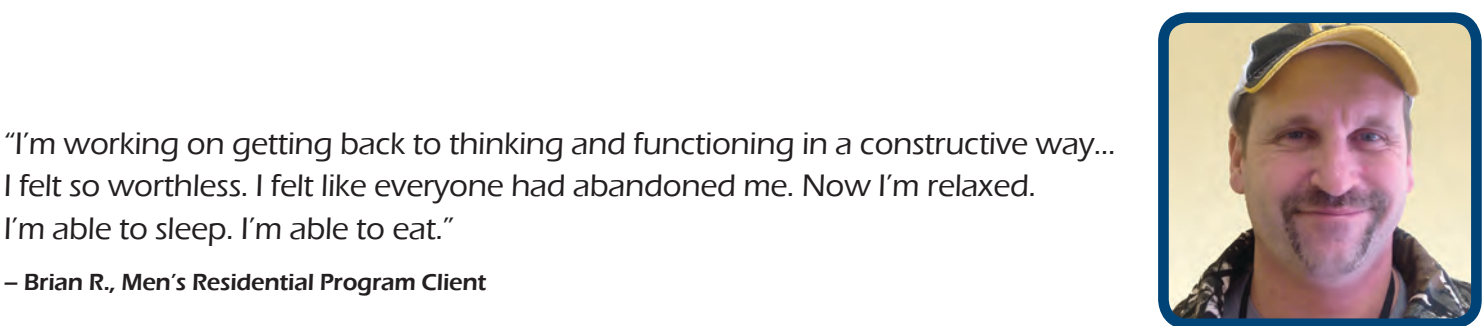
“What has been challenging me the most is finding the nature and direction of where God is leading me. Recovery is exciting and I’ve gained so many interests in my time here. I understand God’s will is the most important thing, but at times it is revealed step by step and milestone after milestone.”

– Luke M., Men’s Residential Program Client



“I just got done with a 21-day fast. I didn’t eat meat or sugar and didn’t watch TV or use social media. That was a challenge! But God gave me a revelation that I have a life worth living.”

– Justin C., Men’s Residential Program Client



“I’m working on getting back to thinking and functioning in a constructive way... I felt so worthless. I felt like everyone had abandoned me. Now I’m relaxed. I’m able to sleep. I’m able to eat.”

– Brian R., Men’s Residential Program Client



“The thing that I am working on that is most challenging for me is whenever I am asked to do something or give someone help, I always have the notion that I am right or know what is best.”

– Tyshawn S., Men’s Residential Program Client

“The thing that has challenged me the most is getting my life back on track and with the Light of Life they have started to pave the road for me to start that great journey to the Lord’s arms.”

– Jason M., Men’s Residential Program Client (he chose not to have his photo taken)

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