



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 2021

Dear Friends,

It is a marvel to consider how chaos in one aspect of our work can sometimes lead to chaos and even invite division elsewhere, even sometimes on established, well-worn paths. Refuge is not a perfect place. Often this year, we've had to take deep breaths and repeat a simple truth: "we serve a God of order."

As we've responded carefully to each new challenge at our doorstep: remaining patient, nimble, and having grace with ourselves and each other - we have sometimes seen that things that begin with chaos, if we remain teachable and attentive to each opportunity to improve - prayerfully, the Lord guides our hands in his ways, and we see that what started with chaos can sometimes drive us forward into a better place. Nearly every day, we are encouraged in this way.

The challenge associated with handling new volumes of requests for our services at levels we have never seen before has not been easy. Yet with prayerful, well-placed adjustments, we can remain focused on what is most important: simply that people can be affirmed in their meeting one of our counselors for the first time. When it's well done, you can hear them say: "That wasn't so bad. She didn't judge me. And she didn't tell me what to do. She just listened, and she cried with me. And they didn't take my children from me when I told her how sad I get sometimes." Praise God.

And with trust in someone's heart like this, sometimes the first godly relationship in all the years of someone's life, in the peace in their voice you can hear them say: "Yes, Lord. It was just as you said. Although I haven't known it in this world before: the Body of Christ gathered in your name. Just as you said, 'wherever two or three are gathered'...thank you."



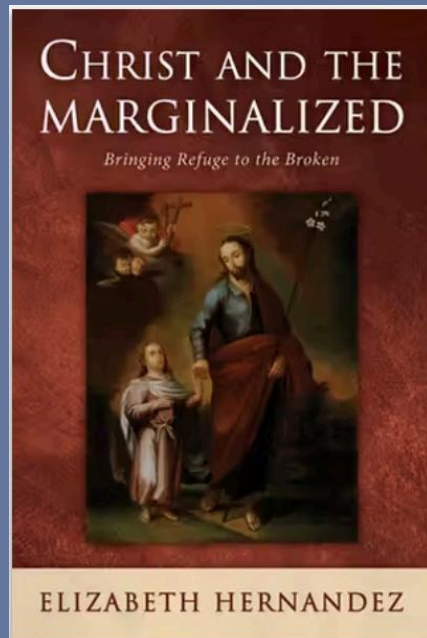
We invite you to join your voice with ours in this simple song of hope we sing. In this precious ministry, the Lord has built up a place to lessen the hurt of trauma, loss, grief, and brokenness in this world.

Your faithful support makes Refuge possible. On behalf of the board, our staff, volunteers, and all the families we have been given the privilege to serve, thank you!!

As we look back on the year as it winds down:

- we celebrate more than 75 individuals and families who were able to receive our professional counseling services this year
- we give thanks for having been able to safely reopen our offices for in-person visits, meeting people face-to-face in our waiting area again, some for the first time, though we have come have come to know many of them very well in our remote counseling work
- we celebrate having been able to welcome two new staff who came alongside us earlier this year:
 - Jennifer Darway, as our Clinical Support Manager, and
 - Sarah Ensslen, LPC of Cairn University, as a second Clinical Supervisor
- we give thanks, and we pray for the journeys of the three clinicians who have agreed to join us in these vital efforts starting January 2022 (projected to grow our capacity by up to 33%):
 - Pascuala Shroyer, MS of Cairn University (returning from 2018)
 - Leonia Johnson, MS of Cairn University, and
 - Bryan Hollinger, MD of Missio University
- and not least by any means, we rejoice in being able to cherish and share the good news of Wipf & Stock's recent publication of [Christ and the Marginalized | Bringing Refuge to the Broken](#), by Elizabeth Hernandez, which is now available for purchase!

What a tremendous work of the heart!!



Available for purchase direct from the publishers Wipf & Stock: [Order Today](#)

Thank you for all the ways that your support allows us to continue to nurture this important work as we continue to explore all the Lord has planned for this ministry.

We pray that only as we have strength to bear, we would grow in wisdom and grace as we grow in our understanding of trauma and its impact in our communities, families, and in our own lives.

May Christ meet you where you are, and may He grant you a peace that surpasses all understanding, even unto the ends of the earth. God bless you! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!

Every blessing to you and yours,

friends and family.
The Place of Refuge

Support for the The Place of Refuge

the road ahead | 2022

We know the financial impact that another year of uncertainty has been for so many people. 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. [\\$11,000 remains in our fundraising goal for 2021](#). You can help us today!

Today, serving +40% more individuals and families than in 2019, +12% more than in 2020, and looking ahead to further +33% growth in our capacity in 2022, please consider a gift today to help assure that we can manage this wonderful progress from a place of strength.

As our year-end approaches, our hope is 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 - the primary way that people in poverty in this country get help. 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 throughout this region than ever before. As the Lord allows!!

Donate Now

Thank you! May you find his good blessing everywhere you look! Merry Christmas and 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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