

# LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

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Clockwise from top left: A friend of the Mission enjoys a feast at Light of Life's Thanksgiving Banquet; Ham, potatoes and vegetable medley are ready to serve for the Christmas Banquet; Craig Wolfley, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Chris Jamison and Tunch Ilkin serve up the Thanksgiving Banquet sponsored by UPMC; Cavell, an Education and Employment intern, assists the front desk staff with answering the phone.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 2 Education and Employment Internships               | 4 2017 Recap         |
| 2 Pittsburgh Marathon – Run for Team Light of Life   | 4 The Child by Ron C |
| 3 Open House   | 5 Holiday Recap      |
| 3 Tunch and Wolf's 16th Annual Walk for the Homeless | 6 Cold Weather       |
|  | 6 Upcoming Events    |

**LIGHT of LIFE**  
**rescue mission**  
Food. Shelter. Hope.

## EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT INTERNSHIPS

In an effort to extend the men's recovery into their work, jobs and careers, Light of Life has given seven men an opportunity to work alongside our staff in various internships. The goal of the internships is not only for the clients to develop soft skills and technical skills but to learn how to be a follower of Christ in the workplace.

"The internships are really about a mental relationship with the staff they're working with", said Ken Macleod, Education and Employment Specialist. A lot of the guys already know how to do the work, such as a maintenance task, but doing it as a Christian and someone in recovery, they've never done it that way. So by doing it alongside a staff member who is healthy, they are seeing how it is done in a redemptive way."

*"It's different being out in the public and then having to deal with the public in a professional manner," said Cavell. "So many people need help with things and direction. It just taught me how to be more patient with people and think what I'm saying before I say it. I guess it's given me another language to use professionally when talking to people—how to conduct myself, not just random street language, but professionalism. I guess that would be it—professionalism."*

*– Cavell – E&E Intern working with the front desk staff.*

Throughout the internship, the men learn different soft skills such as how to show up for work on time, how to be emotionally prepared to go to work, conflict resolution in a work setting, and how to have positive work relationships. Some of the men have either never learned how to manage these things on a daily basis or their knowledge of how to do so was inhibited by drugs and alcohol.

There are currently seven men participating in the internships and are in various positions within our organization. Two men are currently interning with our maintenance department, assisting with repairs, building upkeep, and special projects. One man is working alongside our outreach team, aiding our shelter guests in feeling welcome and building relationships with local business owners as we strive to partner more with the community. Two men are assisting our front desk staff with daily tasks such as answering the door and phone calls and assisting with donations. Finally, two men are working in an off-site internship with Allegheny Center Alliance Church's maintenance team.

We are excited to see these men grow as they are stretched and challenged in new ways. We ask that you please pray for them as they venture out into their internships and learn what it means to be a follower of Christ in the workplace.



An Education and Employment intern assists the front desk staff with answering the door and phone calls.



## RUN FOR TEAM LIGHT OF LIFE

**Light of Life Rescue Mission is an Official Charity for the Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon and we would like you to join our team!** If you sign up to run the marathon, half-marathon, relay, 5K or kids' run for us, we will pay your registration fee! All you have to do once you are part of Team Light of Life is spread the word that you are on our team and raise money for the Mission, which is easier than you think.

We will be with you to encourage you, support you, and make great memories with you as you support the men, women and children at Light of Life. **Learn more at [www.lightoflife.org/marathon](http://www.lightoflife.org/marathon) or contact Brenna Gallagher at [bgallagher@lightoflife.org](mailto:bgallagher@lightoflife.org) or 412-258-6128.**

## LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION OPEN HOUSE | APRIL 14TH

Tours start every 15 minutes between the hours of 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come see for yourself the work of God being done in the lives of the men, women and children!



You will have an opportunity to take a tour of the Mission and Women & Children's programming space with the tours led by clients or graduates. You will also see the development and administration space as well as get a tour of our donation storage center on Ridge Avenue. If you plan to take a tour of all three buildings, please allow an hour and a half in your schedule. If you cannot stay the full amount of time, we can accommodate a tour for the building you would most like to see. A new tour is scheduled to begin every 15 minutes. For your convenience, there will be a van that shuttles you to the three locations. Please invite your friends and see first-hand how lives are being changed at Light of Life!

Register at [www.lightoflife.org/openhouse](http://www.lightoflife.org/openhouse) or contact Kate at [kwadsworth@lightoflife.org](mailto:kwadsworth@lightoflife.org) or 412-803-4162. Registration not required, but appreciated.

**Kick off your Memorial Day weekend with Tunch and Wolf's 16th Annual Walk for the Homeless! Tunch Ilkin, Craig Wolfley, and hundreds of Pittsburghers are coming together to provide food, shelter and hope for the men, women and children at Light of Life Rescue Mission. This fun, family-friendly event begins with a walk along the beautiful North Shore Trail and ends with delicious food (hamburgers, hotdogs and more!).**

### Ways you can get involved with Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless:



**Walk-** Sign up to walk as an individual helping the homeless or head up a team to come together to make a difference for Light of Life. While there is no fundraising minimum per person, we encourage you to let everyone you know you are part of Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless and ask them to support you. There is online fundraising available, so it is easy! We will offer you support and encouragement leading up to the event. This is a really fun day for friends, families, church groups and businesses to spend together for a great cause. Will you walk this year? To learn more go to [www.lightoflife.org/twwalk](http://www.lightoflife.org/twwalk)



**Sponsor-** Walk sponsorships are an excellent opportunity for businesses to make a difference at Light of Life, as well as a way to let the public know your business supports the Mission. There are a wide range of sponsorship levels available. Please contact Doug at [dougsmith@lightoflife.org](mailto:dougsmith@lightoflife.org) or 412-803-4161 to find out at what level your business could sponsor Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless.



**Volunteer-** You are a key reason this event works! We couldn't put on this walk without dedicated volunteers to help with set-up, registration, clean-up and more. People of all ages are needed to make this event a success. If you want to find out more about volunteering at Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless, contact Brenna at [bgallagher@lightoflife.org](mailto:bgallagher@lightoflife.org) or 412-258-6128.

If you have questions or would like more information about Tunch & Wolf's Walk for the Homeless, please visit [www.lightoflife.org/twwalk](http://www.lightoflife.org/twwalk) or contact Kelly at [kpirl@lightoflife.org](mailto:kpirl@lightoflife.org) or 724-396-4241. Walk information will be updated regularly on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

**You are the reason this event is celebrating 16 years of walking for the homeless! Will you participate and make it our best one yet?**

**-16th Annual-  
TUNCH & WOLF'S  
WALK  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS**

**May 26, 2018**

**Registration begins  
at 8 a.m.**

*Walk begins  
at 10 a.m.*

**The Great Lawn  
across  
from Heinz Field**

AT LIGHT OF LIFE IN **2017**

★★★★★ Received a 4-star rating through Charity Navigator



Well over 272,504 meals provided for those in need



Over 8,000 emergency shelter nights were provided for homeless men



Launched our Sister's Recovery House that houses ten single women in our program



Created our Street Outreach Team that forms relationships with and helps the men and women currently living outside



1,060 Thanksgiving dinner baskets were provided to North Side families in need



Held over 800 chapel services

When you give to Light of Life, you are not only providing food, shelter, recovery, education, and employment. You are providing the hope of Christ for the men, women, and children that we serve.

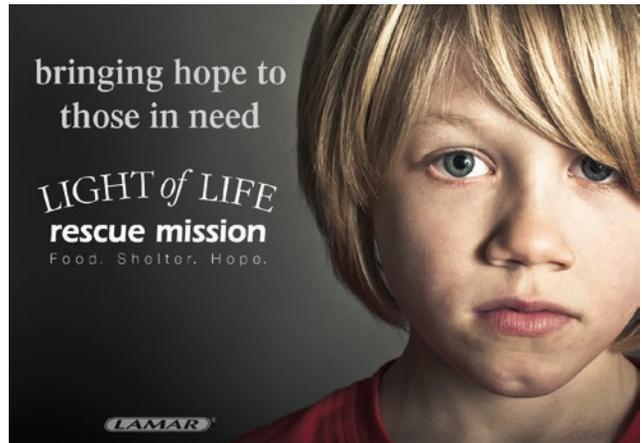
## OCTOBER–JANUARY

# OF UNIQUE PEOPLE SERVED

# 355

# OF TOTAL MEALS SERVED

# 85,629



*A big thank you to LaMar Advertising for their generous donation of billboards to help spread the word about Light of Life!*

### THE CHILD

Once was a child that was so small,  
Would grow to be so big and tall.

Life was such that it bit and hurt,  
Would know that child right to the dirt.

Chased by demons to bake it balk,  
The bowels of hell this child would walk.

Wishing and hoping to be set free,  
A day child's eyes just could not see.

Time would pass, year after year,  
Belittled and beaten by those thought dear.

Struggling to see the sense of why,  
Reeling in chaos, to God it did cry.

With downcast eyes child knelt to pray,  
The answer came, understood this way,

In order to win you have to lose,  
In order to live you have to choose.

My will for yours, the plan I have set,  
In exchange, My peace, for eternity you get.

Confess your sin, now accept my Son,  
I set you free my little one.

The joy child felt as it sat on God's knee,  
Is remembered so well, for that child...

That child was me.

*Written by Ron C.*

## HOLIDAY RECAP

**The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are big for Light of Life.** And because of you, we were able to bless so many during a time where family and giving are emphasized. Here's a recap of all you helped provide for men, women and children:



Thanksgiving baskets – distributed to families with a need.

**1,060**

**Thanksgiving baskets were packed with all of the food a family needs for a Thanksgiving dinner, a Bible and a list of community resources.** We partnered with 24 organizations to identify families in need. These organizations picked up the baskets and hand delivered them to the families.



Chris Jamison and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, help serve Thanksgiving Day dinners at the Mission.



Volunteers help with Christmas Giving Project gifts for the men, women and children.

**1,261**

**meals on Thanksgiving Day at the Mission and delivered to local high-rises.** That took preparing, cooking and carving 130 turkeys! A special thank you to our Great Thanksgiving Banquet Sponsor UPMC.

**665**

**gifts through our Christmas Giving Project for the men, women and children** to have a special Christmas and know they were not forgotten.

**939**

**meals for our Christmas Banquet on December 22nd at the Mission and delivered to local high-rises.** We are grateful for the generosity of Hefren-Tillotson, the title sponsor of our banquet.



The Hefren-Tillotson team help serve the Christmas Day dinners.



Christmas stockings – distributed to shelter guests and street homeless.

**92**

**stockings were filled with Christmas joy for the shelter guests and street homeless. We also delivered Christmas presents to 9 camps on December 25th.**

Thank you so much for your heart to help people feel loved and connected over the holidays. Some of those who joined us for holiday meals are really hurting due to homelessness, addiction, grief, regret, physical pain, and much more. We were able to not only share the love of Christ through our words, but through the relationships that were formed or nurtured. You are a blessing for helping to make all of this possible!

## COLD WEATHER

The cold weather is here! With temperatures dropping down to 0 degrees, Light of Life has taken extra steps to help the homeless stay safe and warm.

- Our chapel is open during the day as a warming center. Hot chocolate is served and our staff extends an invitation for guests to come into one of our programs.
- We are giving out warm winter items. Thanks to your generous donations of coats, winter hats, gloves and blankets, we are able to give these warm items to anyone who comes to the Mission with a need.
- The street outreach team is going out to homeless camps to check on those who do not want to come into the shelter. They bring with them everything to help keep people in camps warm.
- Our kitchen makes dinner for the Cold Weather Shelter every Sunday and any day that there is no one else signed up.
- And, as always, we provide breakfast and dinner, showers, emergency shelter, chapel services and long-term programs on a daily basis for those in need.



### How can you help?

- Donate financially to help keep the Mission running. You can donate at [www.lightoflife.org/give](http://www.lightoflife.org/give) or call 412-258-6183.
- We are in need of donations XXL Coats and hand warmers.  
– **Until further notice, we are no longer accepting other clothing donations.**
- If you are a praying person, please keep the homeless and Light of Life in your prayers.

## STREET OUTREACH TEAM

Our street outreach team went out to homeless camps to check on those staying there.

One man saw them approaching and asked them to leave him alone. The team got in the van (which has our logo on the side) and started to pull away. They saw the man running after them so they stopped and the man said, “I didn’t realize you were from Light of Life!” Because this man trusts Light of Life, our team members were able to have a meaningful conversation with him and to equip him with critically needed items.

In street outreach, our goal is to meet immediate needs with the goal of building a relationships with an individual so we



can begin to help them address the problems in their life that have led to homelessness. We do this with the love of Christ, treating each person with dignity and respect. Our experience today was such an encouragement that this is happening!”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 14th – Light of Life Open House**, with tours starting every 15 minutes between the hours of 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please see “Open House” article for more information.
- **March 30th – Easter Outreach Meal**. We will open our doors on Good Friday from 3-6 p.m. to celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. There will be a meal, chapel services, and a coat tent. Anyone who has a need is welcome.
- **May 5th & 6th – Dick’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon**. Sign up to run for Team Light of Life!
- **May 26th – 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. See the “Tunch & Wolf’s Walk for the Homeless” article for more details.



### 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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