

THE JUNCTION

SHELTER - RECOVERY - MINISTRY | FALL 2025



“My relationship with God has helped me to not feel so alone.”

Read On: Real People Experiencing Real Change

fairhaven
RESCUE MISSION
SHELTER - RECOVERY - MINISTRY

**SPECIAL
ISSUE:**

**THIS IS THE NEW
LIFE PROGRAM**

**SHAWN'S
STORY**

**REAL FACES,
REAL IMPACT**

Contact us: (859) 491-1027 fairhavenmission.org info@fairhavenmission.org

REAL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING REAL CHANGE

This is the New Life Program

The men that enter our New Life Program come to us broken and hopeful. And isn't that all of us? As fellow human beings, our stories are the same as theirs. Their circumstances might be different, some drastically so. But at their core, they are facing challenges that we all face in our lives. Challenges that keep them from being who God created them to be. As Christians, we know we can't face life alone. Neither can the struggling men who have reached the end of themselves.

That's where Fairhaven comes in. We provide a meal and the message of Jesus to everyone who comes through our doors – women and families included. We provide a safe, clean, warm place to stay for men in our overnight emergency shelter. Some men need a band-aid, a place to stay for a couple of weeks. But many need more. Many don't know where else to turn. Many have given up. Many have been overwhelmed by life and unfortunate circumstances. These are the men that find hope and success within our New Life Program.

In less than a month, we could all see how quickly **John's** gratitude was radiantly on display. It was in his newfound energy and smile when he helped carry in donations or washed dishes after dinner. It was in the encouragement he felt when he spoke with our staff and participated in biblical counseling and our life skills classes.

In less than a month, there was a drastic physical change in Shawn's demeanor. He became lighter with the burdens that

he was now able to talk about with our program manager and with his new counselor. You could even hear it in the way he would speak to you and ask you how you were doing, in the way he gave back to those who helped him. It was in the way he dove into scripture and discovered things he never knew before.

In less than a month, **Heshimu** had rediscovered his passion for life and his past career-minded dreams. With one of the brightest smiles you will ever see on a man, he pushed and continues to push through the challenges that brought him to us. It's that hope and newfound energy that's allowing him to recognize his own strengths and orient himself toward a successful future.

It's not about simply finding someone a job and telling them, "Good luck and God bless." It's not about cranking out dozens upon dozens of success stories just to have a nice statistic to report. It's not about simply "solving the problem of homelessness."

It's about real, genuine life transformation. It's about showing these men that there is hope, that there is a great life that God wants them to live. It's about showing them that they have God-given strengths and talents that they can use to help themselves and help others.

It's about following Jesus and loving our neighbors - our fellow human beings made in the Image of God.



JAMES'S TESTIMONY

Around 2006, life circumstances brought James to Fairhaven. "I was tired of running. I did a year in jail, and then served probation in KY. I didn't know anyone, and I had no choice but to go to a homeless shelter because I had no family in Kentucky.

He was faced with two options: "Either I run or I stay. I decided to stay." Fairhaven was the only shelter available. "What drew me in is that the place was not what I expected. The place was clean. After one night, I realized, 'I have a chance here.' I went from no options, to a chance at everything I wanted. It was only through the blood of Jesus. It was Christ. That's what's at the center of Fairhaven. The Mission allowed me to take a breath and think and see that I had a chance."

James planned on leaving after 14 days. But as he left, he was asked why he wasn't joining the program. "Something clicked," he recalls. The next day he talked to the program director. "It was God leading me. I prayed and asked God to allow me to be honest and open. Next thing I knew I was in the program.

He started working at the Mission in 2007. He is here to this day, a light in a city on a hill.

"Fairhaven is a very diverse crowd. There are different extremes that come through the door. But the one thing that unites us is Christ. Fairhaven is a place that puts us all on an even playing field.

"No matter what you're facing, God can turn it around."



IN THEIR WORDS...



For two long years, Shawn was in and out of shelters, with no reprieve in sight. A series of poor life decisions set him on the path to homelessness. His rough childhood, fractured family structure, and past traumas only contributed to the crisis.

“I didn’t know what direction to go. I needed more purpose in my life, to get off the streets and get rehabilitated.”

Regarding what Shawn describes as jealousy issues, including taking everything as criticisms, he says, “It’s something I had to take hold of in my life.” He continues speaking about friends and relationships. “I wished I had a relationship, settle down. Have a better career. It’s hard for me to make friends.”

He says there’s a big difference he’s seen in his life after coming to Fairhaven and joining the New Life Program. “Before, I felt like a blind, ignorant person. [NLP manager] Bryon’s helped me understand the Word better. I’m connecting dots I’ve never seen before. All the stuff I’ve learned here and in the Bible - I read and the page comes alive to me, you know? It freaked me out, reading a chapter - your brain lights up. It’s like you’re reading about yourself even though the words are thousands of years old. It’s fascinating, man.

“I’m learning to be more mature about everything. I still keep my guard up, but at the same time try to keep it down. I’ll never make a friend if I stay guarded, you know? I don’t have to consistently fight. [I’m learning] self respect.

“Sometimes you get in your head, and you have to overcome that. I’m doing my best to not need validation, but it is good to have support.

“The mission’s helped me become more involved with people and overcome my anxiety. I’m trying my best to be involved with new people, and know that at heart they really care about me. I no longer want to self-destruct or assassinate my character, or put myself or others down. The volunteers that come through - learning to understand them, it makes me feel wanted. It’s all still

scary, but I’m working on it.”

In asking Shawn about a particular part of Scripture that has stuck out to him, he says, “It’s in the book of John. It’s Jesus, saying, ‘I’m right in front of you.’

“My relationship with God has helped me to not feel so alone. I’ve felt like a lone wolf my whole life and I hate having that mentality. I love to see people happy and I love to be happy with them.

“I’m learning to pray again, man. I need to keep on praying every day. I’m practicing my humility; God’s humbling me. You learn every day, you mess up every day. To learn the right way you need humility. You gotta surrender your will. Your will is not the best way. I’m working on it.”

If it wasn’t for the New Life program and Shawn’s willingness to open up to God, he says, “I’d be homeless, angry and hurting. I didn’t live the best life and I didn’t make the best choices. But you gotta take a negative and turn it into a positive. Now, I’m getting more organized every day. I’m helping out at the Mission. I’m working toward getting into better contact with my family. I’m learning accountability. I’m learning to speak up. I’m working to read the Bible more.”

When asked what advice he’d give to a new NLP participant, Shawn says, “Expect the unexpected every day. Know that you’re not perfect and that you don’t have it all figured out. At some point you have to surrender your will. You can be honest and there’s more respect in that.”

Shawn has been working as a volunteer at Be Concerned after having a wonderful healing and great health reports that we’ve been praying for. He is also preparing to enter the workforce.

SHAWN’S STORY

THE NLP: REAL FACES, REAL IMPACT



Gerald has his own home and a personal relationship with Jesus. He has a deep biblical understanding and secured a career as a federal employee.

Robert owns a successful business, has a relationship with Jesus, and has a restored relationship with his family.

Gabe was baptized and is now a present father. He bought a car outright with the savings he accumulated while in the NLP, found housing, and has full-time employment.

Aaron was directed to a long-term housing program for permanent placement after graduating the Enzweiler Institute in Latonia, KY for facility maintenance.

Carl obtained his Certified Peer Support License and tried to enter the workforce but was ultimately forced to file for disability, which the NLP helped navigate. Once his benefits were granted he found a permanent residence. He also made huge strides in being a bigger and better influence in his son's life.

Brian obtained his Certified Peer Support Specialist License and volunteered in a local ministry until his health concerns caused him to reside in a long-term care facility.

John completed an intensive 9-week "Foundations for a Better Life" course at the Life Learning Center. He is currently seeking full-time employment.

Heshimu just had a second eye surgery and is recovering well. He has an exciting possible opportunity working with and on behalf of children - a lifelong passion of his.

Michael is full-time student enrolled at Life Learning Center and is currently seeking employment.

Here's how you can have a *direct impact* right now:

1/ Pray for the Mission.
and ask the Lord to lead your giving to best serve Him and His people

2/ Give online at fairhavenmission.org

3/ Give by mail by sending your gift & reply form in the provided envelope

4/ Scan the QR code with your phone to give

fairhaven
RESCUE MISSION



Scan here
to give

260 W Pike St.
Covington, KY 41011
859-491-1027
fairhavenmission.org

P.O. Box 12761
Covington, KY 41012