

A word from our president Wes Fair

When We Feel Bleak

2 Samuel 22:29 in the NKJV version reads: "For you are my lamp, O Lord; The Lord shall enlighten my darkness." What a wealth of possibilities for our mood in this verse! The Lord is our lamp. He not only spreads a warm glow into our darkness, but that light allows us to see the path we can choose to travel with him step by step. And the promise that the Lord shall enlighten my darkness is a gift. That word enlighten means to give spiritual insight and to instruct in wisdom. I mean what more could we want? Ok so it's bleak.



Let the warming glow from God's lamp battle the darkness. Allow the Lord to give you his wisdom and with His illumination in your spirit you can become a beacon of light to someone who may be having a bleak day.

Psalms 28:29 says "He delivered me because He delighted in me." He delights to shed light in our darkness and to deliver us from the pits we fall into. I feel so much better knowing God is here right now for me, and he is right there for you too. Thanks for taking your time to read this and have an awesome day!

We love our staff! They are the heartbeat of all we do. Join us in celebrating these staff members & their anniversaries this quarter!

Stephanie - Highlands - 1 year

Lynn - Safe Landing - 30 years

Alisha - Safe Landing - 15 years

Suzanne - Highlands - 13 years

Ashley - Highlands - 4 years

Jason - SOS - 11 years

Mike - Maintenance - 11 years

Barb - Safe Landing - 1 year

Dave - Tech & Maint. - 41 years

Greg - SOS & Safe Landing - 17 years

Zach - SOS & Safe Landing - 2 years

Gabe - Safe Landing - 11 years

Damian - Safe Landing - 13 years



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Thank you so much to Akron Community Foundation

for their grant and partnership in building the Safe Landing Multi-Purpose Room! The room will provide space for groups, counseling sessions, life skills development activities and staff trainings. Thank you for supporting the youth and staff at Safe Landing Youth Shelter. Stay tuned as we start construction this Spring!

FELT UNLOVED AND ALONE...

I always enjoyed her visits. When she walked in the door of Street Outreach Services (SOS), it was like she was exhaling, as though she held in all her worries and struggles until she could finally breathe them out where she knew it was safe. Sometimes, she would apologize for sharing so much and I would remind her that's the reason we're here. It seemed to help her just having someone to talk to.

One day, she came to the drop-in center and talked to the staff in short, clipped answers. I knew something was wrong. She wasn't rude, but she wasn't herself. So I waited, knowing that she would talk when she was ready. About a half hour later, we were sitting at the dining room table, with the weight of the world on her shoulders. She was trying to take steps toward her future and a better life but to do so she needed to resolve some remnants of her past; a past that made her feel unloved and alone. She felt trapped by what she was trying to leave behind and the way her life used to be.

Suddenly, out of desperation, she exclaimed "I don't matter, I don't matter!" And I repeated back to her "You do matter, you matter to me."

That's the position we're in at Shelter Care. The world and their circumstances have told the young people and families in our programs that

they don't matter. Through emotional support, basic needs, counseling and sometimes being the family they never had, we get to remind them that they do matter and that they matter to us.

- A Shelter Care Staff Member

Your support and advocacy make stories like this possible. Thank you for joining us in our mission to provide healing, restore hope and recognize the value of young people and families in need. We are so grateful for you!

NEXT STEPS

- To learn more about Street Outreach Services or schedule a tour, please visit <https://sc72.org/street-outreach/> or call 330-630-5600.
- To partner with us financially and continue to help make stories like this possible, please visit <https://sc72.org/donate/> or complete the enclosed card.

- Sign up for our e-newsletter! To start receiving these newsletters through your email, please return the enclosed card with your email address or reach out to Jessica at j.purdy@sheltercareinc.org.

