

News of hope for a people of mission



CITY *Alive*

SUMMER 2018

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Our Mission

RESTORING THE CITY TO GOD BY DEVELOPING AND LINKING PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND CHURCHES.

God Blesses Property and Personal Restoration Efforts

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held Monday, May 7 to celebrate



God is in the restoration business – in more ways than you might expect! By His grace, He restores and refreshes the hearts and souls of all who cry out to Him, but recently at BHITC, He's also been at work on the near west side of Cleveland renovating not only hearts, but also homes!

Beginning late in 2015, **Building Hope in the City** (BHITC) and several area Christ-centered non-profits came together with a faith-inspired vision to restore and transform communities on the near west side with housing as the tool, and **Nehemiah Collaborative** was born. This collaborative effort is a combination of **Community Service Alliance**, **Family Ministry Center**, **Scranton Road Ministries C.D.C.** and **BHITC**.

In urban communities, affordable housing has become one of the biggest concerns, contributing to destabilized neighborhoods, reinforcing the effects of poverty. Here in Northeast Ohio, the challenge is further complicated by increasing home foreclosures, evictions and vacant properties. Nehemiah Collaborative seeks to restore homes as a unique means of personal, community, economic and Kingdom restoration. Read more about Nehemiah Collaborative in the next article!

To prepare for the official launch of this effort, which occurred in March of this year, the partners conducted a moderate renovation of a home in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood from 2016-2017. As more plans began, several lead donors gifted funds and resources to support the restoration efforts, and **Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church**, a long-time supporter of BHITC, was happy to make leadership funding available in the way of a two-year, zero-percent interest loan of \$50,000 toward Nehemiah Collaborative.

With restoration of people's lives at the center of it all, their only stipulation was for the money to be repaid directly to Crossroads Church in support of this church plant extension of Royal Redeemer and already connected to BHITC through its **Transform216** coaching and mentoring initiative.

"Royal Redeemer recognizes that Christ's love stretches to all people, all neighborhoods, without condition. BHITC and Crossroads are powerful and uniquely placed ministries that are able to make a lasting impact upon God's people in a way we cannot. Blessed to become a blessing, we rejoice in the opportunity to

partner with BHITC and help establish the process of providing safe, affordable housing, as well as further support the significant work of Crossroads. It is our prayer that, by this shared initiative, the Holy Spirit will work mightily as lives are improved, hearts are changed, seeds of faith are sown, and Jesus is glorified," says **Rev. John Zahrte** of Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The collaborative partners decided to use the loan to renovate a property at 3709 Behrwald in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood, which nearly covered the entire renovation. Once completed and listed, the property sold in 72 hours. Special thanks to **Duane Linder** of Blue Roots Real Estate Group, LLC, who donated a portion of his commission to these efforts. The Behrwald property was acquired at no cost through the **Cuyahoga Land Bank**, thanks to a substantial grant they gifted to the effort, and renovated by general contractors, Andrew and Jenna Isaacs, who own **RenewCLE**, a local home renovation business.

A ribbon-cutting and small dedication were held on Monday, May 7 with representatives from the Cuyahoga Land Bank, Royal Redeemer, RenewCLE and BHITC. "The Cuyahoga Land Bank is very pleased to participate in faith-based initiatives that not only uplift neighborhoods through renovating homes, but also uplifting lives and bringing people together in this Christ-centered mission," said **Gus Frangos**, President and General Counsel of the Cuyahoga Land Bank.

Andrew Isaacs agrees and says, "The partner organizations have been doing some great work in the city for a long time, and I am so glad they formed Nehemiah Collaborative to extend that great work into housing. I love the idea of doing 'market rate' homes to fund 'ministry homes' because Jesus is weaving it all together to transform homes and lives. We're even seeing Him at work in the



Andrew and Jenna Isaacs of RenewCLE with Brian Upton, BHITC's Executive Director tell of how God brought so many good things together to finish the Behrwald house.

lives of the men we employ and our vendors. It is a powerful thing to see God's love in action, and I am very grateful to be a part of it."

The proceeds of this market-rate sale property will first pay off the loan to benefit Crossroads, then directly fund Nehemiah Collaborative's next project in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood – a 2,500-square-foot, two-family home on Trowbridge Avenue, which will house a group of veterans transitioning to independent living.

Its overwhelmingly clear God is blessing the efforts of Nehemiah Collaborative! If you'd like to learn more, donate materials, your time or financially, visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org or www.nehemiahcollaborative.org.

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BEHRWALD PROPERTY BEFORE



BEHRWALD PROPERTY AFTER



Why Nehemiah?

Nehemiah was an Old Testament prophet who had a vision for city renewal that inspired support at every level of society. He was a leader and fantastic construction manager. He focused on neighborhood-based workforce development. He was resourceful and skilled at managing relationships. And infinitely more important, his leadership restored a community to what God had intended it to be. His “model” is the inspiration behind what this effort seeks to achieve.

While there are numerous not-for-profit programs designed to provide underprivileged people with housing, Nehemiah Collaborative believes that an improved housing situation only cures a symptom and does not address the root cause of poverty. We are focusing on the creation of a strong support network to provide the residents of our homes and their entire neighborhoods with the tools and resources they need to improve their living, working and spiritual situations.

It Starts at Home

The home is arguably the central most important and influential factor contributing to a person's perspective of the world and their place in it. Through the home, a person develops their ideas about things like family, faith, relationships, education, safety and success. When a home is unstable, unaffordable or otherwise threatened, people whom God dearly loves grow fearful for the future.

By starting with "home," we can change lives, renew neighborhoods and transform a city.

A VISION FOR RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

- **50-60 RENOVATIONS OF FORECLOSED AND VACANT HOMES**
The foreclosure crisis is an incredible opportunity for God's people to help stabilize neighborhoods, thanks to an innovative partnership with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank.
- **INTRODUCING GOOD NEIGHBORS & CO.**
This social enterprise will manage housing renovations and ongoing property maintenance by creating jobs and imparting supportive employment and construction skills.



- **SAFE, JUST, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SO MUCH MORE!**
Nehemiah Collaborative's portfolio of renovated homes will be made available for rent or purchase to people served by our various ministries who want a responsive landlord, as well as spiritual and vocational support.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
Together, we will bless the Stockyards and Clark-Fulton neighborhoods through Christ-centered capacity-building efforts.



Shining the Light on Learning, All School Year Long!

BHITC's flagship ministry, tutoring (also referred to as **Urban Family Learning Centers**), is central to the organization's core values of connecting families to volunteers and churches. This school year, 125 tutors shined their lights brightly each week, blessing children with educational support, commitment and compassion. Here's a recap from the school year –

- Tutoring kicked off shortly after students went back to school – 175 students enroll in weekly tutoring
- 1,200+ free books placed into the homes of our students to help improve literacy
- 2,000+ toys donated to 5th Christmas Store of Hope, where 52 families shopped for low-cost, new Christmas gifts for 120 kids+ while 60 volunteers made this event possible
- 90 students and parents and 25 tutors participated in the annual bowl-a-thon



Preparing to Do it Again for the 2018 – 2019 School Year!

Books Needed!

'Bringing Hope by the Scoop'
returns this summer at Mitchell's Ice Cream!



Thursday, July 26 – SOLON

6130 Kruse Dr, Solon

Tuesday, July 31 - OHIO CITY*

1867 W 25th St, Cleveland

Thursday, August 2 - ROCKY RIVER*

19700 Detroit Rd, Rocky River

All events take place from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Help fill our bookshelves by donating NEW children's books during one of our three events at Mitchell's and receive a free scoop of ice cream!

*New this year, featuring local children's book author, **Julie Goulis** at the Ohio City and Rocky River locations.

Tutors Needed!

New Tutor Orientation Session



Saturday, August 25
10:00 am

The Hope Center
15135 Triskett Rd., Cleveland

New tutor orientation is primarily for new volunteers who have already signed up to tutor in the fall. New tutors will learn more about the needs of the children, the tutoring locations for the following year and more. It is also an opportunity for potential volunteers to learn more about the ministry, ask questions and meet the staff and volunteers before making a commitment to tutor for the next school year.

RSVP to Laurie Kubiak at laurie@buildinghopeinthecity.org.

While you're at it, grab a friend or neighbor to bring, too!

Home Sweet Home Away from Home

Purchase of The Hope Center provides welcoming community for refugees and immigrants



A picture of The Hope Center in 2015 shortly after BHITC began renting space in the building two days a week.



A picture of the new official sign taken in the spring of 2018, shortly after The Hope Center building was purchased by BHITC.



A photo from the three-year anniversary celebration at The Hope Center between volunteers, partners and staff.

Written by Barb Galbincea, BHITC volunteer

Watch for even more great things happening at **The Hope Center** (The Center) now that BHITC purchased the building! That's right, as of February of 2018, the building at 15135 Triskett Road in Cleveland, which the organization began renting two days a week just three short years ago, now officially belongs to BHITC!

When The Center opened in early 2015, it served a handful of refugees and immigrants in rented space at Gateway West Church, and by 2017, it served up to 350 people a day! Recently, God

redirected the steps for the church, and in doing so, opened the doors – literally – to an opportunity for BHITC to purchase its building, perfectly located within a large immigrant and refugee community on Cleveland's west side.

"The sky's the limit to what we can do now that we own the building," said **Eileen Wilson**, Director of Refugee and Immigrant Ministries. "For years, we have been praying for a building. Who knew we were already sitting in the building God had for us? It's been a huge encouragement in the work we're doing here to see Him orchestrate these details for the space to become our own."

With the purchase of the building, the staff and volunteers are working on expanding its classes, services and more. "Packing all of our classes into two days a week in limited, rented space was always challenging," Wilson says.

In addition to reconfiguring the class schedule, building renovations and improvements are also needed. Some work is already done, with other work underway, to repurpose and maximize the rest of the space. Watch for a campaign later this summer around building improvements.

How can you help? Greatest needs at The Hope Center

Volunteers and supporters are essential to make many of BHITC's dreams for The Center possible.

The greatest volunteer needs include:

- Childcare volunteers
- Legal and Immigration Services
- Citizenship small group conversation
- Adult class teachers
- Cafe assistance
- Van driver

Learn more at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org.

A special thank you to Community West Foundation, a lead foundation partner at The Hope Center, for all of their support.



TEE UP for Hope

CHARITY GOLF OUTING & BARBECUE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17
8:15AM TEE TIME

STONEWATER GOLF CLUB
ONE CLUB DRIVE, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44143

\$250 per golfer, \$1,000 per foursome

Join us for a day on the links to support the ministries of Building Hope in the City!

Sponsorship opportunities available.
To register or make a sponsorship gift,
visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org or
call 216.281.4673.

Joint Mission Between Refugee and Volunteer Leads to Citizenship

God blesses women with the gift of friendship and so much more!



Kathy Boyd (left) with Racheal (center) and Kathleen Sanow, another friend of Racheal's and volunteer at The Hope Center during her citizenship celebration!



Racheal at the Common Threads Spring Ladies Night and Garden Party in April.

"It's not easy to get citizenship," said Reech, who came here about 10 years ago from the Sudan by way of a refugee camp in Kenya. "But you need to do it to make yourself strong." The wife and mother of four, ages 10 and under, says she tells other refugees that, difficult as it is, becoming a citizen is worth the effort. "It made me so happy. If I can do it, you can do it."

She is right. It was extremely difficult for Reech, who was considered functionally illiterate when BHITC first met her and failed her citizenship test several times. She could not read, write or even recognize her ABCs for a long time. She struggled in citizenship classes, but continued on with her mission to fulfill her dream. That's when she met **Kathy Boyd**, a volunteer at The Center and member of **Bay Presbyterian Church**, whom Reech calls a "gift from God." It quickly became Kathy's personal mission to help Reech achieve her goal of citizenship!

Written by Barb Galbincea, BHITC volunteer

"May God bless them." **Racheal Reech's** words, punctuated by her megawatt smile, reflect her gratitude to the volunteers at BHITC's The Hope Center (The Center) and its staff who helped her become an American citizen earlier this year.

Boyd, a retired accountant with a passion for encouraging literacy in women, was determined to help Reech become an American. The two started working together for almost a year to sharpen her English skills and prepare her for the test. They bonded during Monday and Wednesday classes at The Center and through extra sessions at the Lakewood Public Library or in each other's homes.

Cookie-baking at Boyd's house became a lesson in fractions needed to follow a recipe. Whenever Reech needed a ride, Boyd picked her up and dropped her off.

For her part, Reech never missed a class. "Racheal has been faithful from the beginning," said **Eileen Wilson**, Director of Refugee Ministries. "It has everything to do with how much you want it."

With four young children and a part-time job, Reech continues to make English lessons with Boyd a priority in her busy life. Beginning last August, Boyd added homework to Reech's daily schedule. Every night she wrote 36 English sentences to prepare for the citizenship exam. "She told me she would wake up and her fingers would be writing in the air," Boyd said, laughing.

It was all worth it in December when Boyd waited outside the testing room and saw Reech finally emerge victorious. The following month, she became an American citizen after the formal oath ceremony. Wilson said Boyd's dedication was key for Reech: "She changed her life."

For more information about volunteering at The Hope Center, contact Sharon Schuldt at sharon@buildinghopeinthecity.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATE OUR 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN CONCERT

OCTOBER 5, 2018
7:30PM - 9:00PM



TRINITY OHIO CITY CHURCH
2031 WEST 30TH STREET, CLEVELAND

Welcome, New Staff Members at The Hope Center!

In May, three new staff members joined the team at The Hope Center (The Center), which expands legal and immigration services and fills key roles left open as BHITC said goodbye to **Kamila Burgess** in April, who previously served as a Refugee Program Assistant at The Center.



Doreen Anderson, a licensed social worker, joins BHITC's staff as Operations Assistant for The Center, where she will assume the role of managing class schedules, relationships with the families, coordinating volunteers and overseeing daily operations.

Doreen is a veteran social worker and spent most of her career providing case management for families, children and infants in poverty or challenging situations

through Family and Community Services, Inc. (where she continues to work), Options for Families and Youth and Help Me Grow, most recently.

Doreen served as a refugee mentor with BHITC for years. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from Capital University and is the mother to grown children. She and her husband, Chuck, are members of Grace C&MA Church and live in Brook Park.

"I am very excited to join a staff who have a heart for people of all nations," says Doreen. "I feel very blessed that God has called me to serve those in need at The Hope Center and to also share the love of God with all."



Nick Tribuzzo joins staff as Manager of Legal Services for The Center, expanding what BHITC offers to refugees and immigrants through legal filings and representation. He is a graduate of John Carroll University, where he did his undergraduate work, and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, where he obtained his law degree. Most recently, he worked at Robert Brown LLC and Mansour Gavin, LPA.

Thank You!

This newsletter was produced at a very low cost to BHITC, thanks to the generosity of **RE May**, which donates printing expenses.

The result is a newsletter publication that looks far nicer than BHITC could afford otherwise. To learn more about this organization, go to www.remay.com.

He also began volunteering with BHITC last October. He and his wife are members of Cove City Church (supported by BHITC's Transform 216 ministry) and live on the east side.

"I'm most excited to join Building Hope's staff because it provides me with the chance to help expand legal access to Cleveland's refugee and immigrant community by building genuine, strong relationships with my clients," says Nick. "God is restoring our world without end. I am regularly reminded of the constant restoration He is doing in my heart. He's making all things new, and I'm excited to be used by Him in this restorative work as a legal counselor."

Heather Thacker, who is also a licensed social worker, joins staff as Refugee Mentoring Coordinator, where she will oversee BHITC's refugee mentoring program, working to pair teams of volunteers and families for friendship and support. She is also employed by OhioGuidestone and recently worked for the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants as a case worker.

She began volunteering at The Hope Center in July of 2017, and then began tutoring in the fall of last year. Heather is a



graduate of Cleveland State University, where she obtained her Bachelor's and Masters degrees. Heather is a member at St. Agnes – Our Lady of Fatima in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood and lives in West Park.

"As a Cleveland native and social worker with a passion for refugee and immigrant communities, joining the staff of Building Hope is perfect. I love seeing an organization that, as a whole, is working to create stronger communities in

the town I love," says Heather. "I know God has led us all here to do His work together and I cannot wait to see where He will take Building Hope next!"

Please join us in welcoming them to the BHITC family the next time you see them!

God's Plan (and Footprint!) for Common Threads is Growing

Great people and great grace lead to Common Threads' continued success

A little more than five short years ago, the staff and board of BHITC dreamed of what else God could do through its ministries for the people and the city of Cleveland. In March of 2016, BHITC signed a lease for 22049 Lorain Road in Fairview Park with a dream of supporting the organization through businesses that do good – social enterprises – the first of which would be a thrift store located in this space.

Dreams gave way to dreams of bringing excellence to the thrift marketplace. Dreams that thrift could be better with high quality items, the look and feel of a boutique, but with traditional thrift prices. 100% local. 100% charitable. The very best in customer service. Common Threads Thrift opened on June 24, 2016, and one after another, dreams have turned into realities.

God-sized dreams land Common Threads as Cleveland's 'Best Thrift Store' in back-to-back years!

In God's economy, if we let Him, He will take our dreams so much farther than we could ever ask or imagine, and over and over, this proves true at Common Threads!



Photos taken during the quarterly Ladies' Night event at Common Threads this April.

“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US.” EPHESIANS 3:20

In the store's first year of business, it won 'Best Thrift Store' in town by readers of Cleveland's *Scene Magazine*! As if that weren't enough, in the store's second year of business, once again, Common Threads won this honor! BHITC and Common Threads are so honored and humbled by the faithfulness of those who shop, donate, volunteer and pray for the store.



Overwhelming grace allows Common Threads to expand its footprint!

As if God wasn't already doing enough through Common Threads, this spring, the store acquired an additional 1,625 square feet, assuming ownership of the space directly next door

in the plaza, which was previously Tony G's Pizza. A renovation completion date is not yet known, however, BHITC is excited to see more merchandise on the sales floor and more profits! The store is proud to be the (expanding) anchor store in a shopping plaza along one of the most well-known and well-traveled thoroughfares on the west side of Cleveland, occupying 12,500+ square feet of retail space.

"The expansion of Common Threads is yet another powerful grace of God in the story of our store! On the heels of being named 'Best in Cleveland' two years in a row, this additional 1,625 square feet will allow us to better fulfill our mission as we better serve our growing customer base," says **Jeff Stredney**, BHITC's Director of Social Enterprise. "Shoppers can look forward to an expanded furniture and home goods section, flex space for community craft and upcycle events (featuring store items), and space for amazing overstock sales that will change frequently."



Follow Common Threads on Facebook and Instagram!

Learn more at www.commonthreadsthift.com or www.buildinghopeinthecity.org/cleveland/common-threads/.

– SAVE THE DATE! –

RESTORING THE CITY

Gala

NOVEMBER 11, 2018
4:00 PM

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
9801 CARNEGIE AVENUE, CLEVELAND



God's Promises Fulfilled in Abundance During Five-Year Campaign



Harvesting God's Promise! (HGP) launched publicly in 2014 as a five-year ministry expansion effort. It marked BHITC's first major fundraising campaign outside of annual appeals. Thanks to God's grace and the generosity of many partners, HGP exceeded its \$1 million goal in 2017! To date, more than **\$1.14 million** has

been raised and the campaign has accomplished much more than its steering committee and BHITC's staff ever envisioned!!

"Over the past five years, I've witnessed God's tremendous hand of favor over Building Hope in the City and this campaign," says **Court Durkalski**, campaign steering committee chair and CEO, **Truline Industries, Inc.** "It's truly been a privilege to watch God bless these efforts and bring amazing people together to love and serve the city of Cleveland."

Read on to see all that's been accomplished through the HGP campaign!



Original campaign goal:

The launch of at least four new congregations by 2019 that reach 300-500 new people. Learn more about planting efforts that HGP is already supporting:

- Crossroads Lutheran Church
- MetroAlliance Church – Clark/Fulton Satellite Plant

Provide formalized, local mentoring for emerging pastors and ministry catalysts in urban and cross-cultural ministry.

What's been achieved?

Through BHITC's **Transform216** effort, as well as financial support, the following congregations have been launched, impacting the lives of more than 600 local residents:

- Crossroads Lutheran Church (Brook Park)
- MetroChurch (Clark Fulton)
- City Church (Ohio City)
- Renew Church Cleveland (West Park)
- Table Gatherings (Rocky River and Lakewood)
- 4 Doors Church (Highland Heights)
- Cove City Church (University Circle)

NOURISH

Original campaign goal:

- 700+ additional urban residents served through expanded tutoring, job readiness, refugee resettlement, financial literacy and recovery programs – a 40% increase in impact.
- 250+ new volunteers serving at and through area churches.
- Staffing increases at BHITC to manage increased demand for support of new missions.

What's been achieved?

- The launch of **The Hope Center for Refugees and Immigrants** in 2015. Since its opening, The Hope Center has seen a 650% increase in daily visits by refugees seeking resettlement services and relationships with local residents.
- The introduction of **Open Table** to Northeast Ohio by BHITC as a faith-based poverty alleviation model. Since 2014, more than a dozen Tables have been launched, blessing families with support to achieve stabilized housing, employment, transportation and more.
- BHITC's volunteer army now totals 800+ annually.
- New staff positions and members including: **Kamila Burgess, Bethany Bell** and **Josh Gailer** at The Hope Center as Refugee Program Assistants; **Dana Carlisle** as Communications Manager and **Joyce Ng** as Development Manager.

GROW

Original campaign goal:

Launch HopeWorks, an LLC within BHITC that starts new businesses that provide pathways to employment for people BHITC and its partners serve; yield net profits that expand BHITC's overall mission. Business models considered:

- **Suburban thrift / vintage store** – employing 15-20 people and generating 30-40% annual net profits over time.
- **Temporary staffing agency** – creating a pathway to employment and self-sufficiency for 800+ people by marrying Christian mentoring processes with employment opportunities.

What's been achieved?

- Hiring of **Jeff Stredney** as Director of Social Enterprise.
- Launch of **HopeWorks**, an LLC within BHITC to pilot marketplace ministry and businesses that provide pathways to employment for people BHITC and its partners serve.
- Launch of **Common Threads**, which has employed 30+ people since its opening in June of 2016, and was named "Best Thrift Store in Cleveland" by Scene Magazine in 2017 and 2018.

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- Launch of **Nehemiah Collaborative**, a housing initiative that will create a workforce development arm in construction skills for unemployed individuals, as well as property management business. The ministry's goal is to renovate 50-60 homes on the near west side by 2028 as a means of business creation that provides affordable housing and spurs Christian community development.
- The complete renovation and repurposing of **two foreclosed residential properties** by Nehemiah Collaborative by February 2018, with a third home now under construction and due to be completed in late Fall 2018.



Original campaign goal:

Repurpose a 5,000-square-foot, two-story former school building on the campus of Trinity Lutheran Church to serve as a dynamic, 7-day-a-week home base for BHITC that includes:

- Church planting center – facility space for group planning, coaching and learning for future pastors and faith leaders.
- Urban mission training center – training for volunteers and local urban churches.
- Immigrant/refugee help desk – welcoming and assisting future new Americans.

What's been achieved?

- **BHITC relocated staffing and operations** to Trinity's school building in the summer of 2016. Minimal repairs and renovations completed.
- **February 2018 purchase of the 15,000-square-foot building** that The Hope Center had been renting from a former church, which will allow refugee programs to expand significantly, as well as create a facility for future church plants and ministries.

Meet Josh Miller, Church Planter

Bringing people from all walks of life into a family, a home and a church

Q: Tell us about you. Were you born and raised in Northeast Ohio? If not, where?

A: I was born and raised in Northeast Ohio. Shortly after our marriage, my wife and I moved to North Carolina. While we lived there, God began to place in our heart a desire to move back to Northeast Ohio to plant a church.



Q: Describe the type of congregation you hope to have. What do you hope it will be known for in the community?

A: Our vision is to create a church that's a place to come home and people to call family. Because of Jesus, we believe church should be a family of all races, tribes, and socioeconomic backgrounds. No matter where you come from and what you did, you matter to Jesus and we want to simply live that out. Fifty years from now, we want people to remember what Jesus did at Cove City, and how He not only broke down barriers in lives and communities that would otherwise not intersect, but He brought us together to make us family.

Q: What does your process of engaging with the community look like? If others wanted to join your team, how could they get connected?

A: We're really excited about dinner parties that we recently launched. A dinner party is one way we can engage with our community and create a space where we can begin to build bridges and have meaningful conversation grounded in faith. Jesus' most meaningful conversations happened around food and a dinner table. We believe the same can still happen today in our communities. We love connecting people to each other and want to make an easy on ramp for anyone interested in being a part of Cove City.

Q: What value has participating in T216 added to your ministry and sense of call to plant a new congregation in Cleveland?

A: Being a part of T216 has been super encouraging and beneficial. It's allowed me to ask questions, be challenged and be a part of a group of people that want to see Jesus become personal in people's lives here in Cleveland. Most importantly, I'm grateful that I'm not alone in church planting.



Q: What about planting a new church excites you? Why do you think new churches are needed in the city?

A: On Easter Sunday, we celebrated our one-year anniversary since launch. We're grateful for what Jesus has already done with three people accepting Jesus and six people publicly proclaiming Jesus as their Savior. It's not us, but always Jesus, and we believe we're just getting started.

Follow Cove City Church on Facebook and Instagram and learn more at www.covecitychurch.org.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

*Make a date with urban ministry!***July 12****Prayer & Worship Night**

Join BHITC for a night of gathering together to pray for our city and its leaders while also spending time in worship and praising God for all He's already doing in urban ministry!

7:00 pm, The Hope Center, 15135 Triskett Road, Cleveland

July 17**Building Hope 101**

The first step to volunteering with Building Hope in the City is to take 'Building Hope 101,' a 60-minute introduction to the organization.

5:30 pm, The Hope Center

Refugee 101

Learn more about the refugee situation in Cleveland, and discover how to mentor a newly arriving family

6:30 – 8:30 pm, The Hope Center

July 24**Not for Profit Tuesday at Platform Beer Co.**

From 3:00 – 7:00 pm, Platform Beer Co., located at 4125 Lorain Ave. in Cleveland, will donate \$1 for every house beer poured throughout the day to BHITC. Invite your friends to join!

July 26, 31 & Aug. 2**Bringing Hope by the Scoop**

Help fill the bookshelves for BHITC's tutoring program by donating NEW children's books during one of three events at Mitchell's and receive a free scoop of ice cream!

Thursday, July 26 – SOLON

Tuesday, July 31 – OHIO CITY with local children's book author, Julie Goulis

Thursday, August 2 – ROCKY RIVER with local children's book author, Julie Goulis

All events take place from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Aug. 11**Understanding Poverty Seminar**

This training session provides insight and will deepen your understanding of people living in poverty and how to assist low-income people.

BHITC's Offices (2nd Floor)

2038 West 29th Street, Cleveland

9:00 am – 2:30 pm (Check in 8:30 am)

Advanced registration is required \$15

Registration fee, includes lunch

Aug. 17**Tee Up for Hope**

Join us for a day on the links to support the ministries of Building Hope in the City! Stonewater Golf Club, One Club Drive, Highland Heights

\$250 per golfer, \$1,000 per foursome

8:15 am tee time

Register at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org

Aug. 18**Building Hope 101**

8:00 am, BHITC's offices, 2038 West 29th Street, Cleveland

Refugee 101

9:00 am – 11:00 am, BHITC's offices, 2038 West 29th Street, Cleveland

Aug. 25**New Tutor Orientation**

Come learn more about tutoring urban and refugee students.

10:00 am, The Hope Center

Sept. 20**Building Hope 101**

5:30 pm, The Hope Center

Refugee 101

6:30 – 8:30 pm, The Hope Center

Oct. 5**15-Year Anniversary Concert**

7:30pm – 9:00pm, Trinity Ohio City Church, 2031 West 30th Street, Cleveland

Nov. 11**Restoring the City Gala**

4:00 pm, InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland