



Susan A. Blouch Executive Director



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# HE alone brings true joy

Dear Friend,

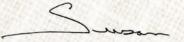
Trials seemed to be around every turn in 2023 ... for us as an organization, for individual staff members, for guests and our community as a whole. For the first time in my tenure, we lost a significant number of guests to gun violence, overdoses and serious health issues. The sense of loss was overwhelming and heartbreaking.

We served an ever-increasing number of guests, who arrived with an unimaginable number of challenges to untangle. But GOD walked us through every single day, and JOY returned each morning. HE provided comfort, strength and provision in HIS timing.

There were mornings when the sunrise was so spectacular, that you couldn't help but feel HIS presence and reassurance. Whatever you may be facing, I pray that you will remain steadfast under trial, and cling to your Lord and Savior. HE alone can bring true joy to your life.

Thank you for all you do! We could not do God's work without your generous support.

In HIS Service.



Susan A. Blouch Executive Director Lebanon Rescue Mission "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

- James 1:12 NIV

#### **Lebanon Rescue Mission Ministries**

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## Through hardships, God brings growth

2023 was a year of hardships and blessings. Through it all, God stood by Lebanon Rescue Mission and brought growth to every ministry. As more men, women and children came to our doors, the supply of food, housing and care continued to become available. Volunteers came in great numbers, offering their valuable skills and time.

Your gifts of prayers, generosity and time brought growth to Lebanon Rescue Mission. Last year, the nights of lodging provided increased by 21% and the meals provided increased by 5%. The Lord blessed the Mobile Senior Pantry with an incredible increase in food available for seniors.

You also helped provide the means for increasing the staff — which is an investment in Life Change. With

God, all things are possible, and He is bringing great change to our community through the work of the staff, volunteers and friends like you. Thank you to all who gave their time, talents and helping hands to our guests.

Through it all, 2023 brought growth and healing through hardships. Men and women are finding Jesus and becoming leaders in the community. The Gospel continues to be shared, advancing the Kingdom of Heaven.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to providing Christ-centered care and recovery to those in need this year and for years to come.



#### **Lebanon Free Clinic**

The Lebanon Free Clinic provides primary and behavioral medical care for the uninsured ... and more! Doctors, nurses and staff also care for the heart and soul of a person to brighten their whole life.

Recently, a new patient came to the Clinic to establish medical care since being released from jail. For years, he wore prison-issued glasses but every time he looked in the mirror, he was reminded of the dark times in his life. With the help of Dr. Frederic Marotta, VisionCorp and the Clinic, he was able to choose a new pair of glasses. Grateful for a service he did not know was an option for him, he can now look in the mirror, smile and think of the possibilities ahead.

Likewise, a woman was recommended counseling while in a follow-up appointment with Dr. Davidson. She was grateful that the doctor not only took care of her medical issues but also of her mental health. With the counseling she received, she took on a new direction in life,



including moving into her own apartment and leaving behind an abusive relationship.

Your support helps men and women not only receive physical care but also heal broken pasts and hurting souls.

# Thank you for your compassion.

### **Agape Family Shelter**

Mari came to the Agape family shelter with her 5-year-old son, and very little else. She was unemployed with no savings and nervous about living in the shelter. However, Mari followed the plan God had for her, relying on the kindness of the people He put in her path.

After a few months, Mari found a job that could one day be a career. The shelter staff helped place her son in an after-school program, where he received help with his homework and gave Mari the ability to work full-time hours. In the momentum of her success, Mari blossomed.

She attributes her new life to the presence of God, who gave her joy in good times and bad. "I never gave up," Mari says. "I always believed in a path forward." That kind of hope is rare, a product of her relationship with a God who promises to

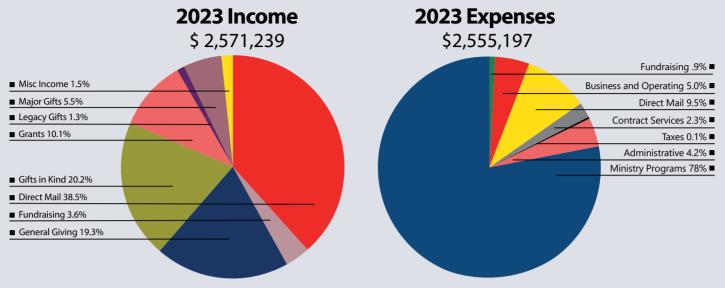


sustain those who turn to Him. For Mari, despite her journey through darkness, joy has finally come in the morning.

(Name has been changed for the privacy of the program participant.)

# For Those Who Like Numbers ...

Thank you for your investments in people, our community and in Heaven!



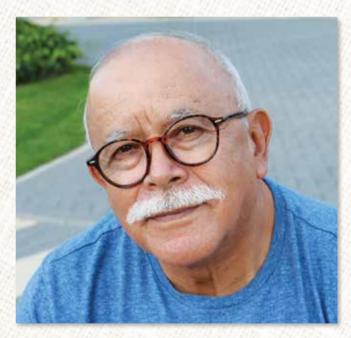
# **Big Life Changes in the Men's Ministry**

Sam came to Lebanon Rescue Mission lost, afraid and afflicted with deep paranoia and delusion. Being homeless for 23 years broke him to the core. He was terrified to go back on the streets and gratefully entered the 30-day short program.

Sam was lost for many years until our Lord Jesus brought him to the Lebanon Rescue Mission. Here, God saved him from darkness and brought him into the kingdom of light.

After only a few days, Sam asked to join the oneyear life-change program and learn more about the Bible. A month later, Sam accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. With Christ now in his heart, Sam was ready to tackle the mental health issues that plagued his life.

As he sorts through these challenges, Sam enjoys working in the LRM kitchen. He is thankful for the chance to work. Every day he works hard to prove himself trustworthy. Sam is also very clear that Jesus is the one changing his life, giving him purpose and renewing his mind.



Sam is living proof that relationships are God's way to build a person into the image of Jesus. The trusting relationship Sam has with his case manager has helped him grow strong with Jesus, and it is wonderful to see.

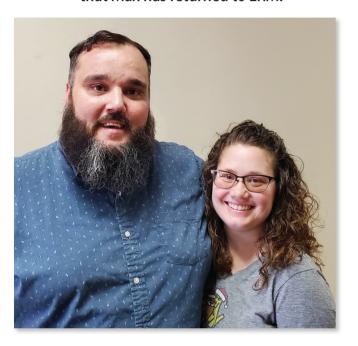
(Name has been changed for the privacy of the program participant.)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

# Thank you!



Please join us in welcoming our new
Director of Men's ministry Theodore "Max" Myers
and his wife Becca! We are excited
that Max has returned to I RM!



Thank you to our community partners. We are grateful for their partnerships in serving men, women, children and seniors in our community!

















Our heartfelt thanks also go out to two very special groups of kids who helped with Agape Christmas this year. Thank you Lebanon Valley Bible Church youth group and Elco boys varsity basketball team for making Christmas special for seniors in our community!



Elco boys varsity basketball team



Lebanon Valley Bible Church youth group