



A place of help, hope & healing in Philadelphia!

Christmas Blessings

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
made his light shine in our hearts to give us
the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."
(2 Corinthians 4:6)

December 2020

Dear Friends,

Truly, if there was a day for us to reflect on how the Lord's wisdom surpasses all understanding, it is these days. This year has been devastating, hopeful, even joyful at times, and very painful. He continues to do his work in all of us, and we continue to trust in his good, strong hands.

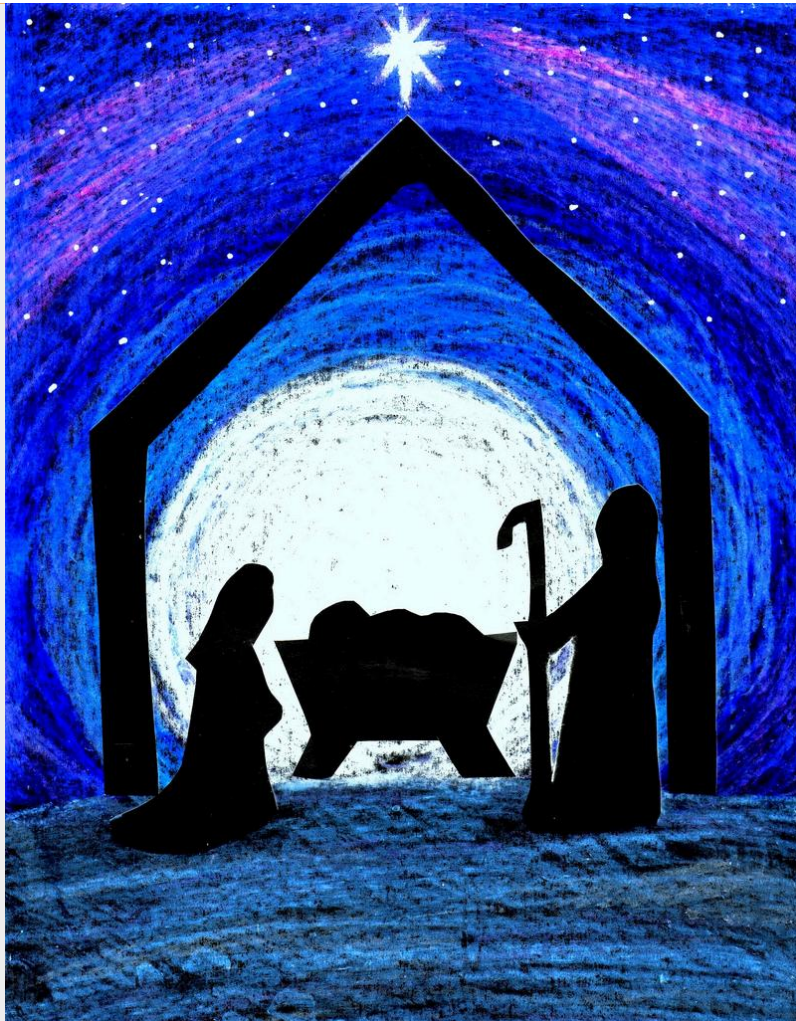
As the soil has turned and turned again in these latest seasons, it has been every comfort to know how your hearts have remained close to ours. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and all of the precious families we have had the great privilege to serve this year, thank you for your support!

As we look ahead to the coming year:

- We pray for God's peace to grow in our cities.
- We pray for all the seeds that were planted this year in the thousand changes we have been forced to adopt as we responded to the countless challenges at our door.
- We pray for how hunger and housing have grown as local issues in the wake of the pandemic after years of steady progress in those battles. We pray they would not take hold in another generation.
- We pray for all the officers of the local 24th, 25th and 26th Police Districts and their families, and we pray for the city's initiatives to elevate collaboration between its social services and justice teams. We pray for the new efforts to develop co-responder forces with social service training in de-escalation techniques and cross-discipline officers for all the difficult days ahead.
- And we pray that we would all gain in our understanding of trauma and its impact in our communities, families, and in our own lives.

Refuge's partnerships, years of experience, and concentration in many of these areas puts us in a unique position to be able to contribute much to the life of our region over the next year and more. Please keep us in prayer that we would not set out to do more than we are able. Please pray that instead, we would keep our sights only on what the Lord has measured out for us, as ever.

As a small, simple ministry, we pray that we will continue to take hope in knowing that we are in the best of company.



May the light of the world find you where you are. And may Christ grant you the strength to hold candles with us in the dark places of the world, even unto the ends of the earth. God bless you! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!

Grace and peace,

friends and family.
The Place of Refuge

Support for the The Place of Refuge

2021 and Beyond

We know that this year has had a financial impact on everyone. For those who can and want to extend, genuine, meaningful, tangible help to some of those who are hurting most, Refuge is a wonderful way to offer exactly that in one of the most under-resourced communities in our city, in our state, and in our country.

We invite you to consider a year-ending gift to support our ongoing work and outreaches. \$9,000 remains in our fundraising goal for 2020. You can help us today!

Over the past year, despite the many challenges, we have kept fixed in our efforts to continue to expand our faith-based counseling services to accommodate more and more families in our region. By God's grace, we have done just that.

- in mid-March, to ensure minimum risk to our clients and staff in the first wave of the COVID-19 virus in the Philadelphia area, we began to conduct 100% of our sessions remotely
- by May we partnered with Microsoft and asked for the help of our technology partners at Parkside Tech in Phoenix, AZ to begin our transition to a secure, comprehensive, HIPAA-compliant, cloud infrastructure

- by July, with our case load continuing to grow and with the help of a grant from the Philadelphia Foundation, we welcomed a second full-time therapist Amber Hernandez, M.A. from Missio University to join our staff
- by late summer, we could see just how important the enhanced capacity to offer remote services would continue to be long-term, especially for those with chronic pain and mobility issues
- and by fall, it was clear that even the smallest processes would forever be affected by these profound changes to the way we do everything.

Today, serving nearly twice the number we were at this time last year and still with a few days to go before year-end, we have come within 12% of break-even operations for 2020. Not as far along as we had initially hoped when we set out last winter, but still remarkable. When we consider the federal PPP Loan from the Small Business Administration that we were awarded in May, which appears eligible for 100% forgiveness just as soon as our bank begins to accept applications, our operating gap shrinks to just 4% or \$7,500. Consider a gift to help us close this gap today!! Consider sending us even further!!

As our year-end approaches, it is our sincere hope that you will see as we do the importance of the care Refuge offers in the Philadelphia region as the only faith-based, adult outpatient counseling to accept Medical Assistance insurance. And with all the improvements we have undertaken this year, our hope is that you will see the sacred opportunity now before us to offer Refuge more widely than we ever have before. As the Lord allows!!

Donate Now

Thank you! A blessed Christmas to you and yours! Happy New Year!!

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The Place of Refuge is a 501(c)3 non-partisan, non-profit organization that seeks to bring redemptive healing through faith-based trauma treatment and training focusing on urban populations and their caregivers.

We consider it a gift to be able to carry out this work. Thank you!

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