

NEWSLETTER



“And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.” (1 Corinthians 15:49)

Fall 2015

October 20, 2015

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“To share in the deepest thoughts of God, and even more to be tools in his hand, is a breathtaking experience, and it ignites the love and passion for serving.”

Growing in Mercy

In the Psalms, it is said that He has collected all our tears in His bottle, that He has recorded each one in His book.

In a recent meeting, a therapist shared with us about her experience with a man from the community. She mentioned she had been tearful for hours after the session ended, something quite unusual, and she said it was not any particular sorrow that he had shared with her.

She saw this man across from her, and the theoretical framework: the diagnosis, formulation, the case; it was stripped away. She saw

Recent Highlights & Updates

Today, Refuge continues to walk alongside this community in ways that are dynamic and meaningful, providing quality clinical treatment and remaining teachable before each family He sends to us for care.

We share our model with local caregivers

only this man, just as he was made, but looking as through the eyes of God.

Have you ever been overcome in God’s vision of someone else?

Truly, words will remain a mystery until the last trumpet call.

The word of God caused the waters to separate. We are taught that the tongue speaks from the overflow of the heart, and that it is not what enters into the mouth that defiles, but what proceeds out. And through the living Word, we are reborn.

In the truth of words, we put great hope. Schol-

ars search into their roots for meaning. But to seek meaning in Refuge—a meaning in this process of *sanctification*—to a person when they are swallowed up in darkness—the meaning is enormous, and *sanctification* is not an easy idea.

The scholars guide us rather to go back to the Hebrew of the Old Testament; *qadash*: to be set apart, and *chadash*: to repair and renew—to be made to shine.

In the dry places where Hebrew was born, that which has been made to shine catches the eye from many miles away.

across the city through trainings and outreach, and we teach the next generation of therapists in the sacred places behind the closed doors of these offices.

This month, we celebrate our seventh year of full operations, with over 590 families who have

now met with one of our wonderful counselors and over 7,400 office visits to date. Through referral services and workshops, we reach many more.

Prayerfully, we look ahead to serving hundreds more each year while continuing to do better every day.

To Share in the Thoughts of God

Recently, in a staff meeting, we were discussing the challenges our clinicians were seeing in therapy, a theme we often revisit in our goal to maintain resonance with the wider community.

Carla Contreras, one of our therapists from Cairn University, who comes originally from a community in the Atacama desert in northern Chile, shared her thoughts about the opportunity to serve in North Philadelphia.

“No doubt it is a humbling and beautiful experience. There are times though, when I can take the words of Asaf in Psalm 73 and make them mine. When I set my eyes on the many challenges, it is easy to feel discouraged. And I can hear Asaf’s thoughts in my own heart when he compares his dedication to God’s work with the works and prosperity of others in the world.

It can be painful. But only until I go “into the sanctuary of God.” Comfort and peace are

there with Him. As he reveals to us what is in His mind, that’s when I understand that what I see when I walk the streets of this community, this is what God is seeing and watching over. This small Latino community in North Philadelphia is in God’s heart. The people here are his concern. God chooses to reveal Himself in such an intimate way, even to a limited broken person like me, like us. All complaints and questions vanish in just that moment. So that

we can sing along with Asaf, “Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You” (v. 23-25).

To share in the deepest thoughts of God, and even more to be tools in his hand, is a breathtaking experience, and it ignites the love and passion for serving.”



Refuge staff and friends, Winter 2014

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**A place of help, hope & healing
in Philadelphia!**

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.

It is our privilege to carry out this work.

We give thanks each day for you, that you have come alongside us in this outreach. Please pray through what it would mean to allow more men and women to know the peace of God—in their moments of hurt and in the midst of great distress.

We continue to seek pledges of support that allow us to continue this vital work.

It is your gift that makes this possible.

Thank you! May God bless and keep you as you minister, and as you yourself are ministered to in the work of His dear heart.