

HIS *hands*

Reaching Hearts • Changing Lives



HOPE
for the Holidays

*Your compassion warms
hearts all winter long*

A Haven for Hope

dear friend,

All year long, friends like you help The City Mission minister to men, women and children in need. That support is especially important during the holidays; a time when fear, loneliness and despair seem to hit our hurting neighbors even more. And those hit the hardest are the most vulnerable: women and children.

Whether a woman is single or a mother...escaping domestic violence or homeless because of a job loss...needing just a couple nights of shelter or a long-term solution to her problems...Laura's Home is here to help her.

More than just a safe haven from life's storms, Laura's Home is a place of hope and healing for women and children in crisis. In this issue of *His Hands*, you'll meet Monica and LaShanda, two women dealing with different life issues, who both found their second chance at Laura's Home.

Thanks to the dedication of Laura's Home staff and counselors and the generosity of people like you, LaShanda got back on her feet after losing her job and her home... and now she's back as a volunteer! Monica's family escaped the cycle of domestic violence...and she still has hope of reconciling with her husband.

As you're making your Thanksgiving and Christmas plans, remember that Laura's Home keeps families together and that the Crossroads program often reunites men with their loved ones. Your gifts and support this holiday season will provide safety, security and lasting stability to Cleveland's neediest men, women and children.

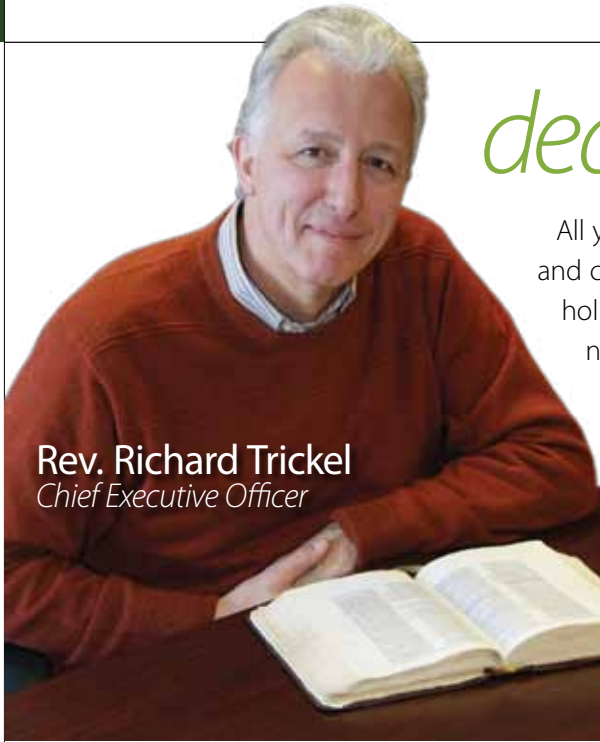
Thank you for caring, and may God bless you and your family during this season of joy and through the coming year!

Sincerely,

Rev Richard Trickel

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Psalm 33:22



Rev. Richard Trickel
Chief Executive Officer

A Word of Thanks...

...to all of you who responded so generously to our Summer Match! You added \$115,000 to the initial match of \$125,000 for a total of **\$240,000** to benefit Cleveland's neediest men, women and children. God bless you!

You Helped Steer LaShanda Out of Darkness

For LaShanda, Christmas wouldn't be complete without a visit to Laura's Home. This year, as always, she'll help cook and serve Christmas dinner, making the holiday a little brighter for the women and children staying with us.

Just a few years ago, LaShanda was a resident of Laura's Home herself. She had lost her job and then her apartment, and had nowhere to go. Her church recommended Laura's Home, which had just opened its doors to homeless and hurting women.

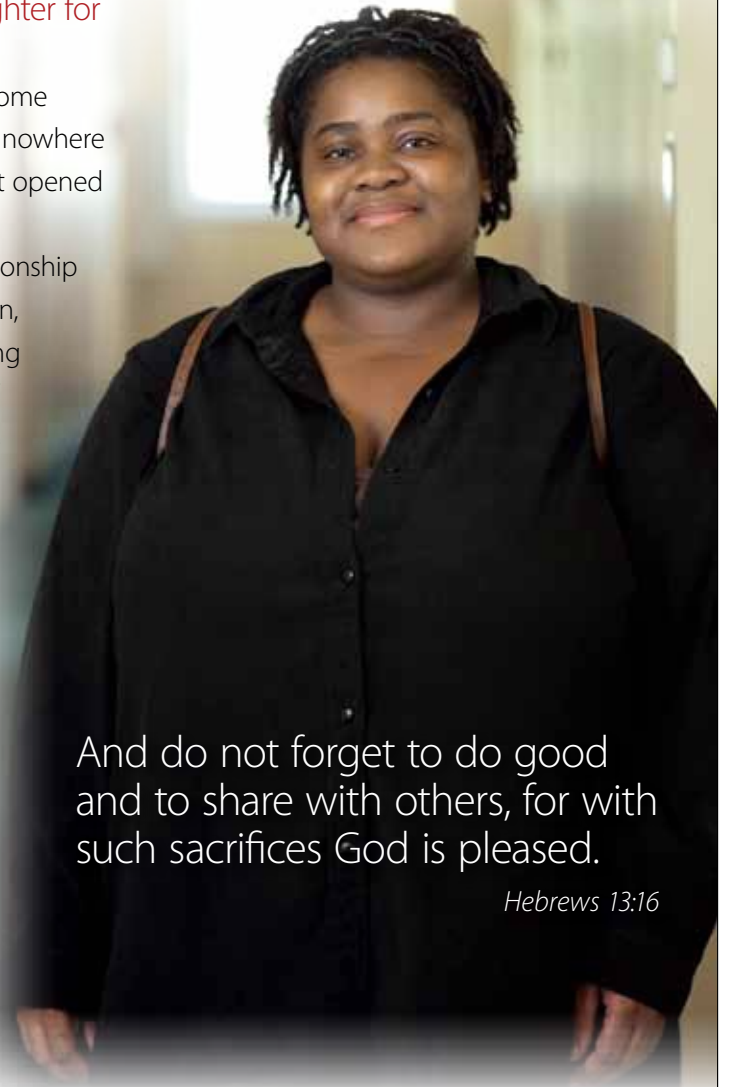
Even though she had recently been saved and had a relationship with Jesus Christ, LaShanda felt lost. "I was in a lot of depression, a lot of darkness," LaShanda recalls. "It took a lot of caring, loving people to steer me in the right direction, out of that darkness."

Those caring, loving people were the counselors at Laura's Home. They reminded her that God loved her and that He had plans for her life. "They allowed me to pour my heart out to the fullest, whether it was good coming out or bad coming out," says LaShanda. "For as much as I poured out, they put in—just a bunch of love!"

LaShanda believes that the love and guidance she received at Laura's Home saved her life by helping to lift her out of her depression. "I wanted to die, and I'm just so glad that the Lord saw fit for me to live." Through counseling, classes and Bible study, LaShanda experienced personal and spiritual growth. "I found my voice here," she says. "I discovered me."

After graduating from the program in 2008, LaShanda stayed in touch, often volunteering her time, especially during the holidays. "Laura's Home helped me out when there was no one else there to help me. But I don't (volunteer) out of obligation. I do it because I love it."

LaShanda knows that it takes time, talent and treasure to keep the doors of Laura's Home open. To those who give so freely, LaShanda says, "Thank you! You are a tremendous blessing to the women and children here, whether you know it or not!"



And do not forget to do good
and to share with others, for with
such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

See an extended
interview with
LaShanda at

www.thecitymission.org/lashanda



From Homeless

Warm beds, hearty meals and basic necessities... women and children in need find all this and so much more at Laura's Home. Since February 2003, your gifts have helped provide shelter, resources, education and the love of Christ to our most defenseless neighbors. Together, we keep hope alive in the hearts of women and children who are torn by homelessness and harsh circumstances...and offer them a chance to change their lives for the better—forever!



Children too young to attend school get lots of TLC in the day care center at Laura's Home.



You'll see plenty of happy little faces at Laura's Home, especially at meal time! Because Moms spend their days in class and kids go to school, dinners are special times for families.



s to Wholeness



At Laura's Home, women are encouraged to discover and develop talents and skills that can help them live successfully.



Your support for Laura's Home helps to break the cycle of domestic abuse, homelessness and poverty, making her future a lot brighter!



Chapel services and Bible study help provide a solid foundation for women to build their new lives upon.



Women at Laura's Home have access to a broad range of resources to help them find good jobs and live independent, stable lives.

memorial & in honor of gifts

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

The City Mission • 5310 Carnegie Ave. • Cleveland, OH 44103

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card.

IN MEMORY OF:

(July 22 – October 4, 2011)

Our deepest sympathies are with friends who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to The City Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member.

Sally Belden

Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Phelan

Margaret Brown

Karen A. Koliha

Mr. John F. Elffers

Tom and Phyllis Sullivan

Jim Endsley, II

Mr. Jerry L. Endsley

Ted and Kay Fistek

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Krsulovic

Evelyn Harwood

Miss Phyllis Harwood

Thelma Jean Herwerden

Ms. Jeanette P. Bagger
Ginny Dare Beebe, Bud Dare,
Bud and Debbie Dare, Terry Dare
and Dave and Jean Dare

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Casselberry
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Castelli
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Coeling
Lois DeBoe
Joanne DeVries
Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Fallon
Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Herwerden
On behalf of Norman Herwerden
and the employees of Middleburg
Heights City Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Herwerden
Mrs. Margaret Kerr
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Koster
Ruth Louis
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip L. Neumann
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Turske
Perry and Jennifer Westerman

Mr. Howard D.C. Hill

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wieteha

Donald L. Hubert

Retirees Breakfast Bunch

Mr. Emil Jacobson

Mr. Don Jacobson

Beatrice Jones

Irene G. Bradley
Marianne Neel
Grace M. Todd of
The Gospel Worker Society

Chrystanthe Loizos

Mr. Spiros Gonakis

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Ms. Judith and Heather Gilbert
Miss Patricia A. Hesland
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jakubecz
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence J. Kawa
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Kulikowski
The Malley Family
Brian E. McDonald

Audrey Parsons

Jim and Ann Fitzpatrick

Ray Price

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. McMullen

Richard Putney

Ms. Doris Putney

Thelma Redmond

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. McMullen

Edward J. Ristau

Mrs. Anne Christensen
Ms. Carole C. Kowell
Family of Edward J. Ristau
Ms. Mildred E. Sluka
Becky Zarko and James Basso

Dorothy Seitz

Mr. Aloysius M. Seitz

Mr. Paul Everett Shumaker

Ms. Barbara Ann Shumaker

Roger Smoot

Canal Center Properties, Inc.

Elaine Spoerke

Ms. Gayle Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Hofstetter

Catherine Sypniewski

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. McMullen

Susan M. Hobson Yarmock

Ms. Katherine R. Burke

IN HONOR OF:

(July 22 – October 4, 2011)

A gift to The City Mission is a great way both to say "I Care" and to remember a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion!

Bob and Donna Brewer's 50th Anniversary

Betsy Hanak

Evelyn Dray's 100th Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert N. Hall, Jr.

Beatrice Jones' 100th Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Furman

John L. Mugnano's Birthday

Eleanor M. Brower

George Sleigh

Kappa Alpha Theta,
Cleveland Alumnae Chapter

On Being a "Good and Faithful Servant"

In the gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus tells a parable about three servants who managed their master's assets—two wisely, one foolishly. The two "good and faithful servants" were rewarded accordingly, while the third "wicked and slothful" servant was cast into outer darkness, complete with wailing and gnashing of teeth!

This parable holds many lessons for modern man:

- As people of faith, we recognize that we truly own nothing—we're just temporary stewards of assets that will eventually pass to others. Like Job, we came into this world with nothing, and we'll take nothing with us when we leave.
- We should manage and steward assets wisely—material possessions, money, even our time. By being faithful with a few things, God may entrust us with many things to steward.

Our final statement of stewardship comes through estate planning—what happens to our tangible assets when we no longer need them. After heirs, the next most common beneficiaries of estate gifts are charitable organizations. The City Mission recently expanded its Planned Giving program to provide many more estate planning tools and techniques to donors: from life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities and trusts, to capital gifts that will keep us up and running, to endowment-style gifts that will provide funding for the Mission in perpetuity.

To arrange a free planned giving consultation without cost or obligation, contact me, Michael Parry, at 216-431-3510, or Bill Kimball, our planned giving specialist, at 216-570-0100, and be that "good and faithful servant"—it sure beats wailing and gnashing of teeth!

Please join us in prayer

Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center

- Pray for healing for our women who are dealing with Father abandonment issues.
- Pray for the boys staying in Laura's Home who need a godly male role model.
- Pray for the women in our care to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.
- Pray for open and soft hearts of our clients to receive the truth.
- Pray for our clients who are estranged from their families during this holiday season.
- Pray that this holiday season will be a season of hope for our clients who are struggling with addictions.

Inmate Outreach Services

- Many changes are underway in Ohio's Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ORDC) and many inmates are being moved to different prisons. Please pray for an orderly and peaceful transition and for God's favor on these changes.
- Pray that juveniles held in Cuyahoga County Jail on adult felony charges will find comfort and inspiration in our weekly Bible Study.

- Pray for God's direction and guidance during our 20 to 25 monthly Chapels, Bible Studies and Group Meetings with incarcerated men, women and youth.
- Pray for God's continued provision through generous donors of Bibles, Christian literature and other resources (stamped envelopes, writing paper, reading glasses, etc.) to those in prison.
- Pray for volunteer correspondence chaplains to help provide continued personal ministry to our fast-growing monthly mailing and fellowship list.

Pathways Family Outreach Services

- Pray as we enter a new opportunity for ministry inside the Stokes Academy school, as Pathways will now provide wrap around services for their music program.
- Pray that our ministry touches the lives and hearts of the kids and brings more of them to a relationship with Christ.
- Pray for a safe and successful completion to this year's academic challenges.
- Praise God that we attracted enough students from camp to fill our clubs for the coming year.

- Pray that our ARTS stands out from all other youth programs in the city of Cleveland.
- Pray that all Pathways staff continue to grow in their appreciation of and commitment to this ministry.

Crossroads Men's Crisis Center

- Pray for wisdom, insight and understanding as we embark on a journey to put more effort and time in focusing on the Fatherless Issues that have impacted and continue to impact so many individuals and families.
- Pray that the men in Crossroads can find true and lasting freedom from their past addictions and poor choices.
- Pray for our staff, as they bring the love and compassion of Christ to our clients.
- Pray that we will continue to have the resources needed to lead our clients towards sober, stable lives.
- Pray for all those who serve men in crisis through their gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- And praise God for the volunteer groups who helped with the painting projects for the Crossroads Makeover!



Volunteer at the Mission

Contact Carrie at crickenberg@thecitymission.org or 216-431-3510, ext. 236 to sign up for any or all of these fun holiday volunteer opportunities!

Holiday Dinner, December 10 — We need servers and greeters from 4:00–8:00 p.m.

Christmas Food Basket Preparation, December 16 — We need volunteers to help prepping and packing from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00–4:00 p.m., and 6:00–9:00 p.m. (you may choose one shift).

Christmas Food Basket Distribution, December 17 — Volunteers will distribute them to our clients from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monica Finds Healing at Laura's Home

Monica was no stranger to the Word of God. So when her husband became abusive, she said, "This is not the plan the Lord has for me, my husband or my children." After three violent incidents July 2010, Monica knew it was time for the abuse to end.

When Monica left with her three children to stay at a relative's place, she thought her troubles were behind her. But when the lease ended, Monica had to make a tough choice: take her children back to a dangerous environment or go with them to a homeless shelter.

"(Home) was a bad place to be," Monica says of her decision. "I knew my children were learning the wrong way of doing family."

In choosing Laura's Home, Monica and her children found safety and security—and much more. "I appreciated the parenting classes," she says. "My style of parenting was the style I learned growing up, so I was given another way of looking at things." The domestic violence classes showed Monica that she could handle her situation differently and that the outcome might change. But most of all, Monica cherished the time she was given to "bathe in the Word of God."

Since graduating from the program in June, Monica has started a home business selling

Mary Kay cosmetics. She still wears her wedding ring, which she says is "a wonderful sign. I left (my husband) seeking healing, not divorce." Monica found her healing at Laura's Home and prays that her husband finds the opportunity to seek healing as well.

To those who help support the women and children at Laura's Home through their gifts and prayers, Monica says, "Thank you for responding to the Lord's prompting to give. We serve an awesome God and He uses individuals to be a blessing. He performs miracles all the time, but plenty of blessings come from your giving!"



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www.TheCityMission.org

*Providing Help and Hope to
All People Through the Transforming
Power of God's Love*

