

# SAINT HERMAN HOUSE NEWSLETTER

## FOCUS North America - Cleveland



Dear Brothers and Sisters, Friends of the St. Herman House,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

The New Year is always an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the prior year and to look forward to the year ahead. As the charitable work of the St. Herman House has grown, so have the successes, so has the joy; and yes, so has the busyness, the multi-tasking, the stress, and the weariness.

St. Paul says, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Gal. 6:9 NKJV) This exhortation begs the question, "How do I do that?" There are many possibilities all of which are apropos to this time of year. These possibilities include planning, organization, a willingness to change, rededication to the vision, and resolve.

But these possibilities must also include accepting the help you need. On

January 23rd a former resident, Scott, now working part-time and living in his own apartment stopped by to let us know how he was doing. In the course of the conversation, Scott said, "If God hadn't put

certain people in my life the last couple of years, I'd have never made it." Those we serve need the help of others, but those delivering the services need the help of others too, maybe more.

This reality is beautifully illustrated in a scene from Exodus when the Amalekites were waging war against Israel under the command of the young Joshua. Moses stood on high ground, holding the staff of the Lord. When he lifted up his hands with the staff, Israel prevailed, when he lowered his hands, the enemy prevailed.

Then the scripture says, "But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one

side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people..." (Exodus 17:12-13)

Like Moses of old, we, I, all of us here at St. Herman's need your help. Our arms are steadied by your prayers, volunteerism, gifts and support. God bless you all as we continue to move together in the New Year.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

H. Paul Finley, Local Director



# Resident Story



**Abner has been living at St. Herman House for a little more than a year.** A few months after arriving, Paul appointed him to be the House driver. Three to four times a week he drives our big cargo van to area grocery stores and picks up fresh food for the House, as part of a partnership between the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, grocery stores, and area nonprofits like St. Herman's. Abner also drives senior residents of the House to doctor's appointments, and he provides transportation to all residents as needed for job interviews, housing interviews, case management meetings, and other important matters.

Even though he was born and raised in Cleveland, Abner never knew about St Herman's or its benefits until "life happened", he says. Prior to coming to St Herman's, he met Carl Cook, our Food Service Manager, through another nonprofit, The Metanoia Project. It was there that Abner took Carl's "Courage to Change" class, which helped give him a sense of duty, discipline, and confidence.

He says living in the House has been a blessing, not only because of having a place to stay and the material assistance provided, but because living in the House gives one a chance to figure things out.

Abner says that part of what makes St. Herman's unique is the interaction with the community and the fact that each man plays a part in the House. It has helped him develop belief in himself and a sense of responsibility toward others. When people come in for meals, it's a chance to offer help – whether by providing a grocery bag or just listening. "You have to look out for other people," he says of life in the House.

On two occasions last year Abner put that into action in a dramatic way—performing chest compressions on men who collapsed at the house. Abner says, "I'm not sure I would have run towards a situation like that in the past, but you never know when you might be able to save a life."

He feels fortunate to have this time at St. Herman's. He is working on completing his General Educational Degree and wants to complete it for himself and St. Herman's – to show his gratitude for this opportunity.

## ***Sixth Annual Golf Classic*** June 17, 2019!

Save the date for our 6th annual Golf Classic, at Tanglewood Club on Monday, June 17, 2019. Registration and lunch begin at 11 am, Tee time is 12 pm.

4-Person Scramble Includes: 18 Holes of Golf w/Cart, Lunch, Beverages, Dinner

Single Golfer: \$175 - Regular Registration

Save \$25/golfer by registering an Early Bird Foursome - \$600 - Prior to May 24th

\$700 – Foursome Regular Registration



### ***For More Information***

Email: [golfsthermans@focusna.org](mailto:golfsthermans@focusna.org)

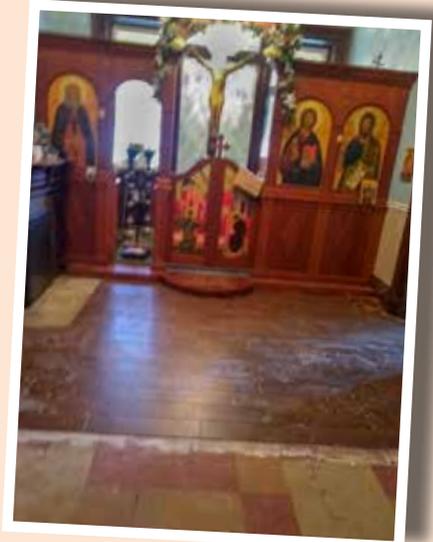
Call: Kirk at 216-973-9391

Register Electronically: [www.focusnorthamerica.org/golfclassic](http://www.focusnorthamerica.org/golfclassic)

# Chapel Renovation

A few months ago, a donor approached us about renovating our chapel, which is located in our main house at 4410 Franklin. The chapel is an essential part of the life of the House: it is used daily for early morning and afternoon prayers, and one Sunday a month we celebrate the Office of the Typika as a reader's service.

The work was extensive and included updating the electrical wiring, installing a beautiful chandelier over the altar table, new flooring, new carpeting in the altar, a new altar table, a new chair rail, and painting the ceiling. The work was done by Fresh Coat Painting. The donor asks to remain anonymous. We don't have "before" photos that can do it justice, but anyone who visited the old chapel will be astonished by the transformation. We are very grateful!



**Old tiles (foreground) are replaced with wood-look ceramic tile flooring**

## Volunteer Highlights

### The Barkan Family

"I had been hoping to find a place for my family to serve over the holidays, so I was thrilled when I learned about St Herman's...it seemed to be exactly what I was looking for. When my teenagers were less than thrilled to go serve dinner the evening before they went back to school over Christmas break, I don't think any of us realized that we would get more out of it than the people we served. The staff at St Herman's was very friendly and very quickly and efficiently delegated us to our duties. We served dinner to over 50 people in under 30 minutes. It was so humbling to see so many people in need of a warm meal and how much good St Herman's does for the community. Roy even gave us a tour before we left. We will definitely be serving again!"



### Leah

"I wanted to thank you for welcoming me into St. Herman's. I couldn't be more grateful for how you, the other volunteers, and the men of the house accepted me into the mix of things. I never could have imagined how much volunteering at St. Herman's has impacted me and my outlook. The generosity you and St. Herman's endlessly showed towards the guests and myself never failed to amaze me every day. Ever since day one, I was blown away by the kindness shown to me within the shelter and the extra step the men around me would take to make sure I was okay. The house is truly filled with incredible souls that I am lucky I was able to meet and spend time with."



**– Leah, a senior at Hawken School, who volunteered at St. Herman's as part of an intensive course on homelessness that she took at Hawken in December.**

# FOCUS

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4410 Franklin Blvd  
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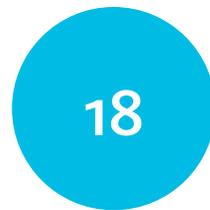
## YOUR GIVING IN ACTION in 2018



Men Receiving  
Shelter



Meals Served



Men Receiving  
Transitional Housing



Grocery Bags  
Distributed



Men Receiving  
Clothing



Gallons of Honey  
Produced at Spruce  
Island Farm



Men in the Main  
House Working Part  
or Full-Time



More than 8,000  
volunteer hours in  
2018