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

SEE YOU IN FAIRVIEW PARK!
Common Threads Grand Opening Coming Soon

Lease signed for 10,000 square foot space in Fairview Park,
Store opening in May

This February marked a major milestone for Building Hope in the City (BHITC) — one nearly three years in the making! The organization signed a lease for the future home of its first-ever thrift store – Common Threads – officially opening in May! While the store’s exact address will remain confidential a bit longer, BHITC is ready to share with its donors, partners, volunteers and fellow shoppers that it will be located in Fairview Park, very near the intersection of West 220th Street and Lorain Avenue.

The store is part of BHITC’s ongoing Harvesting God’s Promise (HGP) campaign for ministry expansion and increased sustainability. For a full update on HGP, see pages 6-7 of this newsletter.

Why this location?
“We are excited to be bringing a great resale shopping experience to this stretch of Fairview Park,” says Jeff Stredney, Director of HopeWorks, LLC, BHITC’s new social enterprise arm. “The store’s location will complement our neighboring businesses and make it easy for donors, shoppers and employees to get to us. This space provided the best combination of location, size, accessibility, street visibility and price out of more than 40 properties we viewed throughout Cleveland and surrounding neighborhoods. The great windows don’t hurt either! We are grateful to God for it and thank everyone who joined us in praying for this location!”
The 10,000 square foot space, first spotted by a BHITC friend, donor and volunteer, is along one of the most well-known and well-traveled thoroughfares on the west side of Cleveland, amidst many shopping plazas, restaurants and businesses. “We so appreciate the extra mile our volunteers are willing to go,” says Stredney. “It sure paid off!”

What’s behind the name Common Threads?

**Clothing:** Which will be a large percentage of the merchandise sold in the store. BHITC seeks donations of clothing with a lot of life left to sell in the store and believes quality clothing is a key element to bringing a better overall experience to the thrift marketplace.

**People:** The heart of the store. From those who work at the store (both paid and volunteers) to those who donate, to those who shop, all are people deeply loved by God.

**Faith:** BHITC’s combined business and ministry approach to the store will offer new opportunities to tangibly demonstrate faith in action – both directly through the store and also through the organization’s core ministry areas, all of which will benefit from the sustainability the store offers.

**Donations, donations, donations**

Did you know Common Threads will need to receive an average of approximately **160 items per hour** during a 60-hour operating week to meet the organization’s sustainability goals? BHITC needs the help of its partners to fill racks for the May grand opening, but also to keep them filled!

BHITC seeks the following high-quality items to support the launch of the store: clothing and shoes (men’s, women’s and children’s), housewares, home décor, collectibles, bedding, linens, towels, small appliances, kitchen items, small furniture, purses, jewelry, toys, books, videos, DVDs, blue ray, vinyl and more. BHITC cannot accept electronics, computers or large furniture.

Drop off donations to BHITC’s offices at 2031 West 30th Street, or its satellite office at The Hope Center (at Gateway West Church), located at 15135 Triskett Road. Please call 216.281.4673 to coordinate with a staff member.

**Volunteers needed!**

There are several immediate volunteer opportunities to help BHITC prepare for the grand opening of Common Threads. Visit www.buildinghopeintheocity.org for more information. All new BHITC volunteers will need to first attend a Building Hope 101 session. Be sure to check BHITC’s website often for updates on Common Threads!

Congregations and businesses willing to collect donations for Common Threads would be a great blessing! Contact BHITC for more information. A pick up for this type of donation can be arranged.
Brand New BHITC Tutors Making Immediate Impact

Michelle Leahy and Kaleena Clark jump right into to volunteering, tutoring and new relationships

A leap of faith can take you places you never dreamed you’d go, lead you to meet people you never thought you’d meet and bring joy you never imagined possible.

**Michelle Leahy and Kaleena Clark** took leaps of faith six months ago when they began tutoring with BHITC, when both were not only new to tutoring, but also brand new to BHITC!

Leahy, who lives in Brecksville, found BHITC online while looking into places she could give back through volunteering. A short time later, she found herself in tutor orientation this past September, where she says, “What really prompted me to get involved was hearing about the newest tutoring location – The Hope Center for Immigrants and Refugees. I thought it would be very interesting to work with Nepali children and help them learn what many children in this country already know.”

Similarly, Clark, who lives all the way in Warren, also found BHITC online and says the organization “appealed to me right away because of the community services offered to immigrants and refugees.” She began volunteering as part of a university project, but knew her volunteer experience at BHITC would extend beyond the assignment, and it certainly has. She attended tutoring orientation and quickly began tutoring at St. John Lutheran Church in South Euclid on Tuesday nights.
But neither of them stopped there! When BHITC decided to begin offering a new evening program for students at The Hope Center on Monday nights, called Education Avenue — a fun, interactive education-focused time for kids of all ages — both tutors wanted to do more. “Because many of the [Education Avenue] students are the same students I tutor on Wednesday nights, I knew this would give me the opportunity to get to know them better as well as meet new students,” says Leahy.

Clark, who spent a few years overseas, couldn’t agree more. She says, “becoming familiar with the struggles of relocating to a new country led me to want to help others during their adjustment.” This led her to also begin tutoring at The Hope Center on Wednesday nights and now also another night for Education Avenue, which she says has made her experience with tutoring even that much more enjoyable. “I have a chance to work with the same students a second day a week and build deeper relationships with them.”

God can do a lot in six short months! When asked what she’d tell others considering volunteering with BHITC, Clark says, “Don’t wait! If you do, you’ll be missing out on a great group of people and experiences.” Leahy shares the same thoughts and says, “Tutoring has become something I truly look forward to every week. The smiles on the children’s faces will be forever in my heart. People will wish they had gotten involved sooner.”

Both ladies have also been encouraged in their relationships with God through their volunteer experiences. Clark says, “I didn’t have much experience tutoring, and I brought plenty of weaknesses with me. I have learned if God is calling you to it, He will equip you for it.” For Leahy, it reminds her of a greater purpose for life. She says, “My experience with tutoring has reminded me that God never walks away from us. We are made to love and serve, be kind and generous and be a blessing to others!”

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with BHITC, visit www.buildinghopeintheocity.org. You never know where one leap of faith will lead you!
BHITC raises its goal for mission expansion!

As of December 31, 2015, Harvesting God’s Promise (HGP), BHITC’s five-year plan to expand ministry, has secured more than $1,020,000 in gifts and pledges – including an unexpected and generous $59,000 bequest gift for endowment. These efforts will transform BHITC, making it an even more dynamic and sustainable ministry.

BHITC’s Brian Upton believes this success means God is asking the organization and its leaders to dream bigger than they had first imagined. “We launched HGP with an initial $1 million goal,” he says. “The Lord has matched those prayers with an outpouring of generosity – inspiring many people and organizations to give to HGP – and with opportunities to expand ministry in still new ways!”

As a result, HGP’s funding goal has been raised to $1.25 million by 2019. Here are significant updates on each of the four efforts within the HGP campaign:

PLANT – establish new leaders and churches in the city
Thanks to HGP funding, BHITC has started its third year of Transform216 (T216), its coaching and mentoring process for urban missionaries and church planting pastors. Nine men were enrolled in T216 this year, three of whom are actively leading new ministries.

Through these ministries, the Lord is reaching hundreds of new people in our city! One of this year’s participants summed up his experience this way, “T216 has shown me how important faith and trust is in our Christian walk. We are to put our faith and trust in Jesus. I have heard both the rewards and some of the pitfalls in pastoring. I have learned from brothers who have reaped some of these rewards and experienced some of the downfalls of leadership. T216 has helped to make me a more self-assured leader.”

NOURISH – provide urban churches with tools to reach their community
BHITC believes in urban churches! This year, HGP nourished local ministry efforts in several ways:

• New children’s tutoring efforts – BHITC expanded its literacy ministries through the leadership of Laurie Kubiak, who joined its staff in June. New sites in West Park and Lakewood are now reaching even more children and families!
The Hope Center for Refugee and Immigrants – Opened early this year at Gateway West Church in West Park, this ministry through the leadership of BHITC’s Eileen Wilson is growing faster than anyone imagined! The Center now serves 80-100 refugees weekly, demonstrating that God’s people are leaders when it comes to welcoming the stranger.

GROW – expand BHITC’s impact to include job creation for those it serves
Last year, BHITC’s ministry footprint expanded through the creation of HopeWorks, its new social enterprise arm – business ventures that bring together ministry goals and market opportunities so that more people grow toward their fullest potential.

“HopeWorks will tangibly demonstrate that Jesus and His people offer solutions that touch every aspect of a person’s life – spiritual, relational, educational and economic -- creating true citywide transformation,” says BHITC’s Brian Upton.

GATHER – provide a hub for citywide ministry leadership
The final component of HGP remains a future goal for the campaign: to create a leadership center for urban ministry in Cleveland, which BHITC plants to begin construction of in 2017. These efforts will repurpose a 5,000-square-foot, two-story building on the campus of Trinity Lutheran Church to serve as a home base for BHITC that includes:

- The Senney Family Welcome Center – facility space for expanded BHITC operations, including a welcome desk for immigrants and refugees.

- Mission Incubator – designated work area for church planters and missionaries.

- Ministry Training Lab – training room for equipping volunteers and churches.

How can you get involved in HGP?
Watch the HGP video online at our website: www.buildinghopeinthecity.org

Volunteer with BHITC in the new year! These new ministries aren’t going to happen by themselves! We need all hands on deck for mission in 2016. Opportunities abound for individuals, families and groups! Learn more by attending one of our one-hour information sessions (our “101” class) for volunteers.

Give as the Lord leads you to these efforts! Donations to HGP can be made over the phone by calling 216.281.4673 or online at BHITC’s website.
Christmas Dreams Come True for Urban Families

Families shop till they drop at third annual Christmas Store of Hope

The new toy on a list for Santa. Gazing at Christmas lights strung throughout the neighborhood. Houses filled with loved ones sharing a meal and remembering the birth of Jesus. These are what Christmas dreams are made of, but the Christmas season can also be a time of unmet expectations or disappointment.

For the 60+ students and 75+ family members shopping at the third annual Christmas Store of Hope on December 5, BHITC’s goal – and that of its donors, partners and volunteers! – was to surpass expectations with a fun day full of shopping, Christmas cheer, cookies, Santa, and, of course, plenty of hope!

“This year was the best Christmas Store we’ve held so far,” says Amy Mitchell, BHITC’s Director of Ministry Engagement. “We had many churches organizing toy and donation drives, businesses pitching in and dozens of donors who gave through

Christmas Store Photo Gallery
our Amazon Wish List or shopped on their own. The response was incredible, as were the volunteers who helped, beginning all the way back in June!"

The Christmas Store, for families in BHITC’s tutoring programs, offers parents the opportunity to purchase brand new items at a fraction of retail cost while children use credits earned through tutoring to shop for their family members. "Because I am a weekly tutor and I volunteered at the Christmas Store, I got to see it all come together for the kids," says Ed Juris, BHITC volunteer. "To see them week after week putting in the extra effort to come to tutoring and do their homework to earn credits, then being able to shop with the credits they earned was fantastic."

With the help of volunteers, BHITC’s offices were transformed in a matter of weeks into a store where the families could shop. "After months of planning and weeks of setting up, the day of the Christmas Store arrives and I am always in awe of how the Christmas Spirit takes over," says Karen Krauss, BHITC volunteer. "I especially enjoy helping provide delicious cookies and refreshments for all to enjoy. At the 2015 Christmas Store, about 500 cookies were devoured in a matter of four hours!"

The students and family members experienced not only a store full of brand-new items priced at a fraction of retail, but also the generosity of strangers, the love of 75+ volunteers and a day devoted to bringing them joy and hope during such a special time of year. It’s safe to say BHITC’s staff, volunteers and donors loved giving these families a day greater than they expected!
Dozens Catching a Ride in BHITC’s New Ride

New ministry van offers transportation for urban and refugees

Transportation is of great necessity in urban and cross-cultural ministry, so when BHITC’s previous van was beyond repair (and had exhausted the auto mechanic!), it was finally time to purchase a “new to us” ministry van!

The ministry van is used as often as several times a day to transport refugees to BHITC’s satellite location – The Hope Center – where refugees and immigrants not only have a place to belong, they also take part in English classes, adult education, citizenship preparation and receive counsel on small business ventures and start-up loans. The van also transports urban and refugee youth to various outreach events, weekly tutoring and more. For those who lack transportation, this van is a true blessing and offers great opportunity to experience the Gospel in their lives!

Thank you to all who have given to BHITC’s van ministry, which made the purchase possible. Gifts to the van ministry are always needed and appreciated. When you give to this need, you are not only covering some of the one-time costs associated with purchasing the van, but also ongoing expenses such as gas, maintenance and insurance.

Visit our website at http://buildinghopeinthecity.org/cleveland/support/ to give to the van ministry.
Mission Collision
The Merging of Vocation, Ministry and Your Everyday Life

The Church in the West is under incredible change. Every denomination is in decline and church attendance continues to struggle. In line, everything that hangs on the present consumer-driven approach to Christendom will and must morph.

Author and church planter Hugh Halter returns to Cleveland in April to remind us that the Gospel came to us through fully paid, barely paid, and mostly non-paid saints. The future of vibrant ministry depends on God’s people finding creative pathways for leveraging all of life into one calling.

This speaker is part of a new series – called MissionSmith – of free, half-day gatherings designed to forge the thinking and practice of metropolitan church and ministry leaders for greater effectiveness and innovation in mission, church planting and Kingdom advancement. All events are free; RSVP required.

Register online at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org or call 216.281.4673.

Building Hope in the City
2031 West 30th Street, Cleveland
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

For a list of MissionSmith speakers and topics, visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org. Learn more about urban church planting with BHITC and its partners at www.transform216.com.
SAVE THE DATE

TEEP UP FOR HOPE

Ryder Cup Golf Outing & Steak Roast

Friday, August 19, 2016

10:00 am | Sweetbriar Golf Club
Legacy Course
750 Jaycox Rd, Avon Lake

Proceeds benefit HopeWorks, LLC and Common Threads

Join us for a day on the links and support these ministries of Building Hope in the City! Sponsorship opportunities available.

Visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org for registration details
BHITC Partners with Thrivent Members to Bless the City

All Thrivent members invited to partner with BHITC in 2016 and beyond

Since its beginning, **Thrivent Financial** has been a huge partner and supporter of BHITC. Now, Thrivent offers a unique program for its members to engage with organizations and causes they are passionate about through **Thrivent Action Teams**.

**What are Action Teams?**
As part of the program, Thrivent members can apply to lead a team of volunteers to conduct a service project, educational event or one-time fundraiser. Once a project is approved, the member receives a kit, which includes promotional materials, t-shirts, a $250 gift card for the project and more.

**How can you help?**
BHITC invites Thrivent members to partner with the organization to expand ministry efforts in the city through the use of the Action Team program. Upcoming events and ongoing programs within BHITC, such as tutoring, programs for refugees, CitySERVE and MissionSmith sessions are great examples of how to utilize the Action Teams’ program.

One Thrivent members tells us of why she applied for an Action Team to support one of BHITC’s tutoring sites. “The kids are so energetic and happy to be there. I have never seen an unhappy face among any of these children! I loved being able to provide healthy snacks and other needs for the students and this program,” says **Susan Zubin**, BHITC volunteer and Thrivent Member.

For more information about how you can partner with BHITC as a Thrivent member, contact **Sharon Schuld**, BHITC’s Team and Resources Coordinator at 216.281.4673 or sharon@buildinghopeinthe_city.org.
Crossroads Comes Home!

Church plant moves into their new facility with plans for greater community impact as a result.

The ‘before’ pictures. Volunteer crews worked hard for two years renovating the former restaurant space into a church home for Crossroads.

The ‘after’ pictures. Members of Crossroads use their new church home to build relationships with those in the neighborhood.

In December, Crossroads Lutheran Church, which BHITC supports financially and through its Transform216 initiative, moved into its new facility on Brookpark Road. This blessing from God is already yielding fruit for Crossroads. Church planter, Dave Walters, who is also a skilled general contractor, says the move followed nearly two years of renovations to what was previously a series of restaurants. He and a group of committed volunteers led nearly all of the construction efforts, all while launching Crossroads as a church.

Here are Dave’s insights on the process God has led him and Crossroads through to this point.
BHITC:  When was your first Sunday worship in the building? Describe the experience.

Walters: The first Sunday celebration in the new building was held on December 6, 2015. It was amazing! Since the building was still a little rough around the edges, we were a little concerned that it would be a turn off for people. However, we discovered it helped new people feel a little more comfortable. I spoke of how the building was a “work in progress” – still a little rough around the edges – and related it to our lives. We focused on God as the master architect of our life. No one seemed to really care about the dings and dents of the building. We were all just grateful for what God provided.

BHITC: What has it been like for the community at Crossroads to be in the new space? How has it impacted worship? Outreach?

Walters: The last two months in the building have allowed the ministry of Crossroads to grow. Even though worshipping in the hotel next door to our building allowed us to make connections with hurting people, the space we worshiped wasn’t ideal. Many of the people we met associated the hotel with pain and hurt and worldly suffering, as it is a known center for drug usage and prostitution. Since we have been in our building, people who are leery of coming into the hotel space have come to church. Over the last couple weeks, a manager of one of the nearby adult entertainment clubs has been attending on Sundays, too! We are also working with ten adults and children toward a Baptism weekend this spring.

BHITC: How do you hope the facility will be used in mission in 2016 and beyond? Other than worship, what are your plans for it?

Walters: Our purpose for having a building has been to be a beacon of light in a dark community. For Crossroads, Sunday worship is only a small part of that mission. The building has already been used for a sexual abstinence workshop for teens, community gatherings and partnerships with Cleveland Pregnancy Center and Operation Christmas Child. And, our Sózó ministry to women in the adult entertainment industry, organized a paint party and spa day event.

BHITC: What are some facility needs still on your “wish list” that would help Crossroads in its mission?

Walters: Our most urgent facility need is a nursery. Time and time again, we have seen the need to provide a safe, enclosed space to care for small children. We have some unfinished space committed for that use and are currently raising $4,000 in donations to build it. The building’s roof is also going to need some attention in the future. Through BHITC’s CitySERVE event, we hope to accomplish such a large project through the help of many volunteers.
BHITC Helps New Refugee-Owned Business Get Started

Partner offers valuable connections for refugee community

When God connects people, he always has a purpose; when God blesses, he always does more than we can ask or imagine. Within BHITC, God is doing exactly that at The Hope Center – its satellite office for refugees and immigrants in West Park – which opened in February of 2015.

At The Hope Center, which sees nearly 100 refugees in just two days of operations per week, valuable connections happen for the people BHITC serves every day. For Sylvester Mugongo, a refugee from the DR Congo who arrived in the United States five years ago, The Hope Center provided the connections he needed to bring his dream of owning a business to reality!

Mugongo, with experience as a professional driver, knew he wanted to start a business and build something for himself and his family, but he needed a few valuable connections to make it happen. BHITC’s Eileen Wilson, Director of Refugee Resettlement Ministries, who leads a team of staff at The Hope Center, and Rebecca Mayhew from Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI) Cleveland, were just the connections he needed.

Two are Better than One: BHITC and ECDI

Already partners for the refugee community, BHITC and ECDI have worked together many times in the past to help refugees start businesses and take steps forward in life. “ECDI – which provides business development, training and small start-up loans – has become an ideal partner in so many respects,” says Wilson. “Knowing ECDI understands the needs of refugees, gives them the appropriate attention they need and will lead them along step by step, is invaluable to me.”

Mugongo is the perfect example of how the partnership benefits the entire refugee community. “Eileen is always telling me transportation is a huge need in the refugee
community. Both she and I already knew Sylvester, so when he came to ECDI with the idea of starting a small business, she and I discussed his people skills and customer service mindset, and knew he’d be great for a transportation business – especially considering his professional driving experience. He liked the idea right away,” says Mayhew.

**Refugee Entrepreneur: New Business Meets Need and Demand**

Mugongo spent a year planning his new business, Penzi Transportation, which launched in the fall of 2015 and now serves the Greater Cleveland area. He specializes in taking refugees to and from resettlement agencies, health clinics, The Hope Center, shopping establishments, their places of employment and to other locations upon request, such as a recent BHITC “field trip!”

“In the past, refugee resettlement agencies would hesitate to place refugees in first shift factory positions, solely because transportation is such an issue for them. He [Mugongo] is doing a lot of shuttling refugees to and from first shift jobs, making these factories now viable places of employment for local refugees, which is a huge benefit to them and the local economy” says Wilson. “He is also doing a lot of weddings and private parties, too.”

“I saw a huge need for a transportation service to help the many people who can’t drive due to illness, disability, age, language, lack of driver’s license or vehicle and otherwise,” says Mugongo. “My business has been a lot of work, but I am very proud of it and now I’m very hopeful for the future of myself and my family in America.”

**The Hope Center: A Community and Resource Center**

When BHITC opened The Hope Center just over a year ago, the staff and partners knew it would open countless opportunities for refugees, but they didn’t know just how many people it would draw! “The Hope Center has turned into not only a community center, but a real resource center for refugees,” says Mayhew. “It has become the place refugees from all over the city, regardless of who resettled them, come for any problem. Eileen and her team can connect all the people who need to be connected in a way nothing else can do for refugees, all through The Hope Center.”

Stories like that of Mugungo are true for refugees walking in the doors of The Hope Center every day. The right information and a few people to point them in the right direction can really open doors for a refugee to have a much better life.

The Hope Center is located at 15135 Triskett Road in Cleveland. For more information about The Hope Center and volunteering at The Hope Center, visit http://buildinghopeinthecity.org/cleveland/the-hope-center/.
Stephen Piscura and His Family Practice Simple Faithfulness

How a new kind of spiritual community is bringing beauty from brokenness in one Cleveland neighborhood.

Inspired by the simplicity, prayerfulness and devotion of the Celtic monastic lifestyle, Stephen Piscura and his family seek to impact Cleveland’s Clark-Fulton neighborhood with great intentionality. He first became connected to BHITC through the Family Ministry Center (FMC), an urban ministry partner, and is currently enrolled in Transform216 (T216), a partnership between BHITC and other urban pastors and ministry leaders to mentor and coach future faith leaders. Piscura shares how God is using his family in unique ways to invest in his neighborhood.

BHITC: What does living a monastic life look like in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood?

Piscura: Ancient saints, such as Saint Patrick, inspired my family and I to live lives of deep prayer, simplicity, hospitality and devotion. We believe God placed the desire in our hearts to live like missionaries right here in the city of Cleveland in order that He may be known in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood.

Over the past four years, my family – my wife and I, and our two young boys and our baby daughter – built a “spiritual family” of like-minded believers, and we now live under one roof at FMC called the Ephraim House. Through this type of intentional living, our desire is to partner, pray, labor and invest together into the lives of our neighbors in the Clark-Fulton community, one simple and practical outreach opportunity at a time.

BHITC: How have you seen the Ephraim House impact the community so far?

Piscura: For many in Clark-Fulton, crime, despair, food insecurities and educational struggles undermine their lives and wellbeing. Where we’ve been privileged
to enter into the lives and circumstances of our neighbors, we’ve had the opportunity to see such need in real time. In response, members of our home engage in a variety of activities, such as cultivating a community garden, engaging in Bible studies and recovery programs, securing grant-funding to create additional, safe green space in the neighborhood, practicing hospitality by hosting others for regular meals, welcoming short-term mission teams into our home for spiritual retreat and neighborhood service projects of various kinds, and even renovating a house directly across the street from the FMC!

One of our housemates faithfully discipless a young girl from the neighborhood who has an unstable home life. She regularly joins us for dinner and is then engaged in a curriculum for spiritual formation. We are so grateful for the opportunity to play a small role in God’s work in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood.

BHITC: How has the Ephraim House developed over the last few years?

Piscusa: Since we began living as a community at FMC in 2012, we’ve enjoyed the richness of shared life with many housemates. At times, the house was packed to the brim, although more recently, space has become available for additional residents, should God bring them to the home.

We love telling the story of Marsha and Brian, two residents who moved in as complete strangers, fell in love, and were married in July 2015! Over time, our residents have faithfully upheld daily prayer watches in the Prayer Room at FMC, and it is our aim to only deepen the amount of onsite prayer. Moreover, we’ve identified the practice of hospitality as a gift at which our home excels, and one which affords us the opportunity to build gospel-inroads into others’ lives.

BHITC: How has your relationship with BHITC impacted the Ephraim House?

Piscusa: BHITC is our financial fiscal sponsor, which means people can give a tax-exempt gift to our family in support of life and work in Ephraim House. We are deeply grateful for this relationship. I am also privileged and thankful for the leadership of T216 – men I trust as Christian leaders who speak to the needs of the urban context. I appreciate being with a group of guys burdened with hearts for the city.

Piscusa is an example of the leaders BHITC’s donors and partners are supporting through the T216 initiative. Want to learn more about T216? Visit www.transform216.com for more information.

To learn more about Ephraim House, contact Stephen Piscusa at 216.307.7560 or contact@thepiscurafamily.org. You can also visit their website at http://thepiscurafamily.org/
FOR YOUR CALENDAR
Make a date with urban ministry!

Apr 2
MissionSmith Session 3
Mission Collision – The Merging of Vocation, Ministry and Your Everyday Life with Hugh Halter
Building Hope in the City
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Apr 12
Building Hope 101 Class
Building Hope in the City
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Apr 19
Refugee Mentor Training
The Hope Center (Gateway West Church)
15135 Triskett Road, Cleveland
Learn how you can welcome a newly arriving refugee family!
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Open Table Informational Meeting
Come learn more about this highly relational ministry, which urban and refugee tables launching under BHITC in 2016!
Building Hope in the City
7:00 - 8:00 pm

May 7
CitySERVE

May 14
MissionSmith Session 4
Establishing rhythms in ministry that protect you, your family and those you serve (Rev. Dean Van Farowe)
Rethinking leadership structure/roles for mission (Author Tony Webb)
Building Hope in the City
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Understanding Poverty Seminar
Building Hope in the City
9:00 am – 2:30 pm (Registration 8:30 am)
$10 Registration Fee
(Lunch provided for a suggested freewill offering of $5)
RSVPs Required

May 21
Refugee Mentor Training
Building Hope in the City
Learn how you can welcome a newly arriving refugee family!
8:30 am – 11:30 am

June 4
The spiritual discipline of solitude (Rev. Dave Ambrose, Heartland Community Church)
Rethinking leadership structure/roles for mission (Author Tony Webb)
Building Hope in the City
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

For more information or to register for any of the above, contact Lesa Hess at 216.281.4673 or lesa@buildinghopeinthecity.org or visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org.