



Winter 2023 Newsletter

Mission: Our Ministry is focused on bringing our community together by understanding the **mental, physical and spiritual** needs of those struggling and linking those persons to resources.

Happy Valentine's Day! 

My prayer is that you know **you are loved by God** and many others, even when life seems out of control. Your heavenly father loves you unconditionally no matter how bad you messed up, so rest in His arms asking for forgiveness in your mess.

Our past year in review...

As we look back at 2022, we see how God's hand was evident time and time again. We looked at the challenges that were ahead of us, and not sure how things would work out, but we heard God's voice through the Holy Spirit saying, I have this, and all you must do is **trust Me**.

Starting 2022, the Sweatshirt of Hope board realized we had to create an organizational structure in order to grow efficiently and serve our community and beyond. We took time to evaluate the needs and struggles of people, struggles in our community and the best way forward.

The board of directors took the first 5-months of the year to figure out the organizational structure while planning for HOPE 22. We launched a new website, improved our social media communications, purchased a non-profit CRM software program, and worked on setting up a marketing calendar. As shared in our fall connections newsletter HOPE 22 was a huge success in multiple ways and we want to thank everyone who stepped up to make this happen!

In January, I felt a clear call from the lord to retire from the promotions business and serve as a full-time volunteer with Sweatshirt of Hope. This was a difficult decision if we viewed this move from only a financial aspect, but we saw so many people were in need of help and support. So, January 31st, 2022, I started serving as a full-time director and chair of Sweatshirt of Hope.



Nashville Recording Artist Leanna Crawford

Closing 2022 and focusing on 2023...

I would like to give a brief overview of ministry opportunities we had and are coming in 2023.

The darkness, helplessness, and hopelessness many are experiencing in today's world are real! People from all walks of life are struggling with anxiety, depression, mental illness, past trauma, and suicidal thoughts. These challenges provide our ministry with an unprecedented opportunity to connect with those who would not have listened before! We share there is always HOPE in Jesus.

In December 2022, our ministry was blessed to be able to ship 250 sponsored HOPE sweatshirts to a church **Homeless Outreach program in Florida** where persons are given meals, take a shower, wash & dry their clothes, and hear the gospel.

Another amazing opportunity was to provide sponsored sweatshirts to **St Luke's University Health | Penn Foundation Recovery** patients who remained in the center over Christmas.

Christian Street Missions felt called to do outreach on the streets of Philly; in drug-infested Kensington to share the gospel and hand out sponsored sweatshirts to those living on the streets.

We had requests from other outreach ministries but we did not have the funds to meet their requests. It is a struggle when we have willing workers, but no funding to meet the needs.

Consider being a sponsor and encourage those struggling. Engage your church outreach team, business giveback program, or ask your family to donate sweatshirts to those struggling.

Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

SAVE THE DATES: September 16th & 17th.



To DONATE, get information, or get involved e-mail Terry@SweatshirtofHope.org or visit SweatshirtofHope.org.

In advance, thank you very much for your prayers, volunteering, and financial support as we work to fund the many opportunities in 2023. Blessings to you and your family!

Your Brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry S. Derstine".

Terry S. Derstine

Founder & Chairman



We are a 501c3 ministry totally supported by individuals, churches, and the business community. **NO** paid staff or government money accepted!