

NEWS FROM ST. VINCENT HAVEN

Hope from Hopelessness . . . A Home for the Homeless

On any given night in Licking County, veterans who have served our country, youth who have aged out of the foster care system and those self medicating their depression, PTSD and other mental illnesses find themselves without a home and without hope.

St. Vincent Haven (SVH) is there for them. Since SVH opened its doors in January, 2010, we have provided over 9,100 nights of shelter for 278 residents. Twenty five percent of our residents are veterans; 5% are youth who have aged out of the foster care system. When they come to us, all our residents share a sense of helplessness and hopelessness. Where will they get a job, where will they be able to sleep?

In addition to safe shelter, St. Vincent Haven provides caring support that assists our residents to find employment that will enable them to obtain and maintain their own housing. Each resident is required to complete an Exit Plan listing their goals for three months, six months and one year and the action steps they need to take to accomplish these goals. In addition, and as part of their Exit Plan, residents are required to save a percentage of their income when they get a job or receive other benefits to help meet the expenses of living on their own.

St. Vincent Haven collaborates with community partners throughout Licking County to address residents' needs for substance abuse treatment, mental health services, legal issues, assistance with security and rental deposits and other barriers to employment and housing.

Volunteers play a vital role in SVH operations. Working with SVH employees, volunteers staff shifts from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight each day. Different Cooking Teams cook and serve dinner each night.

St. Vincent Haven depends heavily on community support to maintain our shelter and services. There are many ways for you to become involved. We are always in need of volunteers for the evening shifts and there are Cooking Team nights available as well. **We also urge you to consider financial support of SVH through our Adopt a Bed/Adopt a Night program. \$20 sponsors one bed/one night of food, shelter and caring support. You can adopt one or as many nights/beds as you choose. Adoption donations can be a one-time event or in the form of a pledge of continuing support. To keep the Haven helping the homeless in Newark we really need your financial support!**

For further information about St. Vincent Haven, to volunteer or to make a donation, please contact Linda Berger, Executive Director, at 740/670-0822 or by email: linda@svdphaven.org.