

VOICE of COMPASSION



"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Matthew 6:14

**...FOCUS IN THIS EDITION
FINDING STRENGTH
IN FORGIVENESS**

"BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER AND FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER IF ANY OF YOU HAS A GRIEVANCE AGAINST SOMEONE. FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU." COLOSSIANS 3:13

Recently I was in a conversation with 'Brian' who had just left a small group study at Cherry Street's Life Revitalization Center. The topic of the group was forgiveness. Brian shared how in the group he just left, he had decided to forgive his dad.


I asked him if there was anything he needed to forgive himself about. He stood there nearly motionless for some time and said; yes, but I can't be forgiven for the wrong I've done.

For many of us, forgiveness toward someone else can be successful as long as we're willing to lean into reconciliation. However, forgiveness for one's self, is a road less walked. In my work with people over the last 38 years, I've found personal forgiveness to be the most allusive and ultimately destructive. To be blunt, as we receive the forgiveness of Jesus, we can forgive ourselves and forgive others - but only as we receive the forgiveness of Jesus

As it was for Brian that day, our conversation led him to realize that forgiving himself was actually more important than forgiving his dad. I hope that as you read this note, and through the pages of The Voice of Compassion, you'll contemplate how welcoming God's love is for you. As you see healing mercy happening for others- it is for you too.

Each day at Cherry Street, you enable hundreds of conversations. Your gift and loving support not only keep the doors of Cherry Street open, your love for others offers the hope found at the end of a God designed conversation.

Thank you for helping me love Brian,



DAN ROGERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
CHERRY STREET MISSION
MINISTRIES

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



Photo © Jim Rohman



FINDING FORGIVENESS & DELIVERED FROM GRIEF

“My typical day is taking the grandkids to school. Then I come to Cherry Street for classes. After I’m done with that I go home and get back into my books. Isn’t that crazy?”, Akasha said. While she is in class Akasha says, “I’m focused. I’m learning a lot more about myself and how to use my new call center communication skills. I’m gaining more confidence in myself and discovering where I’m going in life”. Akasha didn’t consider how much work she would be doing on herself personally outside of learning about the call center vocation.

Incredibly, her husband, father and grandmother all died on the same day, leaving Akasha devastated. All the people she ordinarily would turn to in her times of trouble had left. Akasha; a strong

independent woman; provided support for her children and grandchildren. But as they all grieved to her; Akasha grieved alone. “This Class helped me talk about my grief”, said Akasha. When asked how she dealt with the sorrow without anyone to turn to she said, “I fell down. I was hurting people around me. I didn’t know who I was. I’m starting to see the light because I didn’t know how to grieve or how to release it. People looked down on me and judged me sometimes.”

She is also learning how to forgive, trust and to love again. Through her classes in the Cherry Street Call Center Training she is rebuilding a broken relationship with her mother. Akasha’s mother is inspired by her daughter’s new approach to life and new joy that she now wants to join Cherry Street’s Call Center classes too. “I’m proud that I have been able to be a light for someone else”, Akasha explained.

“I believe God can turn anything around”, says Akasha. “I have a shield around me from God. You can’t get at me.” Having her faith and relationship with Jesus has been her strength, “I’m glad I can speak about Him to anybody. Sometimes I’m talking to someone else about Him, but I’m really talking to myself. Whether you know God or not, always know He shines on you. When you are in need, He already knows, He will open up doors, He will save you, you will be ok. And I’m a witness to that.”

**“FOR IF YOU POSSESS THESE QUALITIES
IN INCREASING MEASURE, THEY WILL
KEEP YOU FROM BEING INEFFECTIVE AND
UNPRODUCTIVE IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. BUT WHOEVER
DOES NOT HAVE THEM IS NEARSIGHTED AND
BLIND, FORGETTING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
CLEANSED FROM THEIR PAST SINS.”**

2 PETER 1:8-9

YOU HELPED PROVIDE ONE OF MANY KEYS TO HOME

Our first Spring Open House filled the Mac Street Cafe with hundreds of people. Everyone gathered with one effort, one mind, one strength, one spirit, one God, one roof.

Those who attended witnessed at our Keys to Home an event that was a first of its kind. That night the community was part of history making.

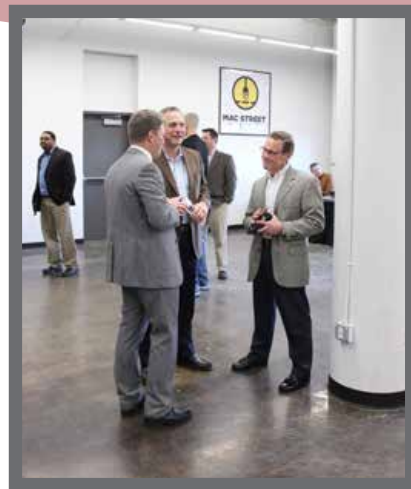


Visitors had the opportunity to see God at work... from men and women in business suits to jeans and t-shirts. Guests witnessed people from all walks of life come together under one building for one purpose. **We believe in a better community for one another!**





Thanks to our food partners: Corelife Eatery, Tree City Catering, Fowl & Fodder, The Next Sweet Thing, The Beirut, The Real Seafood, Manos, Manhattan's, Ciao and Actual Coffee Corp. Thanks to the sponsors: Munn Wealth and Dave Walborn's State Farm.



We could not do what we do at Cherry Street Mission Ministries without everyone in the community.



PILLAR OF HOPE

Cherry Street gets excited about each human who experiences victory. For a guest staying at Cherry Street, it might be as simple as a call home to tell them they are safe. Other times it's a success like getting a job and leaving Cherry Street. Telling the human story is how Cherry Street loses the adjective about the human and discovers the real human.

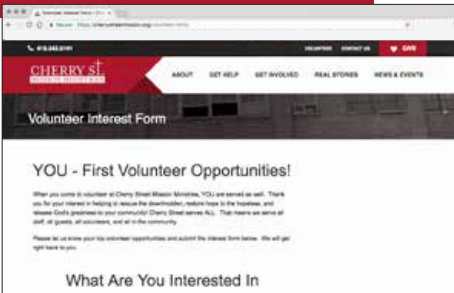
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Cherry Street is THE place to make a difference in your community. It is our hope that you will enjoy putting your passion with a purpose. While volunteering with Cherry Street you will:

- Find a place to utilize your gifts with all who come to us in a time of need.
- Find encouragement for yourself by being a part of our ministry.
- Be served because we are a "You First" ministry which means that while you are here you will be served as well.

Would you like to learn more about volunteering? Check out the videos on our website. These new videos highlight opportunities in volunteering and what you can expect to experience when you join us.

Learn more at:
www.cherrystreetmission.org/get-involved/volunteer



- Kim is learning how to forgive her mother
- Jon is working on his literacy and spending time with tutors to increase his reading level
- Tanner got out of an abusive relationship and now has a job and a home of his own
- Jane stopped a staff member at a local restaurant to share her thanks & story of redemption started at Cherry Street

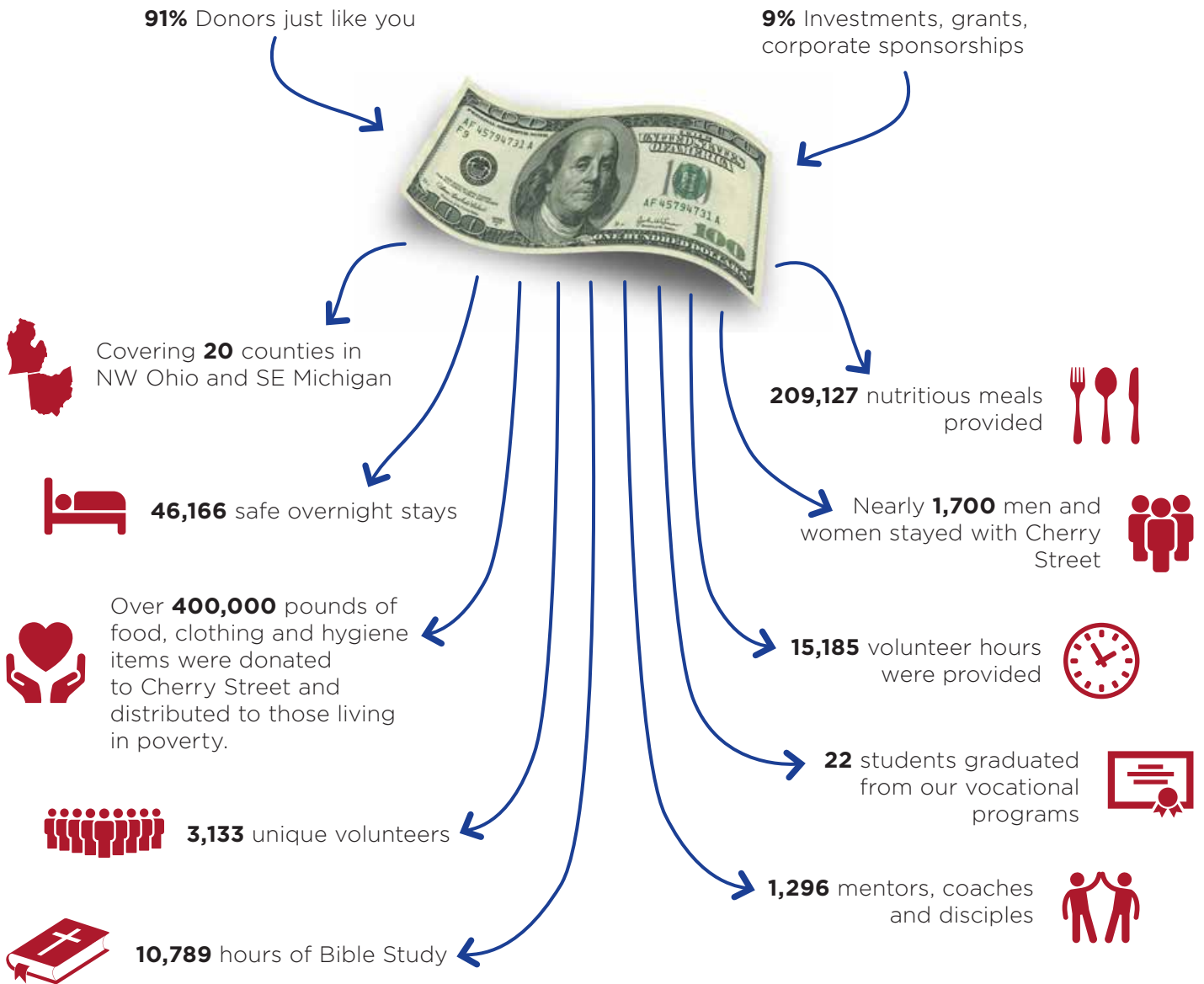
Many coming to the doors of Cherry Street are looking for conversation and a relationship that will bring hope. As a monthly Pillar of Hope donor, **you make these sorts of victories possible** by investing each month in the men and women that come to Cherry Street. Your consistent investment and impact make it possible for trust and consistency to be built in the lives of your brothers and sisters. Have you considered how you can make that consistent impact of purposeful conversation through the entire year in the lives of your brothers and sisters?

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.

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?

For more information, contact Max Lambdin at 419.214.3009 or mlambdin@cherrystreetmission.org.

By the Numbers



OUR PRAYER REQUEST

CHERRY ST.
MISSION MINISTRIES

LORD, Your gracious mercy has once again bestowed upon us the miracle of vision so that we may see Your purpose in ALL people. Grant us your unwavering courage to enter the darkness of possibility. Release the bright heat of Your love to shatter once and for all the chains binding mankind to the destruction of human effort. We invoke now Your will in building the Life Revitalization Center which You will erect for Your glory so that generations may forever praise Your Holy Name. **AMEN**

MATCHING CHALLENGE

Supporters of Cherry Street have the chance to change TWICE as many lives, as your gift DOUBLES in impact up to the full \$90,000 value of the Matching Challenge between now and the end of May.

Your DOUBLED gift will help provide:

- More hot meals, nightly housing, and warm conversation for those with no resources
- Life recovery programs for those determined to overcome their circumstances
- Vital training and education to help many who have lost their jobs find new work

Hope starts with a meal—and now we can double that impact through this matching challenge.

1 YOUR DOLLAR + **1** MATCHING DOLLAR = **2** TWICE THE IMPACT

KROGER CARES



Your Kroger shopping can earn money for Cherry Street. But you have to enroll or re-enroll, every year!

- Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- Select Cherry Street Mission Ministries as the organization you wish to have funds go

If you are having trouble please call 1-800-KROGERS, press 3 for customer service.

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.