

VOICE of COMPASSION



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Colossians 3:23

**...FOCUS IN THIS EDITION
FINDING INDEPENDENCE
THROUGH CONNECTIONS
TO RESOURCES.**

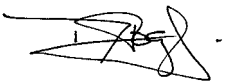
...JESUS SAID, "FEED MY SHEEP." JOHN 21:17

Jesus had a conversation with Peter on the beach. That day; in the simplicity of the moment; would capture Peter's life to such detail that it altered the rest of his life and career.

Many of us, if not all, can remember a time when a simple conversation became a turning point in our lives. Perhaps it was a comment or an observation within the conversation that interrupted what we were doing or thinking at the time.

Recently I had a surprise visit from a former guest of our *Ready For Life* ministry. He recounted the exact, but brief conversation we had where I challenged him to rethink his angry response to life. He said; "that moment changed my life". Years later, he's living in Texas with his new family and doing well.

Your support of the hundreds of men, women and children of your community served at Cherry Street ensure these timeless, uninterrupted conversations continue to disrupt the course of people's lives. You will read later in this issue about the opening of our new space of ministry called the Mac Street Café. This is where men and women come to get healthy in soul, spirit and relationships. We are leveraging these meals to have meaningful conversations that can bring about change and redemption. Please join us in making these conversations the kind of moments that last and affect tangible change in lives - that work!



PS. To connect with me for a tour, or any other question, please contact me at danrogers@cherrystreetmission.org or 419-214-3007.

DAN ROGERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
CHERRY STREET MISSION
MINISTRIES



Photo © Jim Rohman



A STRUGGLE WITH HOMELESSNESS.

by Emily Jacobs

While many Americans will never know what it is like to be homeless, it became a way of life for Tyler before he was 18 years old. After being expelled from home by his mother and stepfather, he entered a lengthy, discouraging pattern of life on the streets.

“I was a rebel kid growing up,” he says, accepting much of the responsibility for his circumstances. “I always thought that I knew better than everybody else.”

Homelessness took a toll on Tyler’s mental health, and he struggled with depression. He was hospitalized and received treatment for his condition. After being discharged, his mother refused to let him come home, so his insurance provided transportation to Cherry Street Mission Ministries in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio. Although his mother and stepfather relented, Tyler again found himself on the streets. He lived in shelters off and on for the next six years.

“At first the homeless life was just like, ‘okay, this is life,’” he says. “Eventually, I got the mentality that this needs to just be a stepping stone, and started listening to my mentors...and I started building towards where I’m at now.”

A LIFE TURNED AROUND

Tyler joined the mission’s Ready for Life (RFL) program, where he formed a mentoring relationship with Jonas Clawson, Manager of Food Ministries. In RFL, a group of men worked together to serve in one of Cherry Street’s facilities and attend Bible studies and job readiness classes. Encouraged by

Clawson, Tyler took advantage of Cherry Street’s automotive technology class that launched in March 2016.

Old habits are hard to break, however, and Tyler’s time with Cherry Street had its challenges. He still made unwise decisions on occasion, including leaving the mission for other interests. Clawson pursued him multiple times and persuaded him to return, after which Tyler eventually completed the auto tech program.

“I believe that our greatest help with [Tyler] has been relationships—friendships, mentorship,” Clawson says. “We love people.”

Dawn Bongratz, Chef at Cherry Street Mission, served with Tyler in the ministry kitchens. She believes the support groups and mentorship were instrumental in helping him understand his weaknesses and how best to manage them to become a better person.

“He maintained a strong sense of transparency,” Bongratz says. Tyler attended church regularly and even brought his life group from church to volunteer with Cherry Street. “They were able to understand what he’s going through, what he’s gone through, and what he’s coming out of.”

Tyler moved out of Cherry Street Mission in 2016, and now works as a technician at Yark Automotive Group in Toledo. As of May 2017, has been working there for about six months.

“[Tyler]’s got a good attitude,” says Joe Cerveny, express lane manager at Yark. “He shows up

every day, no matter how he has to get here, he makes it happen... never has any excuses. He’s always on the go, he’s a team player, and he’s always willing to learn more each and every day.”

"AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK."

-2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

A LESSON LEARNED

Tyler’s transformation has encouraged others at Cherry Street Mission—the mentors as much as the guests. A person may continue to make unwise decisions or grow discouraged, but Tyler’s story has taught Clawson, as a mentor, not to give up on someone.

“It’s really easy to lose hope, it’s really easy to lose your motivation to continue to walk with them through this,” Clawson says. “He has shown me, and helped me personally...not to stop.”

“He’s just done an amazing job at allowing what some would see as failure in his life...to use it as a stepping stone to get up and out of the homelessness cycle and the cycle of poverty,” Bongratz says. As a Christian organization, she adds, “We don’t let the Enemy hold us in that place of past failures and poor decisions.”

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The purpose of all positions at Cherry Street is to help create an environment that promotes redemption in a person's life. When you are hired at Cherry Street, we all have the same job title: Minister of Redemption. Those working at Cherry Street have a passion to affect change and to work in God's Word.

■ Minister of Redemption in the Stewardship Department as a **Social & Media Coordinator** - This position creates an online environment that promotes donor participation, community engagement, facilitate conversations, message development, sustain and increase giving, interact and encourage media engagement. The employee will be responsible for planning and sending press releases, media alerts, maintain social media, maintain a strategy and maintain media contacts.

■ Minister of Redemption in the Food Service Department as a **Cook** - The primary function of this position is to assist the Director of Food Service and operations of a kitchen and cafeteria facility; to develop and prepare menus and large quantities of food items on a day to day basis. The major objective of this position is to keep Food Service Department running effectively and allow director to focus on food nutrients and menu planning.

■ Minister of Redemption in the Stewardship Department as a **Donor Development Specialist**- This position requires a dynamic and ministry-minded person who is responsible for the development, cultivation and increase of our donor base.

■ Minister of Redemption in the Men's Facility or Sparrow's Nest as a **Stabilization Advocate** - Responsibilities include providing excellent customer service to our guests, assisting in the daily operational needs of the facilities, securing the premises, and maintaining an atmosphere that supports life transformation.

Go to cherrystreetmission.org to apply.



"...AND IF YOU SPEND YOURSELVES IN BEHALF OF THE HUNGRY AND SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THE OPPRESSED, THEN YOUR LIGHT WILL RISE IN THE DARKNESS, AND YOUR NIGHT WILL BECOME LIKE THE NOONDAY." ISAIAH 58

What a beautiful depiction of God's blessing on our lives when we commit ourselves to His cause of caring for the poor. But that blessing falls when we spend ourselves...giving all we can.

That's what we see in your faithful gifts to Cherry Street! Through education and career training to recovery programs and Biblical classes, guests see the light of Christ through you and are moved and equipped to make permanent, positive changes.

Today, we invite you to reach even more people in need as a **Pillar of Hope, a monthly donor**. Pillars of Hope are the vital foundation of our ability to better budget and plan how we will serve our community. Will you consider joining this group of committed donors?

By committing to a monthly gift **you will provide vital, uninterrupted support** guests need to focus on the life changes they need to make. Your ongoing support is truly the bedrock upon which life transformation takes root and grows.

If you are an existing Pillar of Hope partner, we have reduced the amount of mail coming to you. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your usual Pillar of Hope gift.

For more information, contact Donor Relations at 419.214.3410 or support@cherrystreetmission.org

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

Providing care and stable service takes many hands. It often looks like Cherry Street always has enough volunteers. Consider however, if all the volunteer spots were filled, everyday the vital conversations staff could have with those served by Cherry Street elbow to elbow with volunteers. When you are a volunteer, you are a part of the ministry and not just an observer. Volunteers will be giving others the opportunity to be blessed by God.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Amber came to help for breakfast recently. To say she was impressed by the new Mac Street Café is an understatement. "You guys have done a great job. It's so amazing to see the vision at work in lives. I love volunteering here." She started as a volunteer at Cherry Street because her father was a volunteer. Amber is going to come back to volunteer for more meals and to continue a family tradition. "Now that my daughter is old enough, she is going to be coming with me next time."

Sign up today at cherrystreetmission.org/volunteer

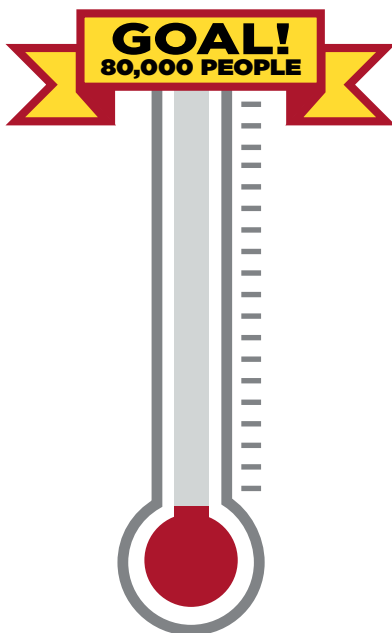


COUNT DOWN TO THE HOLIDAYS

A meal can change everything. Hope begins with a meal and is leveraged into a conversation to create change and transformation. With over 80,000 meals to serve this fall, it will cost \$2.28 per meal or \$182,400 from now until the end of the year.

Our cost of \$2.28 a meal is only possible because of YOU:

- Volunteers at meals to offset costs and to allow staff to engage in meaningful conversations.
- Food donations to help us stock the pantry.
- Monetary donations to purchase the supplies needed.
- Each gift from you helps offset other costs associated with each meal.



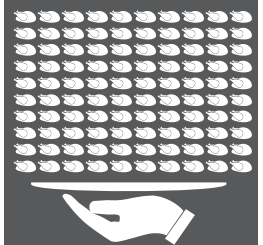
\$25 = 11 MEALS



\$250 = 110 MEALS



\$2500 = 1,096 MEALS





First meal in Mac Street Café

CHERRY STREET CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY WITH MAC STREET CAFE GRAND OPENING

To celebrate 70 years of service to the Greater Toledo community, Cherry Street Mission Ministries unveiled the Mac Street Café in the Life Revitalization Center on Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

“Less than two years ago, we had a dream and a vision of what this could look like for Toledo,” said Cherry Street Mission Ministries President and CEO Dan Rogers. “We are so thankful to everyone who helped to make that dream a reality. We’re maximizing community resources, reaching even more people, and meeting their human needs of hunger while providing them the tools they need to stabilize their lives and lift them out of poverty for good.”

The Mac Street Café will serve nutritious meals to everyone in the community – business professionals, neighbors, individuals who are homeless or in poverty – anyone who would like to dine at the new facility. It features a wide variety of seating for up to 400 people, brand new equipment, a buffet line, and a customized menu.



“What began as a vision and conversation between friends turned into a \$3.5 million dollar project that took nearly 18 months to complete,” said Rogers. “Seventy years ago; in June 1947; Jesse and Bertha Fleck founded Cherry Street Mission Ministries to address a crowd of homeless men congregating on Cherry Street. As we continue to work toward our vision, we remain committed to their vision and provide meals seven days a week, 365 days a year to anyone.”



MAC STREET
C A F E SM

The Mac Street Café name and logo have deep meanings. The **Mac** part of the name was to remember the building's history as the Macomber High School and **Street** for Cherry Street. You will notice the dotted line at the end of the fork. This is the line to poverty and brokenness of soul and spirit. *Cherry Street is committed to ending the line.* We are ending the line to homelessness, ending the line to poverty and ending the line to hopelessness.



Unveiling the logo.



Patrons of the café also have the opportunity to enroll in various educational and vocational programs provided at the Life Revitalization Center including GED classes and automotive technology and call center training courses.

▲ Michael Osborne, co-chair steering committee member and Frank Richardson, guest.

▼ The kitchen was made possible due to the Mike & Michelle Osbourne from Credit Adjustments Inc.

▲ The grand opening included past and present Cherry Street staff and volunteers serving free pancakes all day long.



▲ Board member, Tina Kern

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT— SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD!

The fifth annual Christmas Concert to benefit Cherry Street will be presented by the Owens Community College Concert Band. This event is always a wonderful time of celebrating the season of our Savior's birth. You can count on an amazing performance!

There is no charge for the concert. Donations will be accepted and complimentary refreshments will be served following the concert. Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 3rd at 2:30 p.m. You won't want to miss this fun and festive Christmas event!

 **Owens Community College**
Center for Performing Arts Theater
30335 Oregon Road • Perrysburg, OH 43551

SIBERIAN SOLSTICE

A Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute Band

and

ONE SPIRIT GOSPEL QUARTET

present

THE ANGEL'S GIFT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

with host & emcee
Denny Schaffer
of Q105FM

Doors open at 6:30pm
Show starts at 7pm

100% to benefit
Cherry Street
FREE WILL DONATION

CHERRY ST.
MISSION MINISTRIES

Life Revitalization Center
1501 Monroe Street
Toledo 43604

Voice of Compassion is a publication of:

CHERRY ST.

MISSION MINISTRIES

105 17th Street • Toledo, OH 43604-6785



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Donate Food

Your donations of food enable us to provide homeless and near-homeless men, women, and families with over 600-800 meals each day, in the form of hot meals. Food donations must have been prepared in ServSafe® method or donated as a whole, uncooked food.

Please bring your donations to:

Cherry Street's Life Revitalization Center Building
1501 Monroe Street (former Macomber School)
Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Donate Non-Food Items

Your donations of non-food items provide dignity to our guests 365 days a year. We accept donations of toiletries, winter gear, socks, scrubs and underclothing for both men and women.

Please bring your donations to:

Cherry Street's Life Revitalization Center Building
1501 Monroe Street (former Macomber School)
Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Call **419-214-3007** for more information.

Donate Assets

Cherry Street accepts stocks, bonds, trusts, jewelry, real estate, boats, RVs, and other vehicles. If you would like additional information on ways to donate, contact Max Lambdin at mlambdin@cherrystreetmission.org or 419-214-3009.

For more information about Cherry Street or the *Voice of Compassion*, contact Max Lambdin at mlambdin@cherrystreetmission.org or 419-214-3009.