



**“The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.” —Harriet Ann Jacobs**

It has been a busy couple of months here at Shelter Care, and we have so much to be grateful for these days! Between the wonderful spring weather we've been enjoying lately, along with the generous friends who have offered their love and support to our youth, it's important to acknowledge God's hand on this agency and all of the opportunities we have been gifted. What a blessing it is to be part of such a loving community, eager to give back and make a difference in this world. From in-kind donations, to monetary contributions and service projects, every day we are reminded of God's love and presence through the kindness of our donors. There simply are not enough ways for us to thank you all for your support, but we want you to know how much we appreciate you. **To our friends, donors, and readers, nothing we do here would be possible without you.** Thank you for playing such a major role in the lives of our youth!

### ***A Word from Wes:***

For me, practicing gratitude is critical to living a happy, healthy life. It is so important to forget about the material matters in life and focus your attention on the relationships you have with others. It's easy to forget to express gratitude for the people we're closest to and assume they already know how much we appreciate them, but consider this your reminder to tell someone you love how thankful you are for them today. Today and always, I am grateful for the incredible youth in our programs, our dedicated staff who keep them safe, and our generous friends in the community who make everything we do here possible. We have been blessed for many years, and owe all the glory to God.



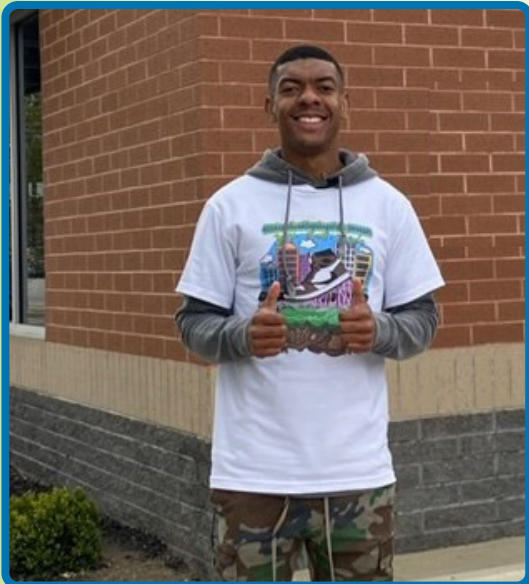
**Interested in making a difference?  
Shelter Care always has a need for your support.**

**Right now, our biggest need is funding to upgrade one of our Respite Homes, located on Nokomis Drive in Akron.** This home, built in 1967, is in need of some major repairs in order to be functional for a house-parent couple, and youth, who are in need of scheduled breaks away from their homes due to severe family conflict. **It still has its original wallpaper, carpeting, toilets, showers, sinks, tile, water softener tank and plumbing, as well as a roof and chimney, all of which are breaking down and causing significant issues due to decades of wear and tear. At this time, this home is unable to be occupied due to the overwhelming number of upgrades required for safety purposes.** These upgrades are critical for the continuation of services for youth, and families, who are struggling to stay together due to severe conflict at home. **Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by October to make these necessary upgrades.**

## Donors in the Spotlight

This month, we wanted to highlight our friends, Marvin and Judy, and take a moment to thank them for their hard work and dedication to our youth. We are so thankful for all you do, and the kindness you've offered our kids on a regular basis. We're so blessed to call you our friends!

### Marvin Montgomery Jr., Owner of Kicks n' Cuts in Cuyahoga Falls



Marvin has been a friend of Shelter Care's for over a year, and has a heart for the youth in our Safe Landing and Street Outreach Services (SOS) Programs. As a young, passionate business owner, Marvin believes it is important to use his blessings to help others, and that is exactly how he spends his life- helping others. This past April, Marvin organized a "Sneaker Event," in which proceeds from the event were donated to our Safe Landing Program. Because of his hard work and desire to make the world a better place, we were able to provide a week's worth of nutritious meals to eight youth in our Safe Landing Program with his donation. We are so lucky to have you in our lives, Marvin! Thank you for inspiring and uplifting us every day. If you're looking for the coolest new sneakers, clothes, and haircut, look no further. Marvin has got you covered!

### Judy Blair, Owner of Jimmy's Backyard BBQ in Cuyahoga Falls



Judy has also been a friend of Shelter Care's for over a year now, and has taken a special interest in the youth in our Safe Landing Program. She has a heart for filling the bellies of our youth staying at Safe Landing, and boy, does she do a fabulous job at it! Our youth (and staff) are spoiled with delicious pulled chicken sandwiches, baked beans, and chips and cheese dip at least once a month; and it's not surprising to find the dishes practically licked clean after lunchtime. Judy not only provides wonderful meals for kids, who often times do not have access to food, but she brings everyone together for family-style meals, which is an important bonding opportunity for our staff and youth. We are so grateful for you, Judy! If you haven't been to Jimmy's Backyard BBQ, we encourage you to cancel your dinner plans this evening and head on over to the Graham Road location for some seriously delicious barbeque!

#### Curious as to how much you're really helping our youth?

"It's cool knowing that strangers care about us. They don't even know me but want to make sure I eat and have a bed to sleep in. That's pretty cool of them. I just want to say thanks to them, so thank you for caring about me when no one else did."

-Tyler, 15 (A resident in Safe Landing)