Hope Church spreads the love

Hope Church returned for their sixth year serving as part of their Love Plus Mason project. Their team spent the day mulching the Women and Children's Shelter property, power washing sidewalks and playground equipment, and helping refresh the grounds for the women and children who call the shelter home.

A special thank you also goes to Deacon Larry Gronas, Kenitay Pitstick, and family, who stepped in early Saturday morning to make sure the mulch was delivered after the original company failed to show. Their willingness to pivot, problem solve and show up when needed is a beautiful example of the kind of volunteers God continually brings to Hope House Mission. We truly have the best volunteers, and we give God the glory for providing faithful people willing to serve wherever needed.

Crossroads' GO Day

For their third year, a team from Crossroads Church served at the Men's Shelter as part of their GO Day outreach. The group generously provided all the mulch for the project and spent the day refreshing landscaping around the property. In addition, the team planted lavender throughout the grounds and helped wash chapel walls in preparation for future improvements.

Register your Kroger Card to feed the hungry for free!

As part of Kroger's Community Rewards program, each time you use your registered Kroger Plus Card when you buy groceries, Kroger will make a donation to Hope House Mission.

Just designate us as the beneficiary by enrolling. It's easy and FREE to participate, and it will not affect your fuel points or coupon discounts.

1. Go to kroger.com/communityrewards
2. Sign in to your online Kroger account (or create an account if you don't have one).
3. Click "Enroll Now."
4. Search for "Hope House Mission," select the organization from the list, and click "Enroll."
5. Use your Kroger Plus Card every time you shop, and your purchases will help those in need.

For more information, please contact office@hhmission.org or visit hhmission.org/fundraise.

CONTACT US

1001 Grove St., Middletown, OH 45044
hhmission.org
office@hhmission.org
513-424-4673

YES! I'll help feed & care for others this summer

I'm enclosing $_____ Please allocate my gift to:

❑ **Where it's needed most** ❑ **Men's Shelter** ❑ **Women & Children's Shelter**

❑ **Make this donation monthly**

❑ I have included Hope House Mission in my Will or Estate Plan.
❑ I would like info on including Hope House Mission in my Will or Estate Plan.
❑ Bill my credit card: ❑ VISA ❑ MC ❑ AMEX ❑ DISC

CREDIT CARD# CIV# EXP. DATE PHONE#

To give by credit card online, visit hhmission.org. To give by credit card by phone, call 513-424-4673.

Name Address

City State Zip Email HH0626NL

Hope House MISSION
In partnership with City Gospel Mission

THANK YOU!

Please return this completed form with your donation. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt for your records. Please make sure your check is payable to: HOPE HOUSE MISSION

HOPE HOUSE MISSION
1001 Grove St.
Middletown, Ohio 45044

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Hope House MISSION
In partnership with City Gospel Mission

CHRONICLES OF HOPE

Breaking the cycle of poverty and despair ... one life at a time

Shikivia escapes abuse to find peace and faith again

Shikivia didn't plan to end up sleeping in her car.

After moving back from Georgia to be in a relationship, things started to change. Small arguments escalated, and it became physical.

That was the moment she knew she had to leave.

"I probably slept in my car for two days," she said. "I was alone, scared, very emotional… I didn't know who to call."

She parked where she could, a church, a library, anywhere open.

"I was just searching online and actually ChatGPT told me about Hope House."

Even then, she wasn't sure. She called once but didn't come in. The idea of staying in a shelter felt overwhelming.

"I was like … I never did this before."

But after another cold October night, she called back. The first few days were hard.

"I cried, I just couldn't believe I was at this point."

But that didn't last forever. After about three weeks she began to relax.

"I remember sitting outside with the other girls," she said. "They told me, 'Don't worry, it's going to be okay. We've got your back.'"

She realized she wasn't alone.

"Everybody is here for the same reason," she said. "They don't have nowhere else to go."

Little by little, things started to feel more normal because of routine.

Even small things stood out.

"I was able to wash all my clothes the first night. That was pretty cool."

And woven into that routine was something else.

"I've found God and I started going to church more because this is like literally what the shelter was about. We had Bible class Monday, Bible class Wednesday… it kind of pushed you into getting into that."

Faith wasn't new to her, but consistency was.

"I've been in church since I was little, but I could never find an actual church home."

Through Hope House, she was introduced to New Era Baptist Church. "I go every Sunday."

Not long after leaving Hope House, she was baptized.

Life now looks different.

She still works full-time, recently completed EKG training, and is working toward becoming a Registered Behavioral Technician. She cooks more, goes to the gym, and spends time at the library.

But the biggest change isn't what she's doing, it's how she sees things.

"I've noticed a big change in me. I appreciate things more… and I appreciate my peace more. …I'm learning how to love myself more."

THANK YOU for helping Shikivia find a place to heal and reconnect with God again!

Gifts received

In Memory Of
- Betty Lay Graft
- Barbara Hudson
- Elaine Meeks
- Meryl Rhoades
- Glen & Shirley True
- Delores (Dee) Young

In Honor Of
- Scott & Joy Lockwood
- Middletown Division of Police

Be a blessing – Volunteer!

Critical Needs
Meals: Providing and Serving

Other Needs
Cleaning
Haircuts for Residents
Maintenance/Repairs
Painting
Plumbing
Professional Services

Letter from the Vice President

A year of being encouraged by staff and supporters alike

Barry Baker

As I reflect on my first year leading Hope House Mission, I continue to be encouraged by the people God has brought together to serve this ministry.

After more than 20 years with City Gospel Mission, I know meaningful ministry does not happen by accident. God uses committed staff, dedicated volunteers, faithful church partners, strong community support, and generous donors all working together to help bring lasting change to the lives of others.

Over this past year, one of the things that has impacted me most has been the dedication of the Hope House Mission staff. Even while walking through personal hardships and difficult seasons of their own, they continue to faithfully show up each day to care for the men, women, and children we serve. I have watched staff members pray together, support one another, and remain deeply committed to this mission.

I have also been encouraged by the way Hope House Mission continues building programs and partnerships that help create real transformation. Through partnerships like Modern Psychiatry and Wellness, which provides onsite case management, behavioral health care, and substance use disorder counseling, along with volunteer-led life skills classes, mentorship, and spiritual encouragement, we can care for the whole person. None of this would be possible without faithful supporters like you.

Your generosity helps provide shelter, meals, counseling, programming, and compassionate care to people facing some of the hardest moments of their lives. Your prayers encourage our staff and strengthen this ministry every day.

Thank you for believing in the work God is doing through Hope House Mission. You are an important part of every life being changed here.

May God bless you for the blessing you continue to be to so many.

Barry Baker, Executive Vice President

Volunteer Spotlight: Shynita Phillips Abu

Since January, Shynita Phillips Abu has been serving as an intern at Hope House Mission while studying at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. She is currently pursuing her Associate Degree in Human and Social Services, with plans to continue toward becoming a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW).

Throughout her internship, Shynita has served participants at both the Women and Children's Shelter and Men's Shelter. She shared that one of the most meaningful parts of her experience has been spending time with the women, praying with them, and occasionally bringing her children along to volunteer outings.

Shynita says her time at Hope House Mission has helped her grow in confidence, engagement, and relationship-building skills. She especially appreciates the consistent communication between staff and case managers, along with the holistic, faith-based approach used to support participants.

One major project she helped complete was updating the Community Resource Guide, which introduced her to many of the resources available throughout Middletown and helped her begin building a professional network.

She also added extra creativity and "bling" to this year's volunteer appreciation luncheon and provided helpful input regarding services that could benefit mothers staying at the Women and Children's Shelter.

Currently completing a second internship term, Shynita is helping create an orientation video for new participants, assisting case managers with follow-up calls, and leading a new class at the Men's Shelter called Rewritten and Redeemed, a therapeutic creative writing class using Bible verses as prompts.

Reflecting on her experience, Shynita shared, "I have never heard of an organization like this." Speaking about the support she has received from Dr. Foster and the staff at Hope House Mission, she added, "You don't have to hide who you are. I'm allowed to be myself."

After completing her educational goals, Shynita hopes to work with individuals involved in the court system by creating diversion programs for first-time or lesser offenses as an alternative to jail time. Her vision includes group sessions and one-on-one mentoring opportunities. Before serving at Hope House Mission, she originally envisioned this type of program specifically for women. However, after working with men at the Men's Shelter, her passion has expanded to include helping both women and men find restoration, support, and a path forward.

Here's our SUMMER list of critical needs

Have you been blessed & would like to pass on that blessing? Our guests will be most grateful. Our current critical needs include:

Gift Cards
- Grocery stores, home improvement stores, etc.

Food
- Coffee, creamer
- Sugar
- Milk
- Canned fruit, vegetables, and soup
- Instant potatoes
- Cooking spray

Household/Personal Items
- Trash bags (13-gallon tall, 30-gallon, and 55-gallon)
- Cleaning products
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies

*****IMPORTANT*****
Clothing donations
Because of our generous community partners and limited storage in our facilities, we no longer accept gently used clothing or household items. Please consider donating clothing to St. Paul's United Church of Christ (937-993-5464) in Middletown. You can donate furniture to New Life Furniture Bank (513-313-0530).

Butler County UNITED WAY Community Partner