

Volunteer Newsletter

Holding Out Hope



May 2021 | Issue 14 | Hope House Volunteers

Newsletter for Volunteers

Together we can break the cycle of poverty and despair one life at a time. We are Hope House Mission, a faith-based emergency homeless shelter serving men, women, and children. Hope House is a place to find relief, but even greater than that we get to share that Hope is a person. It is Jesus Christ. While the people we serve have great earthly suffering, it is the greater desire and task to relieve the far weightier eternal suffering through the proclamation of the gospel. Our zeal for helping the poor must be founded in love for God, which will indeed combat any compassion fatigue. Our goal is to serve others and build relationships for the glory of God so that the good news of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed, and people may be reconciled to him!

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Supporting Hope House Mission

“Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; not leaving any behind.” Ezekiel 39:28

SAVE THE DATE!

Volunteer Welcome Back Reception

The Hope House Staff is excited to invite volunteers back to the shelters. To assure proper training and safety for all volunteers we will host two Welcome Back Receptions. Volunteers will receive tours of the new Men's Shelter, meet the staff, and be presented a brief review of new policies and guidelines. There will be time for fellowship with other volunteers and Q&A.

Join us either Saturday morning, June 12th at 10AM-12PM or Monday evening, June 14th at 6:30PM-8:30PM. The reception will be hosted at the new Men's Shelter located at 1001 Grove Street, Middletown, Ohio 45044. Volunteers are encouraged to attend one of two training sessions. Masks are required. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival to protect all guest.

Space is limited. [Click here to RSVP](#) Email the Volunteer Coordinator, Kami with any questions kbarnes@hhmission.org

After June 15th all volunteers (new and current) will need a login with our new volunteer management system. Assistance for sign up will be provided at the reception. Information will be emailed to volunteers not able to attend.

In exile no more, Volunteers return!

In the pursuit of safety, we prayerfully suspended most volunteer activities a year ago. Our volunteers have been MISSED! We are incredibly grateful for the volunteers who remained faithful by donating meals, hosted online classes and chapel services, organized donation drives, prayed for us, and reached out. It is with this same prayerful spirit we created a plan to invite volunteers back inside our shelters.

Safety is still our main concern. Most staff at both shelters have been vaccinated. Residents are Covid tested and quarantined when they arrive. Vaccines are offered to them. Staff and residents in common areas are required to wear masks inside both buildings. Any returning volunteer will be required to wear a mask while inside the shelter. This is still a government order; we must enforce this policy. We encourage each volunteer to wear a mask while outside. Staff, residents, and volunteers have temperatures taken daily. Volunteers should consider getting vaccinated to ensure safety of the residents they serve.

We will open the shelter to volunteers in 3 phases.

Phase 1: Starting May 1st inside volunteer opportunities include, administrative assistance (Front Desk), class instructors, Bible studies and devotions. All volunteers working outside, yard work, gardening and building beautification projects are welcomed. All meals will remain drop off only until June 15th.

Phase 2: Starting June 15th volunteer opportunities are open to Meal Teams- making or serving meals, Men's enrichment activities including Rec. Time, and Women's enrichment activities.

Phase 3: We do not have a date to resume Children's enrichment activities and childcare. There is no approved vaccine for children. Smaller kids do not wear masks. We must protect them as well as our volunteers. We will rely on government recommendations to help us to know when to resume these activities.

The Chick Fil a 5K has been suspended until Summer 2022.

Volunteer Spotlight

Blessings are Blooming at HOPE HOUSE! Volunteers from Hope Church in Mason led two outreaches on Sunday April 25th. Hope Church, located in Mason Ohio, reserves a Sunday in April each year to serve in the community. Members of the church perform service projects instead of attending a weekly service. Hope House was just one of 14 organization blessed through the “Love Mason Plus” program.

The first team transformed the landscape at the Women’s Shelter. 18 volunteers weeded and mulched flower beds, raised gardens and a picnic area. They donated and planted 4 trees, flowers, and tomato plants. Much of this difficult work was done while carrying **80 BAGS** of donated mulch up a hill! The second team of 36 volunteers assisted at the Men’s Shelter. Teams washed all exterior windows, packed intake bags, sorted donations and planted Pansies in the two front flower beds. What an incredible blessing for Earth Day weekend.

Chris Grage led the team at the women’s shelter. When we expressed our gratitude for the transformation, he replied, “Those women need to be reminded that not only are they NOT forgotten, but that they deserve things like that, and hopefully God’s love shines through those flowers and shrubs.”



Philanthropist

Badges Earned



Brownie Troop 4269 from Liberty Township met to create Blessing Bags for the residents at Hope House Women’s Shelter. The bags were filled with toiletries and personal hygiene products. In addition to the Blessing Bags they also donated several boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. The supplies for the bags and cookies were funded by a fruitful cookie season. The group of third grade girls, led by Liza Zupan and Jessica Carroll, sold 4,317 boxes of cookies.

“The girls all brainstormed in the beginning of the year on how they wanted to use cookie funds and overwhelmingly wanted to help the homeless population. I did some research on different shelters near us and loved how Hope House accepted women and children together as well as provided long term sustainable life transformations,” stated Lisa.

The girls formed as a troop in 2019. This troop achievement is part of the girls’ effort to earn Philanthropist Badges. According to a statement from the troop, there are 5 steps to earn a Philanthropist Badge, “Learn what every person needs. Investigate how to help people who are hungry. Find out how to help people who need clothing. Know how to help in times of emergency. Think-and act-like a philanthropist.”

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Pick up donations from Whole Foods Sunday mornings.
- [Click here](#) to share a meal at the Women’s or Men’s Shelter
- Class instructors are needed for the following classes: Bible Studies, Devotionals, Parenting, Basic Finances and Budgeting.
- Help with landscape and the garden.
- Email Kami Barnes at kbarnes@hhmission.org with any questions or to sign up.

New Volunteer Coordinator



Hope House is happy to announce that we have hired a new volunteer coordinator, Kami Barnes. You may recognize or have met Kami already. She was introduced to Hope House in 2018 when a friend asked her to help serve dinner at the Women's Shelter. She has volunteered at the Front Desk, participated and volunteered at the

Chick-fil-a 5K, and she and her husband Jake has enjoy making lunches for the ladies at the Women's Shelter.

Kami has a heart for service and looks forward to learning more about this busy role. Photographed above is Kami with her husband, Jake. They live in Trenton with their two dogs.

Support Hope House Mission

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Each time you use your registered Kroger Plus Card when you purchase groceries, Kroger donates to Hope House Mission to help feed the hungry in our community. It's easy and free!

- Go to [Kroger.com/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/community-rewards)
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- Click Kroger Community Rewards, search for "Hope House" and select it from the list.

Use your registered Kroger Plus Card every time you shop at Kroger. Your purchases will earn cash for the mission.

Hope House is Hiring

Have you felt the Lord tugging at your heart to serve his women and children? Hope House is seeking a committed individual to fill the *Women's Center Resident Specialist* position. The position is part-time Saturday and Sunday, 12pm-12am. The Resident Specialist will run the front desk, attend all staff meetings, supervise clients, oversee inspections, manage donations, and have a working knowledge of community resources.

This position is perfect for a student or someone looking for extra hours on the weekend. Interested candidates should email the Women's Center Director, Tammi Ector at tector@hhmission.org No phone calls please. To view the full job description and requirements see the [job posting](#) on hhmission.org

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