

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

SUMMER 2018



Clockwise from top left: Members Evan Burns and Lloyd Massie of our street outreach team take water to people living in homeless camps on a hot summer day; corn is one of the vegetables we grew at the Mission this summer; the 6th annual Yinzer 5K raised money and awareness for Light of Life; Livio at graduation with David Wadsworth; the morning breakfast table is set and ready for our hungry guests; children in our program learned about and toured the fire station (their costumes are so cute, too!)

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LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission
Food. Shelter. Hope.

WANTED: WOMEN & CHILDREN OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

In the Spring, we created a Woman & Children's Outreach Specialist position. There are many women who come to breakfast and dinner at the Mission and there are women we meet out at homeless camps and on the street. We saw a need to intentionally connect with these women in order to meet their emergency needs, connect them to resources and programs, to build relationships with them, and show them the love of Jesus.

But we need your help. We are asking you to consider joining the Women & Children's Outreach Volunteer Team. Volunteers must be committed to regularly being involved because consistency is an important part of building relationships and trust with the women. You will receive a detailed training and on-going staff support.

There are many opportunities to get involved. **Ways to volunteer with Women & Children's Outreach are:**

- **Women's Meal Ministry Ambassador** – sign up to be a regular volunteer serving either breakfast or dinner and getting to know the women who are eating at the Mission.
- **Teach life skills classes** – Every quarter we offer a life skills class for the women, such as basic financing/budgeting, parenting, couponing/meal planning, nutrition, self-care, resume building/job skills, etc.
- **Fun outings** – As a way to get to know the women in a relaxed and fun setting and to also give them an opportunity

they may not otherwise have, we plan fun outings for the women every quarter. Examples include sporting events, bowling, the symphony, the movie theater, etc.

- **Events** – We plan special events to help these women feel loved and cared for. We would love to have you to help plan and participate in them. Examples include a fashion show, makeovers, holiday-themed events such as Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Christmas, etc.

If you are a woman who feels called to volunteer regularly and invest in the lives of women who need consistent love and friendship, please let us know! You must first attend a volunteer orientation (more information can be found in the Upcoming Events section). If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Emily at erabatin@lightoflife.org.



SUMMER IN THE WOMEN & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Summertime is a special time in the Women & Children's Program because all of the school-aged children spend their days at Light of Life. For 9 months of the year, Tuesday nights are the time all children consistently come together with their moms for family-focused programming. But the summer gives 3 months to really pour into the kids and family unit.

"We really want to take the time to know the kids and to see them as a family," said W & C Program Manager Sherry Rorison. "We see it as the best opportunity to be able to watch them interact and see what they do and work in the moment with them. Work on patience, problem-solving, peacemaking, communication, and acceptance. All of the building blocks we use all the time that a family has to have. But it's real time that we can give feedback and can work with them."

The biggest change in schedule for the summer is that in addition to regular Tuesday family nights, Thursdays were family days. Women and children spent these days going on outings and field trips, such as trips to Moraine State Park, the zoo, the Science Center, horseback riding, etc. This fall, moms will be making scrapbooks and their children will be making shadow boxes to capture and strengthen the positive memories made. "It's a chance for them to create positive memories that can outdo the negative memories," said Sherry.

There were 35 women and 40 children who took part in the summer programming. This includes women who live in Sister's Recovery House, the apartment we own for women who are homeless without children. They have a close-knit community and spent the summer activities working on building their healthy relationship skills as their own family. They also came around and helped the moms. "One mom has a baby and she has a three year old," said Sherry. "When we were at Shenango Park one woman from Sister's House kept the little baby all day and really helped the mom out."

Please pray for all of the children as they go back to school and for the families to continue working on what they learned this summer.





SUMMER PICNICS WITH A PURPOSE

In addition to serving meals, providing shelter and sharing the Gospel message with those who come through our doors this summer, we have been connecting with men, women and children through picnics.

Each picnic had a different focus.

On June 30, the **Men's Program clients and staff** took a trip to Moraine State Park to enjoy a day grilling, boating, playing outdoor games, fishing and more. Having healthy relationships is an important piece of recovery and living well, so days like this are great opportunities to build friendships and make positive memories.

On July 19th, we hosted the annual **Day of Hope Picnic** across the street from the Mission on E. North Avenue. Over 600 meals were served to anyone in the community who came by. There were 30 tables with resources for people who had needs to connect, fun activities like a dunk tank, and an afternoon of worship music and stories of how lives have been transformed by Jesus.

On July 21st, alumni from the **Women & Children's Program** planned a picnic so graduates and current clients could connect. They consider each other family and it was an uplifting day. There were graduates in attendance from as far back as 25 years ago and so many of the alumni's grandchildren were in attendance. It was proof that when God is involved, generations can be changed for the better.

God was working in the midst of each of these picnics and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to share about them with you.

To watch short videos from each picnic go to www.lightoflife.org/summerpicnics2018/

Thank you for all you do to help make this happen.



**Tuesday, October 16, 2018
at 6:00 pm**

Hyundai Club West at Heinz Field

**Hosted by
Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley**

**www.lightoflife.org/gala
for info and tickets**

MORE THAN A MEAL GALA & FUNDRAISER – WELCOME HOME

This year we are igniting a new hope in the community! The idea of home for many isn't necessarily a place, but is a feeling of comfort. Throughout the evening, we'd love to share with you the ways we bring that feeling of home to our neighbors in need. We invite you to join us for this event. Hosted by our friends Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley, this is a night that you won't want to miss!

Registration: \$150 per person, a table of 8 is \$1,200, a table of 10 is \$1,500. For all registration questions or to sign up online, visit www.lightoflife.org/gala or contact Corrin at 412-258-6183 or cpontzloff@lightoflife.org.

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

Silent Auction Donations: For information on donating a silent auction basket – whether it's something you love to do or if you want to get a group of friends or your small group together for this cause – please contact Kelly at 724-396-4241 or kpirl@lightoflife.org.

All proceeds benefit Light of Life Rescue Mission.

WILL YOU CELEBRATE KEVIN AND CAVELL WITH US?



On August 6th these two recent graduates joined Light of Life's staff! Kevin P. is part of the kitchen team as a cook and Cavell W. is part of the operations team as a driver to pick up donations and mail.

"Instead of going through life and always struggling and always in a bad mood – grumpy all of the time – give yourself a chance. Give God a chance and let Him do what He do. That's what I did." – Cavell W.

Please pray for these two men and all of Light of Life staff as they serve on the front lines and behind the scenes.

SERVING MEALS 365 DAYS A YEAR



Did you know we provide breakfast and dinner for people in need every day of the year? Men, women and children in our community who have nowhere else to go, come through our doors to receive a delicious meal.

It is our prayer that although they are coming for food, they leave having experienced Christ's love for them. Often times a meal is the beginning of a relationship, which we hope will lead to life-transformation.

Your support helps make this possible everyday. Thank you.

LET US PRAY FOR YOU

If you have a prayer need, please let us know and we would be honored to lift you up. Some of our staff gathers weekly to pray for the requests you send in. If you have a prayer need – or a desire to have us share in praise for answered prayer – please contact Colleen at cmckerley@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6154.



We know God hears prayer and moves and we want to be on your prayer team!

YINZER 5K RECAP

On Saturday, June 16th, 404 runners came out for the annual Yinzer 5K and Lil' Yinzer Fun Run and raised \$25,444 for Light of Life! WTAE's Jackie Cain and KDKA-TV Morning Traffic Anchor/ Pittsburgh Penguins In-Arena Host Celina Pompeani cheered runners on from the Pittsburgh Party Pedaler. Hosted by Mikey and Big Bob from 91.6 KISS-FM, it was a fun event that ended with an array of Pittsburgh foods. Everything from Pierogies Plus pierogies to a Turner's Iced Tea to a cookie table, no one left hungry. Pittsburgh artist Cody Sabol created an incredible painting during the event and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald said a few words. Awards were given to the top 3 runners overall and to the Best Dressed Yinzers. Keep an eye out for the Yinzer 5K 2019 and plan to show your Pittsburgh pride while supporting the critical work at Light of Life!

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Swimming Pool Discounters – Title sponsor
- Primerica
- Green Apple
- Pierogies Plus
- CoreLife Eatery



THE DONATION CENTER AT RIDGE PLACE



As you know, we purchased a building in 2012 located at 635 Ridge Place. We are in the final stages of securing community support and will soon enter the city planning process. Your prayers are appreciated.

In the meantime, we have started to make more use of our newest building, which we refer to as The Donation Center at Ridge Place. **Since the beginning of this year, we have hired 3 staff members to receive, sort, organize assemble and distribute all the clothing, household goods, food,**

furniture and more to better support those moving from homelessness or poverty into their own homes. It certainly is an exciting time!

We are currently accepting gently used donations (items without stains or damage) at The Donation Center. Items can be dropped off and given to a staff member Mondays – Fridays between 1-4 p.m. And we have a donation box outside of the gate where you can drop off items 24 hours a day. If you have questions regarding The Donation Center, please call 412-608-0671.

We are also looking for volunteers to be specially trained to help those coming to The Donation Center by personally walking around with an individual, praying with him or her, and sharing the love of Christ one-on-one. If you are interested in that opportunity, please contact Brenna Gallagher at bgallagher@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6128.

Current Needed Items: Men's and women's underwear, Men's and women's deodorant, large bottles of shampoo, conditioner and body wash.

DONATION CENTER STORY

Every time a person comes to The Donation Center to receive needed items, the Gospel message is shared. In early August, a group from an in-patient drug & alcohol rehab center was listening to Tom Mitlo, Assistant Director of Operations, welcome them and share about the hope of Jesus Christ. Afterward, the group headed into the area where donations are kept and were picking out items to take with them. In the midst of the exchange, a man in his early 20s came up to Tom and asked if Tom could pray with him. Although Tom had many requests at that time, he paused and found a private area to talk and pray with this man who is named Steve.

"We have the privilege to be able to share the Gospel, which is the story of hope." said Tom.

Steve told Tom that he wanted to ask God to come into his life and change his life. "And I said, 'Come on, let's do it,'" said Tom. "And before I could say anything, he had his hands out to hold my hands. I walked him through how to surrender his life and we did that and we parted company. I gave him a whole Bible and a New Testament Bible and a prayer book. So he had plenty of reading material to take with him."



This is the whole reason we do what we do at The Donation Center! "God has given us an opportunity where He is going to bring people from all over to come and get what they need," said Tom. "We have the privilege to be able to share the Gospel, which is the story of hope. And we have the privilege to be able to share with them things that might change their life – like a coat in winter or a pair of tennis shoes in the summer – but always the hope that comes with knowing Jesus Christ."

Thank you for partnering with us! Your support is giving people the opportunity to forever change their lives.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS ITEMS NEEDED

Every year Light of Life puts together Thanksgiving Baskets for those in the community who have the ability to cook food in their home but don't necessarily have the financial resources to purchase the food. With our goal of 1,300 baskets this year, we are asking if you would consider donating items this year. Donation needs are:

- Stuffing (6 oz. box) – 2,600 needed
- Instant potatoes (26.7 oz. box) – 1,300 needed
- Green beans (14.5 oz. can) – 3,900 needed
- Corn (15.5 oz. can) – 3,900 needed
- Canned gravy (15.25 oz. can) – 2,600 needed
- Cranberry sauce (15.5 oz. can) – 2,600 needed
- Canned yams (16 oz. can) – 3,900 needed

Donations can be dropped off Monday – Friday between 1-4 p.m. at our Donation Center located at 635 Ridge Avenue. There is also a donation drop box at that location if you need to drop off at other times. Please be sure your donations are **CLEARLY MARKED FOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS**. If you have questions about donations, please contact Mike at mmills@lightoflife.org.

INTERNS

We had another excellent group of summer interns with us this year! These college students or recent graduates spent their time investing in the men, women and children at Light of Life, whether in direct program service or in administration and development. What a blessing each one was! Please keep them in prayer as they continue onto their next endeavors.



Light of Life staff prays for the summer interns at their farewell party.

Sitting L to R: Kaileigh MacLeod, Education and Employment; Emily Zebe, Human Resources; Kelsey Ingold, Development. Missing from photo is Aleena Muhlenkamp, Women & Children's Program.

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Food. Shelter. Hope.

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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT PROGRAM GRADUATES!

Livio P.	Tammy M.	Christy H.
Manasa J.	Stephine R.	Rachel S.
	Linda T.	

— *Please keep them in your prayers.* —

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **October 2-5 – Eye of the Needle Art Installation at Carnegie Mellon University.** The powerful pieces that were created by local artists to raise the level of conversation about opioid addiction and homelessness is open to the public. It was launched at last year's Light of Life gala and is still making an impact. It is open to the public during these days between the hours of 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the outdoor tent behind the Cohon Center.

■ **October 16th – More Than a Meal Gala & Fundraiser,** 6 p.m. at the Hyundai Club West at Heinz Field. This year we are igniting new hope and want you to see Light of Life as you never have before as we focus on WELCOME HOME. For more information and tickets go to www.lightoflife.org/gala.

■ **October 31st – Trunk or Treat,** 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, hot dogs 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. To schedule a time to donate items, contact Kelly at kkepner@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6166. To sign up to have a decorated car at the event, contact Brenna at bgallagher@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6183.

■ **November 22nd – 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.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

- September 5th and 9th
- October 2nd and 16th
- November 11th and 13th
- December 4th and 11th

Please first go to lightoflife.org and click on the "Get Involved" tab, then fill out the "Volunteer Application" to register. All orientations begin at 6 p.m.

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