

LIVING *by the* LIGHT

Published for Partners of Light of Life Rescue Mission

FALL 2018



Clockwise from top left: Volunteers, including County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, serve Thanksgiving meals; prayer before Thanksgiving dinner is served; The Pittsburgh Predators Pee Wee hockey team made 100 winter kits and took a tour of the mission; Women & Children alum gathered for an inspiring holiday celebration.

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LIGHT of LIFE
rescue mission
Food. Shelter. Hope.

JOHN'S STORY

John lived in the same house since he was 6 months old. His father passed away in 2015 and John kept the house until his dad's estate was being settled and he was evicted on July 9, 2018.

Thankfully John was very connected to his church and turned to them for help. "My church is very involved with Light of Life so I met with my care team there and we met with [Light of Life Street Outreach Team] Lloyd, Even and Dean," said John. "The church coordinated that. I met with them prior to July 9th so they said on July 9th call us and we will come down. About 2:30 that day they brought me down and I've been here ever since."

"They were very helpful," said John about the Outreach Team. "They were all nice people. It kind of clicked and here I am doing the laundry 6 days a week and serving meal ministry sometimes. I like the people here."

Over the last 5 months of being at Light of Life, John has been working on goals of employment and housing. He has been out of work since November 2017 but currently has job applications out to get back into his field of janitorial work.

"I'm working through vocational rehabilitation to find another job," said John. "I have three applications out that have moved forward. My resume was completely redone. It's all going to fall into place well."

The relationships at Light of Life and the community connections the staff has make a big difference. "Light of Life is a very caring place," said John. "The people are very caring and friendly and



John and Lloyd

once you're here they try to help you as much as they can. If they can't help, they talk to some other people. They are connected to agencies. Lloyd knows somebody or Even knows somebody. They all have connections with people."

And John really appreciates that Light of Life is a Christian organization. "I'm learning about helping others, like I learn at church," said John "I have always been God-centered so it's just keeping connected with it."

Please keep John and all of the other men, women and children we serve in your prayers as they grow at Light of Life. Your support and prayers make a huge difference! Thank you for making Light of Life a place for people like John to come to when difficult times hit.



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 marathon 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.

Last year our team of 92 runners finished in 5th place by raising over \$73,000 for Light of Life! Our goal this year is to have 150 runners and you can be part of making that happen today. **Learn more at www.lightoflife.org/marathon or contact Doug at dougsmith@lightoflife.org or 412-803-4161.**

Whether this would be your first race or your 100th race, please run for Team Light of Life this year. 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.

2019 Team Light of Life motivation:

My steps fuel their steps — Away from addiction — Away from homelessness — Toward a hopeful future.

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THANKSGIVING RECAP

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Our Thanksgiving day at Light of Life was awesome and we are so very grateful for all of your support in making it possible. We would like to thank UPMC Health Plan for sponsoring this outreach.

Over 1,000 meals were provided to men, women, and children at the Mission and delivered to local high rises by our volunteers!



Over 100 volunteers helped make this possible, including County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Steelers sportscasters Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley. Meal guests were brought joy and entertainment by

volunteers, including singer and songwriter Chris Jamison, who was also a season 7 finalist on *The Voice*.

There was also a donation tent set up next to the Mission where we gave away warm coats and winter accessories to anyone who came by with a need. **Thank you so much for your winter donations that made this possible!**

Monday November 19th we packed 1,300 boxes with food for local families to have a Thanksgiving meal in their own homes. The boxes were delivered by 28 partner organizations and churches who identified these families in need.

With the Thanksgiving Box Packing event and our Thanksgiving Banquet, we know so many people had a delicious meal for the holiday.

Thank you for all of the ways you made Thanksgiving a day a blessing for so many! We do it all so that those who we encounter can know the love and hope of Jesus Christ and we are grateful to do this with you!

THANKSGIVING BOX EVENT

Thanks to the donations, support, time volunteering and prayers of friends like you, on November 19th we were able to assemble **1,300 boxes filled with food for a Thanksgiving Day meal for our neighbors in need!**

We partnered with 28 organizations and churches to identify families who needed this support. After the boxes were packed, people who know the families came and picked up the boxes to deliver them to each family. We try to do everything in the context of relationships and we are so grateful to be able to support these awesome organizations and help them strengthen their relationships with these families.

Each box was prayed over and we hope each family had a blessed Thanksgiving knowing that God is their provider.



Thank you for all you do to help make great projects like this possible.

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 Kelly Pirl at kpirl@lightoflife.org or 724-396-4241 to donate or for more details. Thank you!

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Thanksgiving is a time for reflecting on the blessings we have been given. Some of our Light of Life Women & Children's Program and Sister's Recovery House participants shared with us what they are personally thankful for this season.



"What I'm thankful for is being given the opportunity to be a mother again."

– Amber, Women & Children's Program



"I am thankful that even though I've made wrong decisions in my life that God still has a plan and a purpose for my life and is still able to use me to minister to others about His goodness, where I was and where He brought me from."

– April, Sister's Recovery House



"Today I am grateful for so much. I have my children back in my life. I'm getting my adult life together and I'm proud of myself. I'm grateful God gave me the opportunity to see something different in myself this time. My True worth."

– Erin, Women & Children's Program



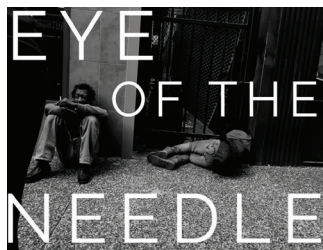
"To be clean. To have some sanity. To be aware. To be a good mother, daughter, friend, person. To have a roof over my head. To have goals and direction and purpose. To have spiritual principles. For my babies. For my family. For my extended family. For Light of Life. For NA. The list never ends"

– Shayne, Women & Children's Program



"I am grateful to be able to give my youngest child a life of goodness and for her not to see the darker side. To be able to regain my trust of my oldest, for our long talks now. My relationship with my God today and not just knowing He's there. Most of all waking up every morning with a chance at a new life."

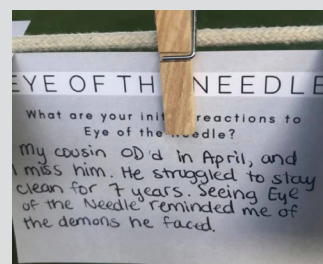
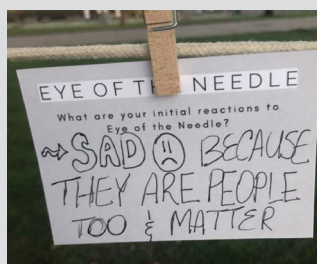
– Nikki, Women & Children's Program



The Eye of the Needle art installation and documentary was created for Light of Life's 2017 gala to show the impact of the opioid epidemic in Allegheny County. It followed our Street Outreach Specialist Dean Robinson and shared stories from medical, law enforcement and a family member touched by overdose. Over the course of the last year, we have been able to use Eye of the Needle as an educational tool. It has been screened at Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, Point Park University and Robert Morris University and we had a panel discussion to accompany it. North Park Church invited us to show it and facilitate conversation with their church members. We wrote a curriculum and brought it to McKeesport High School.

Pictured are some reflection cards from when Eye of the Needle art installation was at Carnegie Mellon University. Over 600 people went through the installation at CMU and almost 200 reflection cards were filled out.

The response has been moving and we are grateful that the greater Pittsburgh community wants to engage in challenging conversations like this.



To view the documentary, visit:
www.lightoflife.org/eyeoftheneedlepg



MORE THAN A MEAL GALA

We held our annual More Than a Meal Gala and Fundraiser at Heinz Field on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. This year's theme was WELCOME HOME. The idea

of home for many isn't necessarily a place but is a feeling of comfort. Flying Scooter Productions created an incredible art installation of an apartment primarily using furniture from our Donation Center to show what home might look like to a woman and her children in our program. They also produced a video which shows how Light of Life creates home every day across our programs. You can view the video on our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/lorescuemission through the video titled Light of Life: More Than a Meal.

Former Steelers, current sportscasters and great friends of the Mission Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley hosted the event and interviewed two Women & Children's Program graduates.

There were over 450 people in attendance and over \$250,000 was raised for the Mission, which is the highest amount ever raised at this event. Thank you to everyone who helped make the gala a wonderful celebration of God's daily work at Light of Life!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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HOPE UNVEILED PODCAST

We are excited to let you know about our podcast called Hope Unveiled!

*"He gave me the
opportunity to conquer
my past. He is where
I get my strength."*



The goal of the podcast is to allow clients, staff and volunteers to share their stories of how God is working in their lives. It's such a perfect platform because there is some anonymity since it's an audio recording AND they get to share everything in their own words.

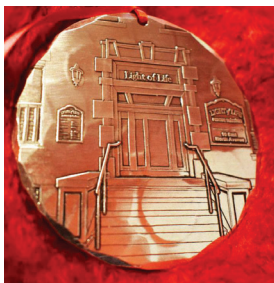
Our most popular podcast so far is our special Thanksgiving edition. It is a compilation of clients and staff sharing what they are grateful for from our client and staff Thanksgiving celebration.

For those of you who love to listen to podcasts when you travel or cook or exercise, this is a perfect podcast for you to listen to and feel inspired! You don't want to miss it!

Please share with your family and friends to get the good news out there about how God is changing lives.

To listen online or to see all of the places the podcast is available, please visit www.lightoflife.org/podcast.

LIGHT OF LIFE 2018 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



Each year, we design and have Wendell August Forge produce a Christmas ornament that we use to raise money for the Mission.

The proceeds of the ornaments benefit the Mission. These ornaments make great gifts for your family and friends, your employees, clients or colleagues. We encourage you to buy several.

Ornaments are available for a suggested donation of \$25. If you would like us to ship them to you, we ask for an additional \$5 per ornament.

Depicted in our 2018 ornament is an illustration of Light of Life Rescue Mission on North Avenue. Through the years, this one

building serves not only as a place to sleep, eat, and find shelter; for many the Mission on North Avenue is home for a time.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, in whom our true home lies. We know that through Him, there is a comfort, and belonging. There is rest. Light of Life's goal is to build relationships, and ultimately foster the development of disciples for Christ. We provide food, shelter, and hope, but through God's blessing of community, we become a home for those who need it most.

Our 2018 Christmas ornament is the 6th in our collection. We do have ornaments left over from previous years. If you'd like to purchase one of those, go to www.lightoflife.org/ways-to-give.

Your donation will support critical programming for Pittsburgh's poor and homeless men, women, and children.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Below is a list of our most pressing needs:

- ✓ Men's insulated work boots, sizes 10-13
- ✓ Men's thermal underwear tops and bottoms, sizes L-XXXL
- ✓ Men's boxer-briefs, sizes L-XXXL
- ✓ Men's hoodies, all sizes
- ✓ Women's hoodies, all sizes



2019 BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in learning about business sponsorships for 2019?

We have a wide variety of financial levels for each events we hold. For more information, please contact Colleen at cmckerley@lightoflife.org or 412-258-6154. Thank you for the support of your business!

WOMEN & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WINTER WONDERLAND ALUMNI DINNER

The Women & Children's Program held an alumni dinner called Winter Wonderland on November 30, 2018. Women from as far back as 28 years came to connect with and encourage each other. At the end of the night, each woman wrote what they are giving up to God this season and placed it on this tree. This was a powerful reminder that God can take care of us and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, just like each unique snowflake. Please pray for all of our program graduates this holiday season.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 21st – Christmas Banquet at Light of Life Rescue Mission.** This annual holiday feast is open to anyone in the community who is looking for a place to celebrate Christmas. There will be a delicious meal, sharing about the meaning of Christmas, a coat tent set up outside to give away winter clothing items, and lots of people around to share the love and home of Christ.
- **Volunteer orientations are being scheduled for the new year.** Please register for an orientation by completing the volunteer application online. It can be found at www.lightoflife.org under the "Get Involved" tab. Once you complete this process, you will be sent an email with a list of volunteer orientation dates for you to choose from.



END OF YEAR GIVING

Please remember Light of Life Rescue Mission as you consider making end-of-the-year donations to your favorite non-profits! All donations received by December 31st will be acknowledged by January 2019 with a tax-deductible receipt. Thank you for helping us provide food, shelter and the message of hope all year long!

SHARE WHAT MATTERS MOST

A recent study revealed that the average person forgets three things a day. Most are trivial, but what about the super important ones?

- Do your loved ones know about and share your faith and values?
- Do they know your end-of-life plans?
- Do they know why you love Light of Life?



Don't let another day go by without remembering to share what really matters to you!

To learn more, request our FREE bulletin "Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?" Simply reply with the enclosed envelope or contact Colleen McKerley at (412) 258-6154 or cmckerley@lightoflife.org

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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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