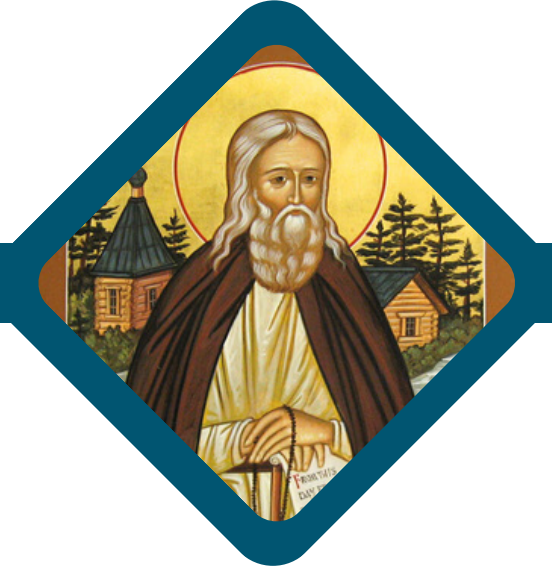


# St. Herman House

*Facing the needs of our neighbors, together.*



## Resident Spotlight

### Meet Coley!



Coley Thomas was born in Cleveland to parents, Sarah and Coley Thomas Sr. He grew up with one brother, Wilson. When Coley was young, his father provided for the family by working in the steel mills. As a child you could find Coley paying Muni football or “playground sports.”

After graduating from East Tech High School in Cleveland, Coley studied at Ohio State for 3 years. He returned home to Cleveland when financing for college became too difficult.

It was during the late 1980s when Coley found himself homeless and arrived at St Herman’s. He was drawn here by the hospitality and religious atmosphere.

Coley’s main role at St Herman’s is that of “drink man.” Many, many years ago he was asked to substitute as the “drink man.” He thought he was filling in for the day, but has been providing beverages during breakfast, lunch and dinner ever since - 365 days per year.

He has never missed a day! When asked how he keeps going he replied, “I try to give people a helping hand. There’s no pay. I do the best I can. I give the people the best treatment I can give them. We all work together.”

When Coley isn’t serving the community or sitting on the front porch, his hobbies include listening to classical music or Motown on his

“There is a saying in the Orthodox Christian Church that goes like this, “We must always preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.”

Coley never needs to use words; he proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ through silence and service. If you haven’t got a chance to know him, well, you might want to, you could know a saint.

Paul Finley,  
Former Director, St. Herman House

radio, being an avid horse racing fan and attending prayer services and Bible study. Coley also enjoys delivering mail to the drop box across the street every afternoon!

When asked what St. Herman’s means to him, Coley responded, “St. Herman House has been real good to me. No dope or beer. I got my head together here.”

**How our Residents & Staff Describe Coley:**

Resourceful  
Devoted **Humble Man**  
**Dedicated**  
Committed Inspiring **Faithful** Servant  
Trooper

# Farm Update

## The End of an Era

All good things must come to an end. Our Farm, located in Trumbull County, has been a part of FOCUS Cleveland for many years. The Farm has been the home to much livestock, including the beginning of our apiary program. It provided many hours of work for the men of St. Herman House. In 2019, we hired a Farm Manager in an attempt to expand the work of the farm and make it an integral part of our ministry.

Our Farm Manager, Leonard Heim, along with countless volunteers from local churches and our local Advisory Board, put in innumerable hours of work to clean up the Farm, begin growing and selling hay, installing a greenhouse, and much more. After several years, we were finally seeing an income from the Farm.

Despite these improvements, the Farm did not approach a financial breakeven point. This presented a problem since, as a nonprofit and ministry of the Church, our duty is to carefully steward our resources and maximize the impact of our services in the community.

To that end, as part of the FOCUS National Board's 2023 Strategic Plan,

we were charged with developing a committee to explore options for expanding our ministry at the Farm. At the start of 2023, a new committee was formed to assess the Spruce Island Farm property and determine the best way to use that property to support and expand the ministry of FOCUS Cleveland.

After an exhaustive process, the Spruce Island Farm Committee determined that there was no viable ministry use for the property itself, given both its lack of adequate infrastructure (water, sewage, and electricity) and its location away from major metropolitan areas.

In October 2023, the Spruce Island Farm Committee formally

recommended that the FOCUS North America Board of Directors approve the sale of the Farm. In November, the Board accepted the Committee's proposal and directed the sale of the Farm. The sale finally closed this summer.

We are grateful to Leonard Heim for his years of stewardship of this property. We are also thankful to the clergy associations, parishes, diocese and individuals that donated time, energy and financial resources to support the development of the Farm.

We are eager to use the proceeds of the Farm's sale to expand upon the already robust and transformational ministries of FOCUS Cleveland!



## THE FARM OVER THE YEARS





# Festival Help

Throughout the summer, our jobs program has enabled St. Herman House residents to have the opportunity to work at various church festivals. So far, we've helped at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church - Cleveland and Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

These festivals give our residents an opportunity to work alongside parishioners from each parish to ensure that the festivals are a success. Here, they are able to build relationships, develop work experience, and earn money.

For some residents, they are returning to familiar faces, as they have previously assisted parishes with other jobs, such as Lenten fish fries, for example. For others, this may be their first time working with a parish. Either way, they are met with love from the community.



## PARISH QUOTES

### St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church

“ We love using St. Herman House - FOCUS Cleveland employees because they are friendly, cost effective and responsible. The team that helps us with our festival is so easy to work with it feels like they are our own members. For every festival we plan, St. Herman House - FOCUS Cleveland is one of our first calls!”

*Aleks Rakic, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Festival*





# 11th Annual Golf Classic



## GOLF RECAP

We are so grateful to those who sponsored, played in, volunteered and those who participated in the auction or supported us from afar. We were blown away this year with record-breaking success!

The move to Elyria Country Club provided an amazing new venue and a much-needed boost of energy and enthusiasm around this fundraiser.

The 2024 St. Herman House Golf Classic raised an incredible....

**\$86,000**





“ Saint Innocent Orthodox Church has a long history of working to support the ministry of Saint Herman's. Our Cleveland area is particularly blessed and honored to have this hub of God's mercy and healing available; those who serve here live the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in a palpable and joyful way, and in such a way that allows so many other people to take part in the good work of the House, which never ceases. We are very grateful.”

*Fr. Peter Simko, Rector, St. Innocent Orthodox Church - Benefactor*



“ Community West Foundation believes it is critical to support FOCUS St. Herman House Cleveland because of their faithful service to the homeless and poor since 1977. Providing housing and three meals a day for residents and many walk-up people in need - 365 days a year- is amazing. Everyone knows St. Herman's will be there no matter what, and we need to be sure they have the resources to continue the mission. Thank you to Kirk and the team!”

*Marty Uhle, President & CEO, Community West Foundation - Benefactor*



“ St. Herman's offers food, shelter, clothing, case management, plus a variety of other resources. More importantly, it is a place where all may realize our God-given dignity. Through a cup of coffee, conversation, hospitality, and the warmth of human connection, the House is a place where we all may encounter the Risen Christ. The Church of St. Dominic and our Project Serve program is proud to be in partnership with FOCUS St. Herman's.”

*Jodie Bowers, The Church of St. Dominic Project Serve - Sponsor*



# Community Garden

Kentucky Gardens is a community garden located a few blocks from St. Herman House. This year some of the men indicated an interest in being part of this effort. Thanks to a grant from the MPG Charitable Foundation, we were able to purchase a plot.

According to a 2020 article in Psychology today, "Regular gardening has established beneficial effects on general physical health and well-being, and reduces the severity of depressed mood, anxiety, and other specific mental health problems."

With this in mind, we set out to give our residents an opportunity to put this approach to the test. They have spent many hours tilling the land, planting

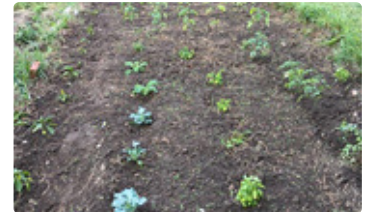
seeds, watering, weeding and tending carefully to the plants. Just this week, they were able to harvest their "first fruits," as seen in the picture above.

In addition to taking care of our own plot, we are required to put in several hours tending to the community portion of the garden. This has helped the men understand that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. It has been good for our neighbors to see our



“Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them;” and it was so.

residents wanting to be part of this endeavor. Using the fruits of their labor in meals we serve to the community has boosted moral and given each of the guys a sense of achievement.



## PLANNED GIVING

Where there's a will...There's a way...

To support St. Herman House!



One of the easiest ways to help St. Herman House - FOCUS Cleveland is through a gift in your Will or Estate Plan. By doing so, your legacy will live on through the work we do to support our neighbors in need.

Your gift can be designated for the following purposes:

- General Operating Expenses
- The H. Paul Finley Endowment for St. Herman House
- Capital Improvement

For more information on how to make a Legacy Gift, please email our Director, Kirk Ries, at [kries@focusna.org](mailto:kries@focusna.org).



# Volunteer Groups

Volunteers are a vital part of our ministry. It is through active service that we are able to meet the eyes of our neighbor and see Christ within them.

We are so grateful for all of those who prepare and serve meals, clergy who lead us in prayer, advisory board members who meet and plan for us, those who help us around the house, and everyone that serves in any capacity for us!

Thank you for making an impact on the lives of our residents and the community we serve!



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

If your parish or group is interested in volunteering with us, we'd love to have you!

There are opportunities for preparing & serving meals, as well as assisting with various projects around the house. You are welcome to volunteer by yourself or with a group. Children are welcome too!

 [sainthermans@focusna.org](mailto:sainthermans@focusna.org)

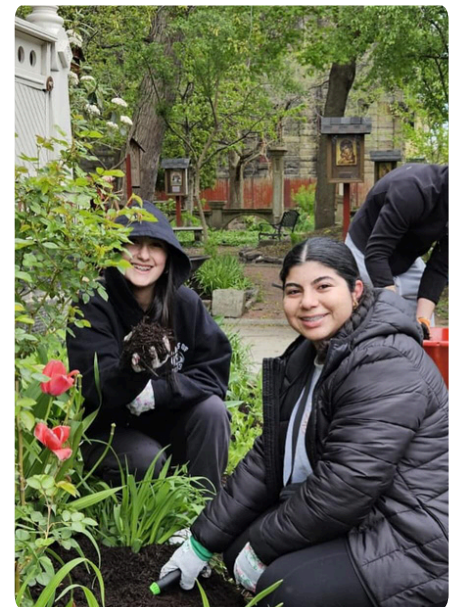
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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### St. George Teen SOYO

"We chose this project because we have always loved the sense of community and family that St. Herman's offers, and we wanted to help them fix up their meditation garden to share the beauty of God's creation with everyone who comes across it. It was an amazing opportunity, and we were so happy to work on it as a group. We weeded, planted, mulched, and cleaned up the garden, and it looks great! We helped St. Herman's, but we also learned about the importance of helping our community as much as we can."

*St. George Teen SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations), St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*





# 11.04.24 November Event

*Join Us!*

A Panel Discussion on Teen and  
Young Adult Homelessness

📍 St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral  
Parma, Ohio

*Save the Date!*  
November 4, 2024



## 40 for 40

40 donors giving \$2500 or more to support the 40 residents of the main house and transition house.



# FOCUS

ST. HERMAN HOUSE - CLEVELAND

4410 Franklin Blvd  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
[www.sainthermans.org](http://www.sainthermans.org)

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## Cheerful Givers

Our monthly giving program: Cheerful Givers commit to making a monthly donation, in any amount, for one year.



**“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”**

2nd Corinthians 9:7

