



SAINT HERMAN HOUSE NEWSLETTER

FOCUS North America - Cleveland

Dear St. Herman House Family and Friends,

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble!” (Psalm 46:1 KJV)

My father was wounded in World War II in two landmine blasts just four days after landing on Omaha Beach, D-Day 1944. As was the case with many veterans, it was a difficult event for him to recount. Thankfully, my brothers and I were able to piece together most of his story.

On one occasion, he shared that it was roughly a year and a half before he finally made it home. There were multiple hospitals and surgeries in England and the United States before he was finally able to board a train to McAlester, Oklahoma, weak and barely able to walk. As the train approached his hometown, the conductor began passing through the cabins of the passenger train. “McAlester, McAlester,” over and over he exclaimed, “McAlester, McAlester.” My Dad had made it home, and by his own testimony, hearing those words was perhaps one of the most emotional moments for him of his whole war experience. He wept all over again telling me this, “I made it, I made it home, I’m home.” I must confess; I can’t even type this without tears welling up in my own eyes.

Home - a powerful concept! Home – a place of refuge in time of trouble as the Psalmist proclaims in the scripture above. For many of the residents we serve, St. Herman House becomes that home they never had. A safe place where there is “refuge in time of trouble.” We have residents who struggle to leave because we have given more than shelter, we have given them a home. We have former residents who come back often, some every day. They will tell you they come to volunteer, to give back; but make no mistake, they are coming back for home, that sense of family and belonging which we all cherish. This is a good problem to have! One former resident recently said to me, “This is the only family I have Mr. Paul; this is all I got.”

Thank you for helping us make this house a home. Thank you for allowing us to bring God’s “refuge, strength, and help” to those we serve. Pray for us as we pray for you!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

H. Paul Finley, Local Director



You have made St. Herman House a home for so many. Thank you!

Facing the needs of our neighbors, together.

A Few Hours *in the Life of a Case Manager*

7:50 am I come into my office and Tony asks if we can meet to discuss his apartment search. He's having second thoughts about an apartment he found online and wants to talk with me about it.

8:15 am I drive to the drugstore to pick up prescriptions for our resident Jim, who was released from the hospital yesterday. When I get back, Jamal stops into my office. I recently submitted his application for a subsidized apartment building and he's wondering if there are any updates on the application. After that, Ken and I talk about current events and how they impact his anxiety.

9 am House Manager Roy and I sit down to meet with Jim. I give him the prescriptions I picked up from the drugstore. We review all of the medications he has to take and set up a schedule to help him better manage them.

10 am Ty meets with me to discuss his disability application and housing application. As we're finishing up, Rick, a former resident, stops into my office. He's concerned that he put his rent check in the wrong mailbox inside his apartment building and he continues to pace outside my door.

10:30 am I help Fred, a former resident, apply for jobs he's found online.

11:00 am I receive a few phone calls – from someone in the community who has heard that we provide help getting birth certificates, and a call notifying me that there is a hotel bed available for Chris, an unsheltered man in the community whom I'm trying to help get off the streets. I call Chris and let him know about the hotel room. Then I make a call to a medical provider to request the medical records of a resident.

12:25 pm Jackson stops into my office and we have a long talk about some family conflicts that he's struggling with right now. I encourage him to utilize coping strategies we've discussed in the past.



We asked Mary Ellen to keep an hour-by-hour account of one of her days, to give readers a better understanding of her role. Helping residents access housing, medical care, benefits and employment is a big part of her job, as is being a trusted listener.

FOCUS Welcomes New Development Director



In early September, Brenda Saridakis assumed the position of Development Director for FOCUS North America. In that capacity, she has oversight of all fundraising planning and implementation for FOCUS. Prior to accepting her new role, Brenda was Development Director for the May Dugan Center, a social services agency in Ohio City that is a close partner agency of St. Herman's. Brenda is from Northeast Ohio and holds a J.D. from Marshall College of Law and an M.A. in Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University. Brenda served on St. Herman's advisory board for many years. She and her family are members of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in North Royalton. We are thrilled to have Brenda join the FOCUS North America family!

Summer of Service

We were blessed to have three interns with us for the months of June and July. They came to us by way of Project Mexico & St. Innocent Service Works, an Orthodox nonprofit that sends volunteers to Mexico and other locations for hands-on service work. Eliza, Elias and Boone had planned to volunteer in Mexico this summer, but the pandemic altered their plans and they came to St. Herman House instead. They spent the summer assisting with a wide array of tasks, including gardening, painting, cleaning, sorting, serving meals, projects on the farm, and much more! In addition, they participated in our daily 4pm prayers, which was very welcome. All three have beautiful voices! Here's some of what they had to say about their experience.

"I am incredibly grateful to the people of St. Herman's for welcoming me into their ministry this summer. These two short months have been both transformative and eye-opening, and I was continually inspired by the outpouring of love I found on a daily basis. To be able to work so closely with the homeless and disadvantaged population of Cleveland has given me a clearer view of the trials they face, and has exposed me to the resiliency and strength that is found in these communities," - Elias

"When I came to St. Herman's I was expecting to work hard, get out of my comfort zone, and make new friends my age. What I didn't expect were the connections I made with the community and especially with the men of the house. Their kindness, humor, and goodwill reflect the prayerful spirit at St. Herman's—a holdover, I suspect, from its origins as a monastery—and I'm tremendously grateful that I got to experience that, if only for a summer." - Eliza

"When I started serving at St. Herman's, I did not expect to form such meaningful relationships with the men there. It is a wonderful place full of wonderful people, and the service it provides is truly a Godsend to the community. I'm incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to serve alongside the staff and residents of St. Herman's, and I hope to visit again soon!" - Boone



Record Breaking — 8th Annual Golf Classic

Our 8th Annual Golf Classic surpassed all of our previous records, netting over \$75,000! The event was held on June 14 at the Tanglewood Golf Club. It was a wonderful occasion to see many friends in person. More than 100 golfers participated. A special thank you to our golf committee: Kirk Ries, Dick and Anna Warren, Adam Neff, Mike Herzak, Tamara Host, Gus Kallergis, Alex Kappos and Steve Kovalak. Their dedication and hard work are the reason this event continues to grow each year.

Also a big thank you to AmTrust Financial, our event sponsor for the 4th year in a row, and to our Grand Benefactors: The Cashy Family, Friends of Harry Cashy, MIM Software, TurfCare Supply Corp, and PKG, LLC. Thank you also to our Sponsors: Bert & Marjorie Moyar, Dave & Lisa O'Brien, Functional Building Supply, Insurance Systems Group, and Cornerstone Wealth Management, and to our Benefactors: Dick, Anna & Matt Warren, The Kappos Family, Jason & Angelique Berry, The Faris Family, Andrew Kartalis, Bearing & Transmission Supply, Square Foot Companies, LLC, St. Innocent Orthodox Church and Smart Business.

We are grateful to all of the hole sponsors, golfers and the many volunteers whose contributions and participation made the day a success.





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ST. HERMAN HOUSE

4410 Franklin Blvd
Cleveland, OH 44113

By the Numbers *through August 2021*

Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, friends and neighbors who contribute each day to the mission of St. Herman's. Here's a snapshot of what you've made possible with your contributions thus far in 2021.

39 Men provided with emergency shelter this year

17 Men provided transitional housing this year

30% of men with temporary or part-time employment, on average

15% of men with full-time employment, on average

21,636 Number of meals served

101 Number of volunteer groups



Art & Music

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November 8 @ 6:30pm

We're changing the format of our annual November event this year! Instead of featuring a keynote speaker or panel, we'll be showcasing the talented St. Herman's community. Come and enjoy photos, artwork and musical performances by current and former St. Herman House residents, as well as members of the community we serve. Additional details coming soon!