



# *Never The Same*

LIGHT OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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### *Dear Friends,*

I'm humbled to be writing this letter as the new Executive Director of Light of Life Rescue Mission. I've served the Mission for many years, first as a volunteer, and then as a staff member, and I couldn't be more excited to step into this next season.

As a ministry of Jesus Christ, we serve some of the most broken and needy members of society, and the work is often filled with challenges. But by leaning on God, we've been able to accomplish many incredible things over the past year. We created this report to share our impact and to thank you for all you have done to help make it happen. Please keep Light of Life in your prayers.

Together in His Grip,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerrel".

Jerrel



# Who We Serve



## SHIMICA WOMEN'S PROGRAM

"God has brought me here to this program. If it wasn't for this program, I wouldn't be talking to you now. He does things for a reason and you just got to stay on the right path and stay prayed up. If you ever had a drug problem or alcohol problem or gambling problem or whatever kind of problem you have, as long as you try to work on it, and understand that there is help. But you got to ask, and they will come to you. You have to ask and you gotta want it. And that's what this program brings. It brings hope, love and caring for one another that you have no choice but to ask what you need and God will give it to you."



## KEVIN MEN'S PROGRAM GRADUATE

"The relationships that I've established at Light of Life are strong and I'm looking forward to having those relationships continue. I like the team concept that my life has. We're all family. And we look out for one another and you know, that's the same with the clients. We're all one big family. One common goal, and that's Lord Jesus Christ."



## AMBER WOMEN'S PROGRAM

"I'm thankful for Light of Life and my children. I'm very thankful to be alive today because there was a moment where I had overdosed and my daughter found me. So that's what I'm really grateful for. Just to be able to be here for my children."



## MAMADOU MEN'S OUTREACH GRADUATE

"I am so grateful and thankful for the opportunity and relentless care, help and concern of the entire staff. This place has given me the strength to dig deep and prove to myself I can do better and this is just a start. I encourage anyone that has means to help this unique program in Pittsburgh with an unmatched team that would do anything to get someone back on track. Society sometimes looks down on the homeless when a temporary situation could be easily solved if people cared. Ignoring one's homeless situation by not caring could be the difference between someone getting out of a temporary situation or sinking deeper to a point of sadly sometimes no return. Thank you Light of Life. I love you guys and God bless you all."







## JULIE'S STORY

Julie was eight months pregnant when she came to Light of Life Women and Children's Program in March of 2016. After struggling on and off with addiction for nine years, Julie met a Light of Life alumna by the grace of God who recommended the program to her. Before Light of Life, Julie's trust had been broken in many ways, and she struggled to trust women. She was nervous when she arrived the first day to a program full of women, but it turned out to be great. "Everyone was very welcoming. I was overwhelmed though because I didn't have a strong faith at the time, but I saw God working in the staff and women's lives by their example and the repairing of their families."

One huge moment of impact for Julie was her very first women's retreat with the Light of Life program staff and alumni. "At that retreat, I basically decided to let God back into my life. I decided I would try to give Him most things." Through giving her life to the Lord and with the help of the Light of Life parenting classes, Julie learned how to be a better mom. She had relapsed early on while she was in the program and lost custody of her son. "I had a C-section and they gave me pain medicine. I never should have taken it, but I made the decision to do that because I thought at that point, having 18 months clean, that I was strong." The staff at Light of Life stuck with Julie and continued to try to help her and when she came back, she was stronger than ever. She regained custody of her son within 9 months—close to Mother's Day.

Today, Julie has full custody of her kids and is working for UPMC while studying to get her nursing degree. She expressed how thankful she is for the Light of Life program helping her strengthen her relationship with God and the other women that she's met here. "The friends you make here are forever," she says. "Light of Life is just so amazing. It really is. It's been a life changing opportunity for me. I am so grateful...I don't know where I'd be without them."



## CHRIS'S STORY

Chris grew up knowing about God, but he spent years searching for love and acceptance. At 19 years old, Chris says he found his first love in heroin. He became a person he didn't know, doing things he never would have done. "I would never think of stealing money from my grandmother's wallet. I would never think of taking jewelry off my loved ones." Then on Christmas Day 2012, Chris robbed a gas station at gunpoint and knowing the police would come for him, he tried to overdose and end his life. "Amazingly, a miracle from God, I didn't die."

After being apprehended by authorities, Chris ended up receiving approval to parole out of state and attend Light of Life. He felt God calling him back to Pittsburgh and to the North Side, which had been one of his darkest places during his addiction. But over the course of Chris's 13-month stay at Light of Life, he began to see the light. "I never saw myself as a crown jewel. As the most important thing in God's heart." Hearing Light of Life staff speak the truth about his identity in Christ was powerful. "I actually got to hear people speak those things over me, you know, and that really shaped my core identity in Christ."

Now Chris works full time for Light of Life, leading the facilities team. "It's humbling because I get a chance every day to remind me of where I was."





# 2018 *Changing Lives*

Since 1952, Light of Life has been a safe refuge for the homeless and hurting people in our community. Thanks to the prayers, compassion and generosity of our supporters, we are making a real difference for those who have been devastated by homelessness, addiction or abuse.

800+  **CHAPEL SERVICES**

 *800 hours*  
**OF EDUCATION**

  
*17*  
**GRADUATES**

*13*   
**FAMILIES REUNITED**





263,387

**MEALS PROVIDED FOR  
THOSE IN NEED**

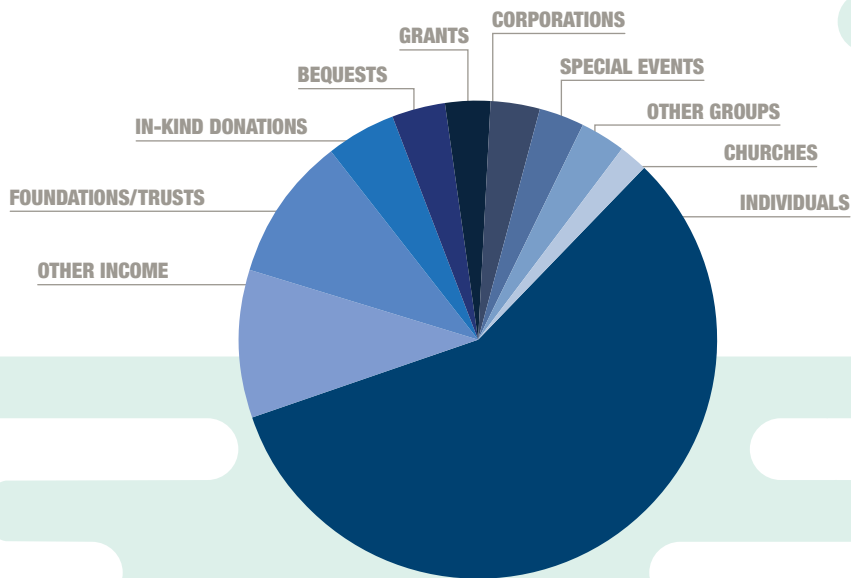
*1,051 hours*  
**OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING**



*10,840* **EMERGENCY  
SHELTER NIGHTS**



# *Financials*



## *Revenue*

**Bequests:** \$250,000.00

**Special Events:** \$231,968.73

**Grants:** \$239,646.00

**In-Kind Donations:** \$354,438.98

**Other Income:** \$737,775.47

**Corporations:** \$233,562.80

**Foundations/Trusts:** \$721,184.60

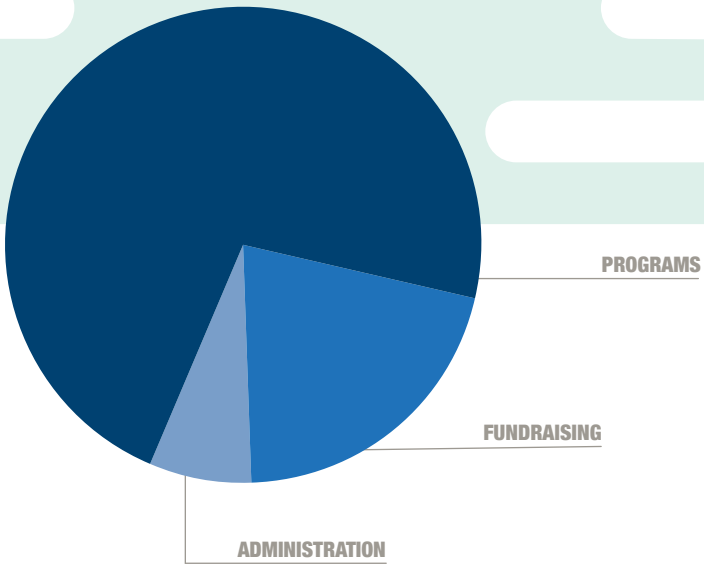
**Individuals:** \$4,231,480.09

**Churches:** \$134,455.87

**Other Groups:** \$220,109.78



# *Expenses*



**Administration:** \$489,100.00

**Fundraising:** \$1,477,665.00

**Programs:** \$5,155,217.00





# *Leadership*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Glenn Graner, Chairman  
William Wolfe, Vice-Chairman  
Leonard Petrancosta, Treasurer  
George B. Libby, Jr., Secretary

## **DIRECTORS**

Craig Schweiger, CEO  
Jerrel T. Gilliam, Executive Director  
Leo Salgado, Director of Administration  
Doug Smith, Director of Development  
Sherry Rorison, Director of Programs

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Gash Abebe  
Rebecca Fatica  
Rita Huckle  
Stephanie L. Herring  
Jody Johnson  
Thomas Junker  
Dr. Edwin J. Kairis  
Ralph Miller  
Richard Roadarmel  
Donald Tucker  
David Wilke  
Tunch Ilkin, Honorary Member  
Donald L. Foster, Honorary Member



# *Our Supporters*



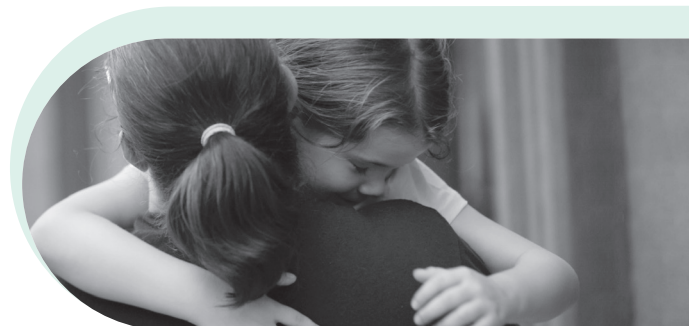
**3,000+**  
**VOLUNTEERS**



**31,872** **DONORS**



**\$191.89**  
**AVERAGE DONATION**





# *What's Next?*





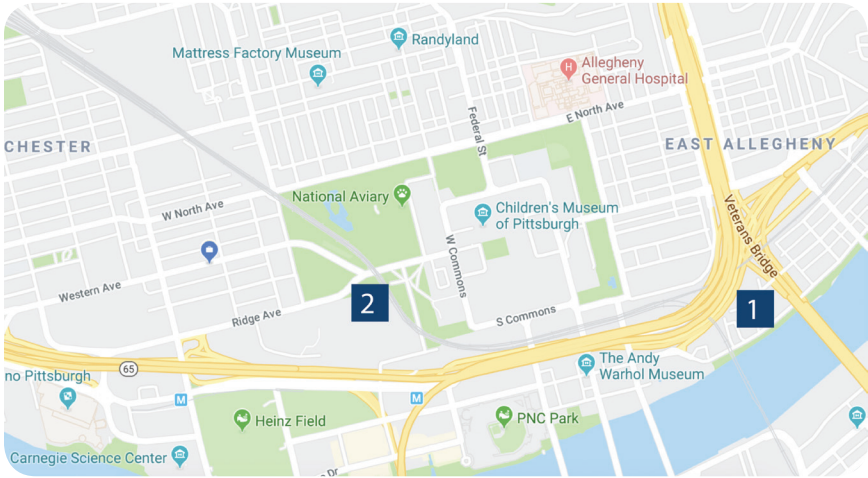
For 25 years, Light of Life Rescue Mission has been making an effort to relocate to a better location on the North Side. The time has finally come for us to embark on this historic journey of building and renovating a new home for the homeless.

### 1. VOEGHTLY STREET BUILDING

This new building will be situated between interstates 279 and 579 and the Allegheny River, close to the Veterans Bridge—an area where the homeless already congregate—allowing us to be in much closer proximity to those in dire need of our services.

### 2. RIDGE PLACE BUILDING

The entire interior, exterior, and ground of this building will be renovated, providing more accommodating and comfortable space for classes, recreation, and long-term programs for men, women, and children. Administrative offices will also be housed in this building.



For more information visit [www.lightoflife.org/opendoors](http://www.lightoflife.org/opendoors)



LIGHT *of* LIFE  
**rescue mission**

Food. Shelter. Hope.

**[lightoflife.org](http://lightoflife.org)**