

THE FOUNDATION Dinners



Summer/Fall 2021 Newsletter

Serving the needy of Fairfield County



second chances

by Liz Black, Kitchen Director

Meet Larry. Larry was employed as a painter most of his life. He had an apartment, a wife, two daughters and a grandchild. Trouble began when Larry's gambling habit went out of control. Eventually, the gambling, coupled with drinking, lost Larry his family, his job, and all his earthly possessions. He told his landlord he could no longer pay his rent; he was behind by several months. Larry asked for a ride to a homeless shelter (just the beginning of his recovery and salvation!)

Never in Larry's wildest imagination did he ever think he would find himself in a homeless shelter, but that's where he ended up - The Foundation Shelters. Scared, vulnerable, hungry, in despair, his wife and children not answering

his calls, spiritually empty, he had no one. Larry determined in his heart that this was not where he wanted to remain for the rest of his life. There had to be a better way. The folks at the shelter provided not just a place to lay his head, but guidance on what service organizations were available to him to get his feet back on the ground again. Soon, Larry began to believe a greater power was at work in his life bringing him to this point.

Larry's heart was full of awe and gratitude for the support he has received. To show his thanks, he picks up trash on the west side of Lancaster (part of Foundation Dinners weekly trash pick up day), painted interior and exterior walls at the Foundation Dinners, helps with maintenance and various other projects at the Foundation Dinners and Shelters. Most recently, Larry insulated the ceilings at our outside dining facility to help decrease the heat during the summer months. Larry's hard work ethic has paid off. He has secured full time employment with R & R sign company.

Most importantly, Larry is seeing the greater picture in all events in his life as mercy and grace from a heavenly Father. He hikes Mt. Pleasant on a regular basis and enjoys God's handiwork and feels his presence there. He is attending church regularly, surrendered his life to Christ, was baptized, and seeking to know God in a deeper and more personal way. We CELEBRATE with Larry! Please join us, continuing to pray for Larry's recovery and victory, and one day reconnection with his family.

Your support is giving Larry and others a second chance and they can't thank you enough!

do you know our big 6?

essential items in high demand for our guests all summer long



1

Bottled Water



2

Toiletry Bags

gallon size Ziplock bags with deodorant, toothpaste, brush, tissues, razor, small bottles of shampoo and body wash



3

Canned vegetables

corn
beans
peas
carrots



5

Chicken broth

Canned fruit
peaches
pears
pineapple

4



6

Cake mixes and icing
we have several
volunteers who make
homemade desserts
for our guests



Donation of goods are accepted daily. Go to hungryhomeless.org for a list of our needs.



community clean-up

We take pride in being part of the West side of Lancaster! Our goal is not only to exist on 5th Avenue but to be active, and contribute to our neighborhood community. One way we do this on a WEEKLY basis is by participating in our Community Clean-Up. Volunteers (guests and resident neighbors) meet Mondays at 3pm. Gloves, orange vests (labeled Foundation Dinners), trash bags, and

trash picker uppers are provided. Trash is collected for 30 minutes and then participants meet back at the Dinners for a refreshment and snack. We appreciate all who help with this Project. We would to give a “shout out” to Councilwoman, Becky Tener, for actively making this project a priority in the neighborhood she serves and represents.

we need your helping hands

Volunteerism has been at our core since the Foundation Dinners was begun. We have countless opportunities for volunteers to bless others with their time and service. If you would like to serve evening meals (3:30pm - 5:00pm), please contact Steven Templin at (740) 385-4165. We are looking for volunteer teams of two (2) who can help with light preparation of food, serving meals, and

helping with clean-up (sweeping, mopping of floors, sanitizing eating areas). Hebrews 13:16 says, “We will show mercy to the poor and not miss an opportunity to do acts of kindness for others, for these are the true sacrifices that delight God’s heart.” If you, like us, have a desire to be more of a blessing to those around you, and truly desire to change the world, one person at a time, please call me.



helping the *homeless and needy*

I believe that I have the best job in the world. As the Foundation Dinner’s onsite social worker/counselor I have the privilege of working with countless individuals every day during our scheduled lunches and dinners. Instead of being a kitchen cook (thank goodness I’m not, as I am a lousy chef) you will find me out in our dining area, at the tables, with the people we serve. We average between 25–30 guests during lunch, and 40–50 people during dinner. A hot meal is needed and welcomed but I believe that in order to best serve our needy community, one needs to know them. How do you change lives? It comes from creating a relationship with them and building trust. Researchers have discovered

that faith-based organizations’ “relational approaches” leads to a deeper understanding of the complexity of homelessness and poverty, as well as better outcomes for these individuals. We have found this to be true at the Foundation Dinners. Although obstacles and challenges remain, many of our individuals are taking positive steps towards sober living, addiction free lives, finding employment and securing stable housing. Most importantly, these individuals are beginning to see themselves as valued, possessing dignity, capable of giving and receiving genuine love, and making life-transforming decisions for Christ.

~ Steve Templin



1000 West Fifth Avenue • Lancaster, OH 43130
WWW.HUNGRYHOMELESS.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



is dedicated to responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He calls upon each follower to respond to the needs of the downcast with a merciful heart, supplying not only words, but also and most importantly, deeds. *Matthew 25:31-46*

Any church, individual, business, industry, school or court system that believes in expressing compassion to the victims of poverty and neglect, are invited to join in this effort to relieve human suffering.

The Foundation Dinners is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

On behalf of those we serve at the Foundation Dinners, we say **THANK YOU** to the many individuals, organizations, businesses and churches that support us. It is truth. It does take a village to raise a child—in our case, an individual. We would not be able to continue this ministry without the many hands who assist us. We were not meant to do ministry alone, so in addition to the many nameless who help us, Foundation Dinners would be remiss not to thank the **Foundation Shelters** (foundationshelters.org), **Connexion West** (connexionwest.org) and the **Center of Hope** (newhorizonsmentalhealth.org). Ed Clum, our founding director, was inspired 30+ years ago with Matthew 25:35-40:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I need clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and go visit you? The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."

Amen. At the Foundation Dinners we still embrace and live out this truth day after day.

Donations can be made on at hungryhomeless.org or by sending a check to Foundation Dinners • 1000 West Fifth Avenue • Lancaster OH 43130