

# BETHESDA WOMEN'S MISSION RENEWAL PROJECT

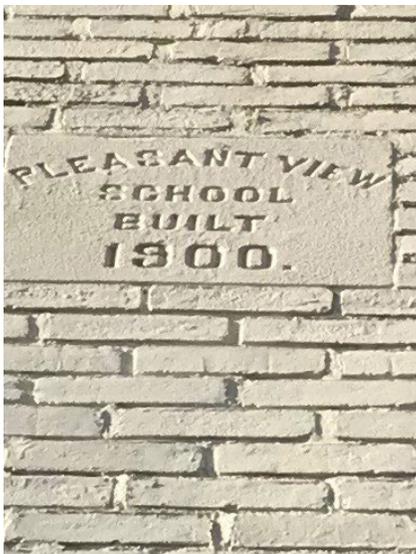
By Shelley B. Brooks,  
Director of Women's Mission

Many years past, actor, John Cameron Swayze demonstrated the durability of a Timex watch by repeatedly and creatively trying to destroy it on national television (yes, this is a blast from the past commercial). The coined phrase of the watch company was, "It takes a lickin'...but it keeps on ticking!" demonstrating that one could wear the watch on a daily basis, regardless of the type of job one had. The watch could take the wear and tear of daily life. Over the years their watches have been recreated with new styles, colors, and prices, however, the bottom line is that the Timex watch of today is still known to have remained dependable when one needs to know the time.

That analogy sort of explains how living and working in our old building, that we call our Women's Mission, has been over the many years. The moment you thought it was falling down, another nail would hold it up just a little longer. The building has taking a lickin'...but the Gospel of Jesus Christ is what keeps it ticking! This is the story of how it all began...

## The Past

Pleasantview School, built in 1900, initially provided a space of learning for middle through senior high school students. Slate chalk boards and wains coating are reminders of the original purpose of the rooms that still hold the relics. Harrisburg Barber School moved into the building when the school's numbers maxed



and a new school was built. We are reminded of the student barbers' training daily by the red and white striped barber's pole that still stands erect in our living room. Then there was Alcoholics Services Inc. who provided services sometime around 1977. They housed and assisted individuals in recovery while creating a larger program that is still in operation today. The building had already taken a "lickin'" of wear and tear by the time the vision and

need for a women and children's shelter became imminent in Central Pennsylvania.

A lone donor provided the funds for the building, but years and years of visionaries, donors, volunteers, and friends have aided and assisted in the continual transformation of our building, located on 20th Street in Harrisburg; designing and creating the already worn building into a place that women and their children have come to know as...home.

## The Present

Our doors opened as the Bethesda Mission Women and Children's Shelter in May 1984. For the past 36 years, we've provided a safe haven for those in need of a secure home; a place of peace where one could rest their heads, gain their strength, and regain a ray of hope that had been badly dimmed by trauma, pain, and suffering. They needed a place to remind them that Jesus loves them, and that God is good.

The same building that housed a school, a barber's training, and a social service program now would experience and serve thousands of women and children. And for those 36 years our building served its occupants well.

One can only imagine the number of times the door bell has rung—or how many times we have had to replace the doorbell in 36 years! How many worn walls needed replaced, or new walls creating much needed new rooms.



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## RENEWAL PROJECT *continued from page 1*

And one can only imagine the number of meals that have been prepared on a daily basis in and out of season. Our building has served us well.

However, there comes a time when even an old reliable watch needs replaced. It is that same time for us to look at letting go of our worn out school house. We have been praying, dreaming, and searching for several years of what God would have us to do for the next 36+ years of serving Women with children.

### The Future

2020 is the year in which new bricks and mortar will begin to replace the old. Realizing that we can do no more with our 110-year-old building, we are long overdue in creating a new space for the needs of women and children. **Our plans are to first demolish our annex building, which housed Transitional Living until it became uninhabitable, and then construct a new 19,000 square foot, four-story building that will provide the same ministry that Bethesda Mission has shared with all**

**that know us by name and through experience: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** We intend to provide short-term housing for single women and women with their children; long term recovery from addictions; transitional housing for women that have completed our addictions program; and we are introducing a new housing dorm and mentoring program for young adult women ages 18-24. Currently, we can house up to 20 women and children in our old building. Our new building will house 51 women and their children. And in this new facility will be programming that will assist women through reconciliation, restoration, and redemption.

Our plans are underway to begin this awesome project over the next several months. We pray and invite that you will continue your faithful journey with us as we watch God unfold a new space, with new bricks and new mortar that will provide a new shelter for those who need to witness and live in the love of Christ. We will keep you abreast of our progress over the next several months as ***Bethesda Women's Mission Renewal Project has begun.***

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Rebecca Clymer, Event/ Volunteer Coordinator



Rebecca with her husband, Gabe

1. What is your role and how long have you worked at Bethesda Mission?

I have worked for Bethesda Mission since June of 2019, so I'm still relatively new here. I serve as the Event/Volunteer Coordinator in the Administrative Office. I'm "the new Debbie King" as many people lovingly say. When my husband Gabe and I moved to the city on June 1, neither of us had jobs, but within 6 days the Lord provided full-time jobs for both of us; it was & still is such a gift. God is so good!

2. What were you doing before Bethesda?

Before I moved to Harrisburg, I served the Lord in campus ministry at Penn State University in State College for three years. I had an amazing job working for a local church as the Women's Ministry Leader, specifically discipling college women and planning the campus ministry's special events. I learned so much and God changed me immensely through the relationships I made there. Gabe and I also had the life-changing blessing of being part of a church-planting team that started a brand new church in State College in early 2017. Jesus did and continues to do amazing things at that church; over our three years, we had the honor of seeing 25 college students be baptized and commit to following Jesus. I could talk about my experience in State College all day!

3. Why did you move to Harrisburg?

My husband Gabe and I moved to Harrisburg to start a house church

with some friends-who we also live with! Our aim is to love God, make disciples, and see His Church multiplied in Midtown Harrisburg. We're praying and working towards the day when our house church becomes two, and two become four, and God's Church grows through the United House Church Network.

4. What inspires/motivates you to come to work each morning?

I'm motivated to come to work each morning because I know that, beyond a shadow of a doubt, God Himself opened the door for me to work here for a purpose. The timing of our move to Harrisburg and the position opening could not have been more perfect. I also really enjoy the work of planning events and seeing people be blessed through them, and I'm honored that I get to help people use their gifts to benefit the Mission through volunteering.

5. Tell us a little about your family.

I'm the oldest of three sisters, and I grew up in the south hills of Pittsburgh. My parents have always been supportive of my desire to follow God's lead, even though it's progressively taken me further from them in Pittsburgh! Gabe and I were married in January 2017. We don't have any children yet, but we are in the process of becoming certified foster parents and are excited for whatever the Lord calls us to do.

6. What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is actually a trilogy called The Mark of the Lion by Francine Rivers. The main character, Hadassah, inspires my faith in Jesus. She overcomes many serious trials and grows to become a powerful, confident woman of God. I hope to be like her in my walk with Christ. In reading a variety of Francine Rivers' books I've learned that I'm a big fan of historical fiction!

7. A meaningful Bible verse to you?

One meaningful verse to me as always been Psalm 27:4, "One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple." This verse reminds me of my deepest desire and greatest aim in life- to know God and help others know Him, too.

# GIVING BACK

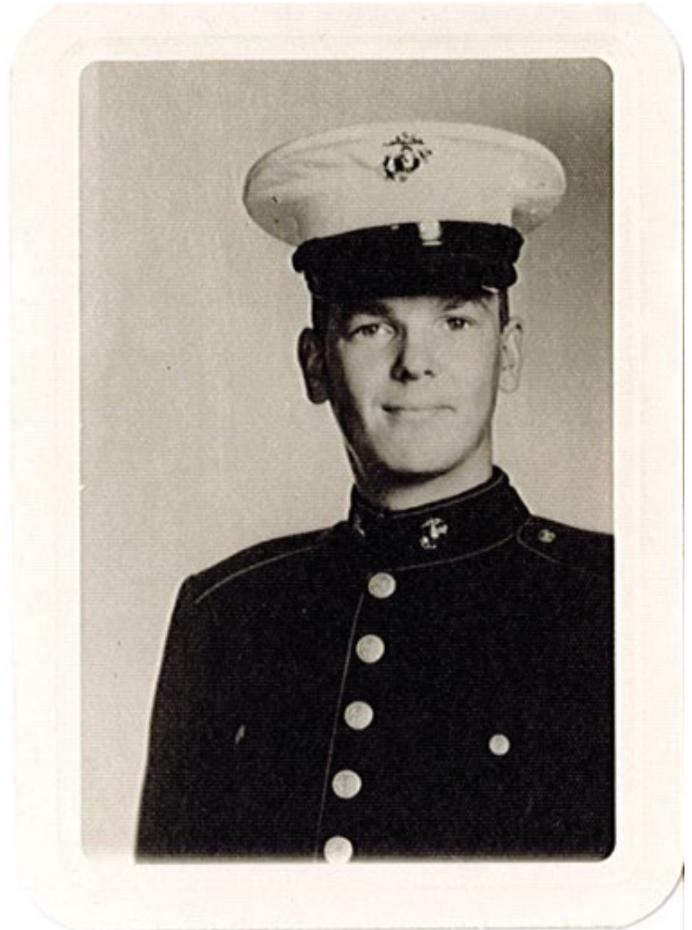
By Cindy Mallow, Director of Development

In the depths of the depression, David and Florence Trout and their fourteen children lived in a three-bedroom wooden house at Seventh and Maclay Streets in Harrisburg. They had only a pot belly stove for heat and much of the time, David was unable to find work. The children would often go to bed hungry and at times, **Florence would send three of the children (Chet, Harold and Hazel) to Bethesda Mission to eat when they couldn't afford to feed their family.** Soon after this time, brother Chet joined the Marine Corps feeling that this would enable him to better help the family. Monroe, another brother, had enlisted in the Navy and was stationed overseas, unaware of the challenges the family was facing back home.

Fast forward a number of years... Chet always said that he wanted to give back to repay Bethesda Mission for how they had helped his family in those early years. When Chet passed away in 2018, Chet's sister, Hazel, her husband, Sam, Chet's nephew, Stan and his wife, Kathy visited the Men's Shelter. **It was at that time that we learned that Chet had left \$100,000 to Bethesda Mission in his will.** As incredible a blessing as that was, a few months later, I received a call from Monroe Trout. After being away serving in the Navy and since learning what his family had gone through many years ago, **he had also decided to donate \$100,000 to Bethesda in order to thank them for helping his family when they needed it the most.**

Hazel said, "We always talked of how we would give back and this is that time." At Bethesda Mission, we are so grateful that even today, we are now reaping the harvest that was sown by the staff that worked so hard decades ago.

All of us at Bethesda Mission are thankful to the Trout family for remembering to return the blessing to those who originally blessed them!



*Chester Trout, USMC (circa 1960)*

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

### Phone Ambassadors

- In need of volunteers who are comfortable talking on the phone with supporters; script outline provided.
- Will thank individuals for their gifts, tell of exciting things going on at Bethesda, and receive prayer requests.

### Community Center Maintenance Manager

- Oversee and work with a crew to complete outside and inside maintenance tasks such as lawn mowing, snow removal, trash collection/removal, floor cleaning/waxing, miscellaneous jobs.
- Work with team of other volunteers to ensure tasks are completed properly and when needed.
- Estimated one day per week or as needed – days/times may vary

### Outreach Warehouse

- Inventory position- data entry. 2 hours/week, ideally on a Friday afternoon, but can be flexible
- Truck driver- CDL required. Ideal times would be M, W, F 8:00a-12:00p, but if someone is available for portions of those times, that would still be really helpful.

*More information and application available at [BethesdaMission.org/take-action/volunteer](https://BethesdaMission.org/take-action/volunteer).*

# MISSION NEEDS

Please drop off all donations at  
611 Reily Street, Harrisburg, PA. Thank you!

Visit [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) Gifts & Wish Lists to view and purchase additional items.

<p><b>Men's Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermal Underwear/ Long Johns</li> <li>• Steel-toed Work boots (sizes 9.5 – 11.5)</li> <li>• Sneakers (sizes 9.5 – 11.5)</li> <li>• Shaving Razors</li> <li>• Shaving cream (small cans)</li> <li>• Spanish Bibles</li> <li>• Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D)</li> <li>• Padlocks with keys for lockers</li> <li>• Toilet paper</li> <li>• Paper towels</li> <li>• Clorox wipes</li> <li>• Ensure Nutritional Drink</li> <li>• Walmart gift cards for above items</li> <li>• Cornhole Sets (2)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Food Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beef, Pork, Hamburgers, Sausage, Bacon, Fish</li> <li>• #10 Cans of Vegetables</li> <li>• Butter</li> <li>• Cheese</li> <li>• Oil</li> <li>• Creamers</li> <li>• Dressings</li> <li>• Gravy</li> <li>• Spices</li> <li>• Chicken Broth</li> <li>• Sliced Bread</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Center</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Supplies</li> <li>• Book Bags</li> <li>• Uniforms</li> <li>• Board games (new)</li> <li>• Xbox1</li> <li>• Wii U</li> <li>• Nerf guns</li> <li>• Earphones</li> <li>• Gift cards</li> <li>• Commercial Keurig machine</li> <li>• For Real Milkshake Machine</li> <li>• Portable Soccer Nets</li> <li>• Soccer Balls</li> <li>• Dodge Balls</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medical Clinic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alka Seltzer Cold Medication</li> <li>• Allergy Medication</li> <li>• Anti-Fungal Cream</li> <li>• Bacitracin/Triple Antibiotic Cream/ Neosporin</li> <li>• Cough Drops – Regular and Sugar Free</li> <li>• DayQuil Cold Medication</li> <li>• Hand Sanitizer (Individual size)</li> <li>• Hydrocortisone Cream</li> <li>• Ibuprofen 200mg</li> <li>• Instant Cold Packs</li> <li>• Instant Hot Packs</li> <li>• Kleenex (large boxes)</li> <li>• Multivitamins</li> <li>• Muscle Rub</li> <li>• Naproxen 220mg</li> <li>• PeptoBismol Tablets</li> <li>• Saline Nasal Spray</li> <li>• Sinus Congestion Medication</li> <li>• Toe-nail clippers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dental Clinic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polident adhesive for dentures</li> <li>• Individually packaged toothbrushes (soft)</li> <li>• Travel-sized non-alcoholic mouthwash</li> <li>• Dental pics</li> <li>• Dental floss/ Flossers</li> <li>• Denture cases</li> <li>• Toothbrush holders (travel)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mobile Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socks</li> <li>• Underwear (S, M, L, XL)</li> <li>• T-shirts</li> <li>• AA batteries</li> <li>• AAA batteries</li> <li>• Candles</li> <li>• Sterno</li> <li>• Sanitary napkins</li> <li>• Tampons</li> <li>• Deodorant (men and women)</li> <li>• Flashlights</li> </ul>	<p><b>Women's Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Fresheners</li> <li>• Underwear (All-Sizes)</li> <li>• Paper Products</li> <li>• AA Batteries</li> <li>• Disinfecting Wipes</li> <li>• Bed Pillows</li> <li>• Dish Cloths</li> <li>• Alarm Clocks</li> <li>• Leggings (All Sizes)</li> <li>• Warm gloves and hats</li> <li>• Stamps</li> <li>• Fresh fruit</li> </ul>		<p><b>Trinity House (Transitional Living)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers who are willing to give a person who is trying to change his life a career opportunity</li> <li>• Mentors (friends who would like to come aside guys transitioning)</li> <li>• Beef – 1 to 2 pound packages</li> <li>• Chicken – small packs of parts (legs, thighs, breasts)</li> <li>• Pork – small packs</li> <li>• Dish soap</li> <li>• Floor cleaner</li> <li>• Bathroom/shower cleaner</li> <li>• Lysol/Clorox wipes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outreach (Warehouse)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination Hand Pump and Electric Stacker (\$2,500)</li> <li>• Semi-Electric Pallet Jack (\$2,000)</li> <li>• Donation to repair forklift (\$4,500)</li> <li>• Graphic wrap for box truck (\$3,600)</li> <li>• General equipment upgrades and repairs (\$2,500)</li> <li>• General funds for repairs to walk-in freezer and cooler (\$1,000)</li> </ul>

SHOW THE B-U-R-G SOME L-O-V-E



Look for #iHeartHBG at local coffee shops during the month of January!

Show Harrisburg pride and help support Bethesda Mission.

A full list of participating shops is available on our website.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [BETHESDAMISSION.ORG/EVENTS](https://bethesdamission.org/events)