

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

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Clockwise from top left: A volunteer fries fish for our Good Friday Outreach Meal; a table of mentors and men in the program enjoy each other's company at the Mentoring Celebration Breakfast; staff members Lloyd Massie and Dean Robinson show off the Street Outreach Team van; Chef Ian and volunteers are ready to serve the Good Friday Outreach Meal; a man in our program proudly holds a certificate he received for completing a class in the Men's Program.

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LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission
Food. Shelter. Hope.

MENTORING IN THE MEN'S PROGRAM

Being matched with a mentor is an opportunity given to men who are about halfway through the Life Recovery Program at Light of Life, a program designed for men to spend at least a year working toward healing and building a foundation for the future.

Mentors are primarily men from the community who undergo an application process and receive on going training and support from Light of Life staff. Consistency and the willingness to listen are key qualities for a mentor. The man in the program and his mentor meet together weekly to talk, do activities, and just be there for each other when things are good or difficult.

"For a man who has dealt with and is dealing with so much, I am continually impressed with his willingness to do the hard things and not give up. He's an inspiration to me!" – Brian, Men's Program Mentor

Mentors are carefully matched and Chester has been matched with his mentor Brian for about 3 months. "I am building trust with my mentor," said Chester. "He is a good guy. Trustworthy. He puts his heart into his job."

"I really am impressed with him," said Brian about Chester. "For a man who has dealt with and is dealing with so much, I am continually impressed with his willingness to do the hard things and not give up. He's an inspiration to me!"

On Saturday, April 8th we had an opportunity to celebrate what God has been doing through these very important relationships with a mentoring breakfast. It was a time to eat delicious food, be together as a group, and share what the mentoring relationship has meant to each



Brian and Chester

person. Thank you to all of our amazing mentors and men who are matched for investing in this important relationship!

If you are a man who has an hour a week to commit to another person, please consider learning more about mentoring at Light of Life. You can have such a great impact on another man's life and you will most certainly be changed for the better, too. For more information, contact Kate at kwadsworth@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4162.



THANK YOU TEAM LIGHT OF LIFE!

We've been an official charity of the Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon for the past 5 years and over the past 5 marathon seasons our runners have raised a total of \$420,655. We would like to thank all of the runners, donors, families and supporters of our marathon runners. You have made a huge impact at Light of Life over the last 5 years.

For those of you considering running any of the marathon weekend races for Light of Life in 2018, contact Doug at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161.

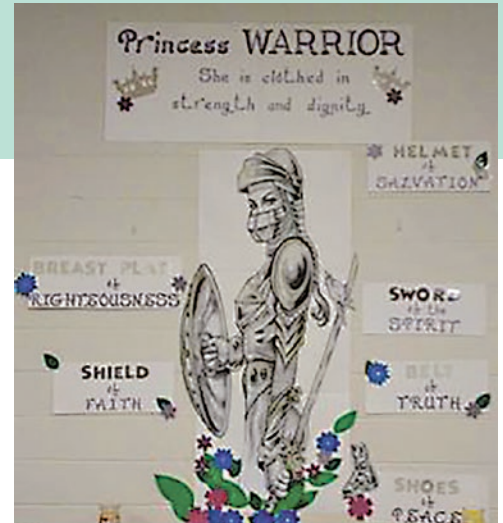


WOMEN'S RETREAT

The weekend of February 17–20, women who are currently in our Women & Children's Program as well as graduates of the program went to Crestfield Retreat & Conference Center for a spiritual retreat. This was an opportunity for the women to bond with one another as well as to learn more about the theme of "Princess Warrior: Clothed for the Fight" where they studied Ephesians 6 and Proverbs 31:25.

Below is what one of the women wrote after the retreat.

Camp was a truly amazing experience for me. The love that I felt was an unexplainable feeling. I've tried for so long to guard my heart from feeling any type of love. And this weekend my walls collapsed and I let women and God into my heart. I exposed my fears and flaws but yet they still loved me. There were so many moments, that regardless of how much I question God or get stuck in the rules or theology of religion I grew up exposed to, I cannot deny God was present. I FELT Him. That alone was truly a life changing experience. I lost faith a long time ago and I overthink way too much, but this weekend I allowed myself to trust that no matter what or how much I think, God is real and I cannot deny that. I returned with such a peace that is present today. I return giving God 20 minutes a day and continuing to stay in His Word. I returned excited to see where this journey can take me.



Top: The women use lanterns to symbolize letting go; Bottom: The weekend theme.

You help make retreats like this possible — a time for the women to get away from the busyness of every day life to grow closer to God. Thank you for your support!

GRADUATES ARE BLESSED BY PARTNERSHIP



Three of our graduates moved into a North Side apartment in April and we are so excited for this next step in their lives! When thinking about the move, the men realized they did not have furniture. We turned to one of our partners for help. The Blessing Board is located in Oakmont and they help people who have a need to furnish their new home. Before the staff and volunteers take people around to pick out what they need, the gospel is shared. It is an organization that meets both material and spiritual needs.

Our graduates filled Light of Life's box truck with everything they needed, from beds, to lamps, to a couch, to a washer and dryer! The Blessing Board makes available whatever has been donated, and it just so happened that everything that was needed was there. We thank God for his provision!

If you are an organization or business owner who wants to partner with Light of Life, whether through offering a service or financially, please contact Doug and dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161. Together we are helping people receive food, shelter and hope!

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE LIGHT OF LIFE RETREAT?

The men and women in our programs both went on retreats this spring. The women learned about the armor of God and the men learned about the Sabbath. Below in their own words are what these retreats meant to them.



"I learned I am not God and that I can not do this alone."

– Vira, Women & Children's Program



"It meant to me exactly what it was designed to- for me to reflect inward and to reinstate my genuine purpose for coming to Light of Life. The theme was the Sabbath and I got a better perspective on what the purpose of Sabbath is. We had a worship service and that put us all in a good spirit. We all got to know each other a little better and you could see the difference and how Promise Camp impacted our lives. It was what the doctor ordered. I'm glad I went."

– Kevin, Men's Residential Program



"Healing from my hurts."

– Cristy, Women & Children's Program



"Fellowship. There was a sense of connection with the fellas. I ran a devotional and a 12-step group while I was there and they were willing participants. The devotional was pertaining to Sabbath."

– Fred, Men's Residential Program

"I feel like I have a family now."

– Rachel, Women & Children's Program



"Camp was a time to sit back, relax and grow in my faith."

– Sara, Women & Children's Program



"I went out there not knowing what to expect but I never would have guessed how much love, peace and faith I got from camp."

– Chrissy, Women & Children's Program

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GOOD FRIDAY OUTREACH

We served our annual Good Friday Outreach Meal on Friday, April 14th. In addition to meals served during extended hours at the Mission that day, volunteers delivered 599 hot meals to local high-rises. **A total of 972 meals were provided on this day alone!**

There was a tent open outside the Mission throughout the day for men, women and children who are in need to receive spring clothing, socks and toiletry kits. The chapel was also open with live entertainment to share the Christian meaning of Easter and the hope of Christ.

Many people come through our doors for this meal, including one man named Jim who visits twice a year. He first came to the Mission when he was 10 years old and this is where he first heard about Jesus. Now 50 years later he comes back to

enjoy a meal like this one and to share his appreciation for all Light of Life has done to help him.

You are a big part of the reason Light of Life has been offering food, shelter and hope for over 60 years! Thank you for your donations, prayer, and time volunteering.



One of our Easter guests enjoys a meal.

DONALD LEARNING TO READ



Donald first came to Light of Life in the winter of 2015 because he was homeless and had nowhere to go. Once he was in the program, he attended chapel and classes and although he was able to participate, he decided he wanted to strengthen his reading skills. "When I was in school I went through special education class," said Donald. "I learned

to get by with what I could, but when I came to the Mission I wanted to improve what I'm doing. I wanted to be able to read the Bible on my own."

One of our tutors named John wanted to help Donald, so he took it upon himself to get trained through the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. John and Donald have been meeting twice a week and Donald's reading ability has improved tremendously!

"Donald has improved in both ability and confidence in his writing, as well as reading and spelling," said John. "Seeing Donald benefit has been gratifying because I place a high value on reading."

Donald has more confidence reading and feels so proud to have accomplished this life-long goal. "Light of Life taught me how to read and spell. If it wasn't for them and my tutor, I wouldn't be able to do either one," said Donald.

If you would like to become a tutor in computer skills, math or reading, please start by filling out the volunteer application. It can be found online at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab. For questions specifically about tutoring in the men's program, please contact Kait Winter at kwinter@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4134.

AMERICAN AIRLINES DO-CREW

For the last 10 years the American Airlines "Do Crew" has volunteered to pack meals twice a year to be delivered to high-rises during our holiday outreaches. We are so thankful for their faithfulness!

THANK YOU!





Saturday, August 19, 2017

Registration at 8 a.m.

Lil' Yinzer at 8:30 a.m.

Yinzer 5K at 9 a.m.

The Great Lawn across from Heinz Field
North Shore

Presented by



REGISTER NOW FOR THE YINZER 5K

We're celebrating our 5th Anniversary – on the North Shore for the first time ever!

NEW! Lil' Yinzer Fun Run for ages 12 and under.

Yinz like to run, n'at? Show off your Pittsburgh pride in your finest black and gold or dress up as your favorite Steel City landmark! Prizes for race winners and best costumes.

Register at www.lightoflife.org/yinzer5k

Pre-registration cost is \$30 per runner.

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

Questions? Contact Maggie at mjohnson@lightoflife.org

Proceeds benefit Light of Life Rescue Mission.

LIGHT OF LIFE ACCEPTS CAR DONATIONS



Light of Life is now able to accept in-kind donations of vehicles and real estate thanks to our recent partnership with locally owned Green Apple Barter Services and Green Apple Auto Works. You can

donate these gifts in-kind to Light of Life and you will benefit from a reduction in your taxable income. Also, you will avoid the costs associated with selling these items such as repairs, advertising, registration and insurance while you wait for a buyer. Contact Maggie Johnson at mjohnson@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4160 to donate or for more details. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 27th – Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless.** Join former Pittsburgh Steelers and current radio broadcasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley for a fun, family-friendly day on the North Shore.
- **Tuesdays, June 6th and 27th, July 11th and 25th, August 8th, and 22nd – Volunteer Orientations.** Please first go to lightoflife.org, click on the "Get Involved" tab, then fill out the "Volunteer Application" to register. All orientations begin at 6 p.m.
- **August 19th – Yinzer 5K & Lil' Yinzer.** For more details see the article above.



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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