

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A Summer of Support



Rev. Richard Trickel
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friend,

In just a couple of weeks, another school year will end and summer will begin. However, about 3,000 children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District won't be enjoying out-of-state vacations or trips to Cedar Point. That's because these children are homeless.

In this issue of *His Hands*, Menashe looks ahead to a time when she and her family will leave Laura's Home and start a new life. Five years from now, she says her dream is for all of her children to be in school. Because Menashe took the initiative to get her children out of an abusive situation, and because she shows a great deal of personal ambition, a better, stable future looks possible for all of them.

But there are still so many children who need our help, and sadly, their numbers are growing. The good news is that you can be a part of the solution. I hope you'll Stand In on Public Square with us on June 29 and show your support for our young, hurting neighbors. And if you're not free on that date, there are so many more ways to help this summer that you can learn more about in the following pages... and they'll still leave time for a family vacation. Thank you and have a safe summer!

Sincerely,

Rev. Richard Trickel

DID YOU KNOW...

ABOUT
3,000
children in our school district are homeless.

48.7%
of children under 18 in Cleveland lived in poverty in 2017.

ABOUT 90
boys & girls are currently living at Laura's Home.

16 CHILDREN & THEIR MOTHERS
have moved into New Horizons homes.



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New Horizons Means New Lives for Families

Nearly halfway through 2019, the New Horizons Program is on target to move multiple families from Laura's Home into newly renovated homes of their own. The City Mission has already secured funding for two of the homes.

Ashley Field, Community Development Coordinator, tells us that partnerships with the Cleveland Police Department and Christ Church will raise the remainder of the funds and provide volunteers to renovate the homes. CPD officers will also encourage local businesses to donate building materials and other goods to offset the cost of the renovations.

"The most unique aspect of New Horizons is that we're not just handing over the keys to a home and saying, 'Good luck.' We truly support each mom and her family while they transition into their new lives," Ashley says. Ashley also reports that, this year, The City

Mission could potentially double the number of mothers and children whose lives are changed for the better through the New Horizons Program.

This year, the New Horizons team is focusing on improving family programming, creating a unique marketing and branding platform, streamlining renovations, and strengthening funder relationships.

Another exciting development is the opportunity to help children enroll in schools they have not previously had the opportunity to attend. "We want to make sure the children receive the best education possible, regardless of the perceived financial burdens," Ashley says. "I'm excited to see New Horizons build an even stronger foundation, and become a model community transformation program. We will do this by changing the life of a family and restoring one blighted home at a time."

RUNNING WITH A MISSION

5K 1-MILE WALK
AT CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO
Benefitting Laura's Home
Saturday, June 15

Admission to Zoo & The Rainforest
Race T-Shirt (must register by 6/3)
Free Kids' Dash
Post-Race Refreshments
DJ, Photobooth, Games & More



Register Today at www.thecitymission.org/run

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216.431.3510

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"I WANT TO PROVIDE STABILITY FOR MY KIDS."

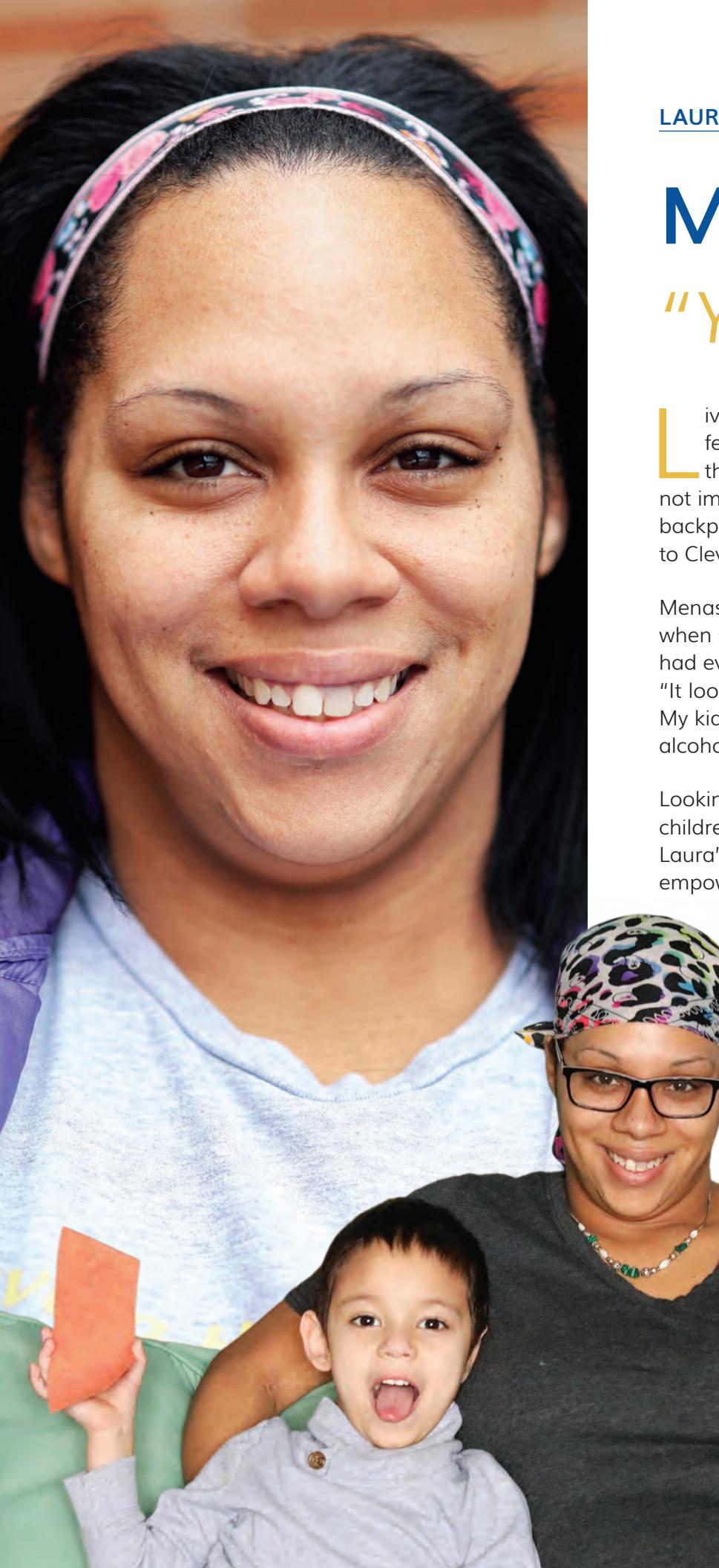
You Helped Menashe Transform from "Broken" to "Growing."



REACHING HEARTS | CHANGING LIVES

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LAURA'S HOME WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

MENASHE FINDS A PATH TO STABILITY AT LAURA'S HOME

"You get a lot of empowerment here."

Living in a small town in Connecticut, Menashe felt trapped. "I wanted to get away because there wasn't any work there and my life was not improving." Ten years ago, she grabbed her backpack, jumped on a Greyhound bus, and came to Cleveland with hopes for "bigger things" in life.

Menashe thought she was on the right track when she found a man to take care of her. "We had everything we wanted," she remembers. "It looked nice on the outside, but it wasn't good. My kids' father had a really bad problem with alcohol and drugs. It got really violent."

Looking for a safe place to bring her three young children, Menashe remembered hearing about Laura's Home. "I called every day. I felt empowered every time. I thought, 'This could be the day that I get out of here!'"

"I did a dance!"

Menashe says that when she learned Laura's Home had a room for her, "I did a dance! I did a jig all the way down the stairs. I was out of there. I didn't even pack."



As Menashe and her children settled in at Laura's Home, she recalls, "It was so pleasant. Everyone was so helpful. What I learned in class was so on point to what I needed."

What Menashe needed was to reclaim her self-confidence, discover her talents, and lay a solid foundation that she and her children could build their independent new life on. The program made a profound impact on Menashe. "I had a lot of issues

with my self-esteem," she says. "But now I feel like I don't have to get permission from somebody to make a decision about myself or my children. You get a lot of empowerment."

Menashe also says that being at Laura's Home has strengthened her relationship with God and brought her peace. "It's nice to know when I'm laying down at night that I'm saved and that my kids and I are protected by God."

No longer "broken"

More than anything, Menashe says, "I want to provide stability for my kids when we leave here." She's already on her way, having discovered a knack for mechanics. "I love working with the maintenance team. I'm a very hands-on person. Maybe I'll get a job doing maintenance, hop around and fix everything. Maybe I could help rebuild houses."

Looking ahead, Menashe tells us, "Five years down the road, my kids are all going to be in school, and I'll be working or running my small business. We'll have our own place and just be happy."



Thanks to you, Menashe's children have an excellent chance of escaping the cycle of abuse that trapped their mother. "Before the City Mission, I was broken," Menashe says. "Because of the City Mission, I am growing."

Stand In for Homeless Children with The City Mission

Raise Awareness of Childhood Poverty in Cleveland

Most Cleveland residents don't know that we have the highest child poverty rate of any large U.S. city. American Community Survey estimates show that 48.7 percent of children under the age of 18 in Cleveland lived in poverty in 2017. It's part of a growing trend in the number of moms and their children who are homeless in our city. Their daily struggles are virtually unseen and nothing can change until this reality is brought to light.

In just over a month you can change this. Join us on June 29 for our Stand In event and together we will raise awareness of this crisis and then turn that awareness into action. We can, and must, bring change to Cleveland.

We will gather on Public Square with 3,000 people from various churches in our community to represent all homeless children accounted for in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District—2,775 known in February and

expected to rise to 3,000 by the end of the 2018–2019 school year. This event will culminate in a visual moment when participants hold up signs to represent every child in crisis.

"These students are threatened by a cycle of poverty that leaves them stigmatized and struggling for normalcy, with little hope of escape. Right now, it's imperative that the people of Cleveland see the crisis," says Rev. Richard Trickel, CEO of The City Mission.

The Stand In will also include messages and information from other local poverty alleviation agencies, live worship, prayer, food trucks, activities for families, and more.

Come to SEE this crisis, STAND on Public Square with us, and SERVE your young, hurting neighbors. Please sign up today at www.thecitymission.org/stand-in.

