



Fall 2022 Newsletter

Mission: Our Ministry is focused in bringing our community together by understanding the mental, physical and spiritual needs of those struggling.

November 9, 2022

Dear Friend,

As we come to the close of another year, we want to say **Thank You** for your prayers and to all who volunteered and supported Sweatshirt of Hope financially! Without your support we would not be able to link and encourage those struggling with hopelessness, food insecurities, mental health issues and addiction with organizations that are able to provide proper assistance. Our goal is to offer HOPE and be an encourager to our family, friends, neighbors, and our community.

Sweatshirt of Hope impacts thousands by sharing the message of HOPE on printed apparel and that God Loves each of us. This message of hope opens doors for us to share the gospel. Below is a testimonial, a ***divine appointment*** or you can say it is a ***providential circumstance***.

One afternoon a teenage gal was working in a retail store when a middle-aged lady walked in that she never saw before. The lady came to the counter to pay and stopped – looked at this gal's sweatshirt and said – the image says, **HOPE, God Loves You!** She said *God does not love me*, the teenage gal said, *but God does love you*, the lady said for the second time, *God does not love me*. The teenage gal working the checkout said with more passion, *but God does love you*, the lady said for the third time, *God cannot love me because of all the bad things in my past*. The teenage worker said *we are all broken and sinned but God will still forgive us if we ask him for forgiveness*. The teenage worker asked the lady if she could pray with her and for her; the lady said *yes* and started to cry. The teenage girl prayed with her right there at the check-out and later said *God gave me the words because I do not know what I prayed*. After the prayer the lady lifted her hands towards the heavens and said *Thank You Jesus!* The young gal told the lady about HOPE 22 so the lady took a picture of her sweatshirt and said she plans to attend HOPE 22. This gal never saw the lady again.

We stand in amazement how God's hand was evident as we planned HOPE 22 and the excitement we experienced. Friday evening, we came together as a community serving food, fellowship, personal testimonies, and were blessed to have the award-winning singers, the 3 Heath Brothers. Saturday St Luke's University Health & Penn Foundation hosted a walk. Montgomery and Bucks County commissioners spoke and kicked off the walk "Recovery is for Everyone". 200+ walkers brought awareness to mental health and addiction that is a challenge in our communities. After the walk Teen Challenge band "It is Written" kicked off HOPE 22 with RE:VIVALS kids block party, 57 non-profit organizations offering resources for life's struggles, food, musicians and many personal testimonies shared. Nashville recording artist Leanna Crawford finished out the evening and then a Sunday morning service hosted by Christian Street Missions. The highlight for many of us was watching 9 persons be baptized! All for God's Glory! HOPE 22 would not have been possible without the 156+ volunteers, business sponsors, law enforcement, fire police, fire companies and North Penn Goodwill. So Thank You to all who helped and supported us.

Our goal is **“Linking HOPE 4 Life”** by partnering non-profit organizations, first responders, business community and churches to work as a team for a healthier community. Our ministry stands on Matthew 25:35-36: *“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me”*. Scripture offers **“Living Hope”** to each of us because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us all work to share the message of hope with people struggling with life-controlling issues. It is only by His grace we have peace and joy.

We know that this time of the year can be an extraordinary time for families as they navigate the holiday season. Most of us look forward to the holiday season, but I also remember years of just wishing it was over as we struggled to find our way. Many families are broken due to addiction, divorce, finances, and loss of a loved one. As families deal with their issues our local police are called to resolve family disputes, fights and abuse so let’s keep our police in prayer as well as our communities.

One thing I have learned over the years is to focus on sharing our mission and letting the impact speak for itself. We are an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization totally supported by individuals, churches, and businesses. NO paid staff or government money accepted! Sweatshirt of Hope is not affiliated with any church or denomination.

Interested in helping us spread the message of HOPE? Your donations go to purchase HOPE apparel and HOPE Teddy Bears. Sweatshirts will be given to those struggling, and or the homeless. Teddy Bears will be donated to Women’s Clinic for young ladies dealing with difficult unplanned pregnancy. We want to share the message of HOPE and that they are loved by God. To support our mission please go on-line to SweatshirtofHope.org or send a check to Sweatshirt of Hope, 130 N School Lane, Souderton, PA 18964.

As the Sweatshirt of Hope board looks ahead, we covet your prayers. Our prayer is that the Lord will fill each of us with His holy spirit providing clarity on our next steps and that His will may be fulfilled for His Honor and His Glory.

A special bible verse that carried me through many days when I felt helpless and hopeless: *“Those who have HOPE in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31*

Stay tuned for **“What’s Next”**. For more information or to get involved visit us at sweatshirtofhope.org. In advance, thank you very much for your prayers, volunteering and financial support and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Your Brother in Christ,



Terry S. Derstine

Chairman & Founder