



SAINT HERMAN HOUSE NEWSLETTER

FOCUS North America - Cleveland

Dear Faithful Friends of St. Herman House,

Have you ever noticed that a different vantage point can help you see things more clearly?

There is a story in the Gospel of Luke that illustrates this point. The story is familiar to many. Jesus is passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem for his passion and our redemption. As he enters the city, he encounters a host of people in need, begging along the roadways entering the city. Jericho was home to many of Jerusalem's political elite, including Herod the King, whose winter palace was near the city.

In Luke's gospel (Luke 19:1-10) we read of Zacchaeus who is described as the chief tax collector, rich, and a sinner. Tax gatherers in the time of Christ typically overtaxed the people and kept the overages for themselves. The scripture continues, "And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was going to pass that way." Seeing Zacchaeus, Jesus "looked up and saw him, and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.'" After this encounter, Zacchaeus was no longer the man he once was. At his home he proclaimed to Jesus, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." Zacchaeus was no longer "of short stature." He was tall, on the inside, having changed his self-serving ways. Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house!"



Icon of the Calling of Zacchaeus

Those we serve often arrive at our steps weighed down, laid low, and feeling very small. My hope and prayer is that those steps to our door will be like the sycamore tree which Zacchaeus climbed, giving those we serve a new vantage point from which to see possibilities for stability, security, employment, housing, health, and all those things we strive to assist them with. Even more, from this vantage point, our prayer is that those we encounter will see themselves as Christ sees them – valuable, worthy, and created in the image of God.

And yes, you can be taller too, on the inside, by joining with us, hand in hand, to lift-up those less fortunate. May God richly bless you this Lenten season, and may you be renewed at its completion.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

H. Paul Finley, Local Director

Facing the needs of our neighbors, together.

Successful Transitions for Four Residents



 **Charles, a former St. Herman's resident, moved into his own apartment in February.**

One of the ways we measure success at St. Herman House is by tracking how many residents move from our shelter into permanent apartments. We're happy to report that the beginning of the year is off to a good start, with four men moving into their own apartments since December 31. As this newsletter goes to print, a few more men are also preparing to move out.

One of the residents who recently moved out is Charles. He lived in our transitional house for about 8 months. Before coming to St. Herman House, he lived with his sister for a time, and stayed in a hotel for several months. "I loved staying at St. Herman's," he says. "They took care of me until I got on my feet. They taught me a lot and I love those people. They're my family. I don't think I would have made it without y'all. You all gave me a big push."

Charles has always had a job and currently works full-time at a local supermarket. He says that his father taught him at a young age that you have to work, saying, "If you don't work, you don't eat."

He recommends St. Herman House to other people in need of shelter. But he tells them, "You got to be on the up and up. You got to want to do it." "I pray for everyone in here," he says, referring to the current St. Herman House residents. He encourages them by saying, "If I can do it, you can do it."

Charles is now living in a one-bedroom apartment in East Cleveland. He likes that the apartment is clean and quiet, and he's on a bus line that he can take to work. "God blessed me to get my own place, and I am grateful and thankful," he says.

Funding News

We're pleased to announce that in January we received a grant for \$50,000 from the Cleveland Foundation. This grant significantly helps fund our case management program, ensuring that our licensed social worker can continue to provide in-house case management to residents. The grant will also enable us to enhance our technology capacity and create incentivized work opportunities on our farm. We are grateful to the Cleveland Foundation for its continued support!



Meet Our Resident Andre



↑ **Taking his mother's words to heart, "Do for people. Help people," resident Andre helps out around St. Herman House as he waits for an apartment.**

Andre has been living at St. Herman House since September. Like many of our other residents, he is on a waiting list for an apartment in a building with supportive services. This type of housing is called Permanent Supportive Housing, and the wait time for a unit can exceed six months. In the meantime, Andre can often be found helping out around St. Herman House, and always with a smile and a cheerful word. He's active in his church, which is located just a few blocks away, and he faithfully participates in our weekly bible study.

"Do for people. Help people." That's what his mother used to say to him and he continues to live by those words. "I love life, I love doing things for people. It keeps me going. I always feel good." He has always been involved in the community and likes to help people however he can. He spends a lot of time helping elderly friends in the neighborhood. One of his philosophies is to "Do all you can do. Do the best you can do." He enjoys spending time with his family members. He loves interior design and decorating, too. He did a wonderful job decorating our Christmas tree this year!

About St. Herman's he says, "The hospitality is wonderful...Very inspirational people, caring, loving, respectful."

Become a Friend of St. Herman's



Friends of St. Herman's are donors who give \$2,500 a year or more to St. Herman House.

The support of our Friends is vital to our ability to carry out our daily programs. Through their combined giving, Friends of St. Herman's contributed nearly one-third of our annual operating budget in 2021! Here's what one family had to say about why they give:

We love helping the community of St. Herman's. We always want to provide, and they are always gracious to receive any donation (monetary, food, items, help). It is the most humbling act to help the community. We are honored to be part of their ministry.

If you are able, please consider becoming a Friend of St. Herman's in 2022! You can make your donation on our website at www.sainthermans.org/donate, by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope or by scanning the QR code above. Donations can be made in one lump sum, or in smaller amounts throughout the year.

Become a Cheerful Giver



"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

– 2 Corinthians 9:7

We're excited to announce our new monthly giving program, **Cheerful Givers**-St. Herman House FOCUS Cleveland. Cheerful Givers commit to making a monthly donation, in any amount, for one year.

By becoming a Cheerful Giver, you will directly help our neighbors facing poverty and provide sustainable financial support to St. Herman House – FOCUS Cleveland.

You can use the enclosed envelope to make your first monthly gift, visit our website at www.sainthermans.org/donate or scan the QR code above.



+ CLEVELAND

ST. HERMAN HOUSE

4410 Franklin Blvd
Cleveland, OH 44113

2021 *the Year in Numbers*

Here's a snapshot of what YOU helped make possible in 2021. Thank you for your support!

63 men given safe shelter

58 clients served by our licensed case manager

45% of transitional house residents had full-time employment, on average

17% of main house residents had full-time employment, on average

More than **33,000** meals served

131 volunteer groups

More than **2,000** hours of volunteer time

More than **170** people assisted to obtain identification documents free of charge.



9th Annual GOLF CLASSIC

Save the Date!

June 27, 2022! The Tanglewood Golf Club Chagrin Falls

Shotgun Start Four-Person Scramble
Featuring: — 18 Holes of Golf with Cart — Lunch, Beverages, Dinner — Hole-in-One Contest — On-Course Competitions — Raffle — Silent Auction

More information coming soon!