What's Inside...

Hope Weaved Throughout
Seven-Year Education Journey

Relocation Leads to Planting Renew
Church Cleveland

One Year to the No. 1 Spot in Town

Welcome to the BHITC Family,
New Staffers!

Generous Donors Leave
Legacies for Hope
God has an amazing way of weaving people’s stories together, doesn’t He?! Take the stories of Ran Maya Basnet and Stephanie Labovitz. The two originally met in 2010 when Labovitz was a brand-new volunteer tutor with Building Hope in the City (BHITC) and Basnet’s family was newly resettled to Cleveland from Nepal. At that time, BHITC ran a tutoring program at St. Colman Catholic Church on W. 65th St., where week after week, the two began getting to know each other.

A year later, Labovitz joined BHITC’s staff as an AmeriCorps member, leading its Urban Family Learning Centers (UFLC) and tutoring for two full years where she continued working with Basnet. When that opportunity ended, she began tutoring with BHITC as a volunteer again, only this time at The Hope Center for Immigrants and Refugees, where she has tutored for the last two years. Again, she found herself working with refugee students including Basnet, totaling a seven-year friendship between the two.

Basnet has come a long way since her early days of tutoring with Labovitz, working hard year after year. Her hard work paid off when she graduated this spring in the top eight people in her class at Lincoln West High School. “I didn’t know anything when I first started coming to tutoring,” says Basnet. “Pronouncing words that sounded similar was the hardest thing for me. Stephanie helped me so much with my English and with school. She and the other St. Colman tutors even met us after school and walked us to tutoring each week. We became very close. She really cared, and that has made a big difference for me.”
Education is, of course, a critical part of a person’s long-term success, but it is especially important for refugee families and their stability in the United States. “Education is so important to give refugee students hope for their future. BHITC really supports students through their education and teaching them that they have a role to play in their futures,” says Labovitz.

Time after time, BHITC sees refugees of all ages display tremendous perseverance, despite living through the hardest of circumstances, and Basnet embodies exactly that. “To be a young lady who excelled so much by working hard, she has truly become such a powerful role model for other women and other girls in her own community,” says Labovitz. “Refugees are so resilient, and this is another story of that.”

Basnet has made quite a name for herself at BHITC, having been connected to its ministries for so long, along with her other family members. “We are so proud of Ran Maya’s hard work,” says Eileen Wilson, BHITC’s Director of Refugee Ministries. “She is a really smart girl and has come so far. We’re honored to have played a part in where she is today.”

Labovitz says it was through BHITC that she completely fell in love with working with refugees. “It’s (BHITC’s refugee ministry) where I saw the Lord at work, and so that’s where I wanted to be,” she says, who now teaches full-time at a school where English is the second language for many students. “Every day I am thankful for my volunteer experiences with BHITC and for the wonderful refugees that I’ve met,” says Labovitz. “I believe in the ministry happening at BHITC. It was a joy to serve on staff and now it is a joy to be a volunteer. So many people are clinging to the hope that Building Hope provides.”

Is God Prompting You to Do More This School Year?
BHITC seeks 30+ new tutors for the 2017-2018 school year. Volunteers are needed on the east and west sides of town and for ministries that happen during the daytime and in the evening.

New Tutor Orientation will take place at BHITC’s offices on August 15 at 5:30 pm. Sign up to attend at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org or call (216) 281-4673.

Love to Cook or Organize People? Join BHITC’s Meals Ministry!
BHITC would love to see hot meals provided to tutoring sites at least once a month, which allows students and tutors, who are coming straight from school and work, to enjoy a nice meal together and connect. Volunteers will be in charge of planning, purchasing and serving the meal.

Contact Laurie Kubiak for more information on tutoring or the meals ministry at laurie@buildinghopeinthecity.org.
TEE UP for Hope

CHARITY GOLF OUTING & BARBECUE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

THE COUNTRY CLUB OF HUDSON
2155 MIDDLETON RD, HUDSON, OH 44236

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

Sponsorship opportunities available
Visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org or call 216.281.4673
Save the Date
Open Table Exploration

Wednesday, October 11, 2017
7:00 – 8:30 pm

BHITC’s Offices
2038 West 29th St., Cleveland

BHITC is hosting a free Exploration Event for potential volunteers, church planters and social agencies to learn more about Open Table. If you’re seeking a new and deeper volunteer opportunity, please consider attending the Exploration!

Visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org for registration details or call 216.281.4673.
Nearly four years ago, BHITC and a collaboration of urban pastors and ministry leaders launched the Transform216 (T216) initiative to provide training and mentoring for future pastors and ministry catalysts. Dynamic, Jesus-loving leaders, such as Pete Pinkowski, a church planter shown here with his family, are the men BHITC supports through this effort. He spent a few minutes sharing with us about how God is at work in his life and the vision he has for leading people closer to Jesus.

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

Pinkowski: Believe it or not, I grew up in the town (Hammond, Indiana) where ‘The Christmas Story’ is based on, although as you all know, it was actually filmed here in Cleveland! My wife, Robyn, and I, along with our two sons, recently moved from the Chicagoland area to plant a church in Cleveland. Prior to now, I had been involved in youth ministry for 10+ years.

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

Pinkowski: We desire to have a church that truly exhibits love – crazy, grace-filled love – where anyone and everyone feels welcome, no matter their social economics, demographics or beliefs. We believe people can belong long before they believe, and we want to be a place where the message of ‘Jesus is alive’ is proclaimed because we know when people meet Jesus, they are forever changed! We hope to make significant Gospel-centered impact in the neighborhood physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually. We also seek to have an incredible family ministry where kids love to come to church and be a place that preaches the transforming power of the Gospel.
BHITC: As you pray about the church plant you’ll lead, what is the Lord showing you in terms of ministry opportunities?

Pinkowski: Our ministry opportunities are in several areas – the first of which is to our neighbors. Many are spiritually, emotionally and relationally thirsty, and they are not connected to Jesus or the Church. We are already seeing God move in people’s hearts in significant ways through everyday interactions with our neighbors.

We also seek to bless and meet the needs of the school where we hold our worship services – Newton D. Baker School of the Arts – such as through school supplies, installing a free library and providing mulch and flowers. We serve the community of Kamm’s Corners by partnering with local business owners to help each other become better leaders.

We also see great value in ministry opportunities with faith-based organizations and other churches in the city. There is power in unity, and we know to reach a city, churches must break down walls.

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

Pinkowski: We are engaging the community in two ways – social events such as neighborhood BBQs or community events and block parties. We also serve the community through events like an annual neighborhood clean-up for Kamm’s Corners.

We’d really love to have people join us at our preview services, which take place August 20 and September 17 at 10:00 am at Newton D. Baker School of the Arts, 3690 W. 159th St., Cleveland. Also, through upcoming neighborhood BBQs, on our launch team or other opportunities to serve. (See below for contact information.)

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

Pinkowski: Wisdom, connections and love. The leaders and others have been a huge source of encouragement. Not only do these leaders understand church planting, but they also understand Cleveland, which is a huge benefit!

Want to do more? Contact Pete at (216) 815-5749 or pete@renewchurchcleveland.org. Ladies can email robyn@renewchurchcleveland.org. Also, find Renew Church Cleveland at www.renewchurchcleveland.org and on Facebook and Instagram.
Celebrating a Year of Awesome!

Great deals on top of greater deals was the theme all weekend long to celebrate the one year anniversary of Common Threads! Throughout the weekend of June 23-25, shoppers enjoyed stacking coupons on top of daily deals on top of already low prices at BHITC’s first-ever thrift store and social enterprise, scoring the store’s biggest deal opportunities ever.

In addition, shoppers were greeted by festive balloons, a celebratory formalwear display in the front window and framed pictures of the store’s employees and milestones from throughout the year. Shoppers on its official anniversary, June 24, also received mini cupcakes and $5 in instant cash for the first 50 customers in the door.

One shopper said, “This is by far our favorite thrift store in town! We always come here first. You can’t beat the quality or the prices.” The audience of Cleveland’s Scene magazine couldn’t agree more!
God’s Goodness Tops the Charts!

With just one year under its belt, Common Threads was already named the best resale shop in town in the annual ‘Best of Cleveland’ poll by Scene! Isn’t God so good?! BHITC’s mission to give the world a tangible witness to Jesus by the way Common Threads operates is already bearing fruit.

“We were absolutely THRILLED to be named #1 after just 10 months in operation! There are more than 80 thrift or consignment stores in the Cleveland area, so being named ‘Best’ so quickly helps to validate our unique approach to thrift,” says Jeff Stredney, BHITC’s Director of HopeWorks, BHITC’s social enterprise arm. “Above all, this award is a testimony to the hard work and outstanding dedication of our staff. They really are incredible at what they do, and we appreciate our loyal shoppers and donors recognizing that with their vote.”

Donations, donations, donations

BHITC seeks high-quality items to support the store, such as clothing and shoes (men, women and children), housewares, home décor, collectibles, bedding, linens, towels, small appliances, kitchen items, small furniture, purses, jewelry, toys, books, videos, DVDs, Blu-ray, vinyl and more. The store now also accepts large furniture.

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.

Donations can be dropped off at the store, located at 22049 Lorain Road in Fairview Park from Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm and Sunday from 12:00 – 6:00 pm.

Sales on Back-to-College and Back-to-School Essentials

From late-July through mid-August, Common Threads will run special ‘Back-to-College’ and ‘Back-to-School’ sales on everything students need. From linens to kitchen, household, décor and more, college students can get dorm room-ready at 40 percent off! For younger students, kids clothes will be on sale for $1.00 as families seek to start the school year for less.
GLOBAL GETAWAY RAFFLE –

We’ve got a ticket with your name on it!

Ever wonder when you’ll finally take that getaway you’ve had on your bucket list? For one lucky winner on November 12 at BHITC’s annual fall gala, it will be sooner than you think, thanks to BHITC! The cost? Only $100.

Which trip for two will you choose?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Great Down Under: Sydney, Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Soak up Sydney’s gorgeous harbor, thriving outdoor lifestyle and great natural beauty during a 6-night stay at a 5-star Swissotel for two, which is centrally located amongst Sydney’s prime tourist, shopping, business and entertainment districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience the Majestic Canadian Rockies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oh Canada! Majestic resorts in Banff, Calgary and at Lake Louise are calling you to this 7-night getaway for two at the fabulous Fairmonts. All within a three-hour radius, guests will experience small-town warmth amidst urban ambience, matchless scenery and two of the world’s top 500 hotels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breath-Taking Barbados</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barbados is one of the most sought-after vacation and tourism spots in the Caribbean. Enjoy a 4-night stay at the award-winning Fairmont Royal Pavilion with airfare for two in a deluxe oceanfront room with unobstructed views. Described as “The Jewel in the Crown of Barbados” - this elegant retreat is a must!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience the Best of Golf in Scotland</td>
<td></td>
<td>Two days of golfing at your choice of six select courses, rental car and a 4-night stay at Fairmont St. Andrews Resort with airfare for two. The birthplace of golf and the British Open Championship, Scotland is many golfers’ dream golf vacation destination. Includes two rounds of golf for two at each course.</td>
</tr>
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Winner will be drawn at BHITC’s “Restoring the City” gala on November 12. Tickets for the gala will be on sale soon.

Note: You do not need to be present to win, but it would sure be fun if you were!

Buy your raffle ticket today at www.buildinghopeinthecity.org
CITY SERVE
PHOTO GALLERY

BY ED & CAROLYN WATKINS, BHITC Volunteers

Despite chilly temperatures and rainy weather, more than 365 volunteers from across the greater Cleveland area shared their time, skills and passion for serving God to complete a wide variety of service projects at 25 sites throughout Cleveland during BHITC’s CitySERVE 2017. Here are some of the best photos from the day:

Thank you to all CitySERVE 2017 event sponsors! The following individuals gave leadership gifts of $100 or more:

- Dr. David Beckman, DDS
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Braun
- Brooks & Stafford / John Kunze
- Mr. Arthur Englemann
- Dr. & Mrs. Ehab Farag
- Ms. Leslie Gicei
- Ms. Lindsay Gould
- Dr. & Mrs. Peter Greco
- Mrs. Norelle Gress
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Hirch
- Mr. & Mrs. John Katzenmeyer
- Mr. & Mrs. Norman Lange
- Mr. & Mrs. Claus Meyer
- Mr. Robert Miller
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven Myers
- Mr. & Mrs. Craig Nielsen

- Ohio District Lutheran Church Extension Fund / David Bowers
- Mrs. Ruthanna Pieplow
- Printing Partners / Jim Kolesar
- Mr. & Mrs. Carl Prokop
- Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rachul
- RE May, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry Repak
- Mrs. Jane Roth
- Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Schuster
- Mr. Alan Steffen
- Mr. Glenn Steffen
- Truline Industries, Inc. / Court Durkalski
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tubergen
- Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg
Over the last few months, several staff changes and additions took place at BHITC.

**Sharon Schuldt** (pictured top left), assumed the role of BHITC’s Director of Ministry Engagement, after **Amy Mitchell** (bottom left), previously in that role, took an opportunity to pursue her Masters degree and dream occupation.

Sharon joined BHITC’s staff early in 2016, working closely with Amy on the details of outreach events and program logistics. She has quickly stepped into her new role, where she helps volunteers find places to serve according to their abilities and passions and also engages local congregations in urban work. Before BHITC, Sharon worked as a labor and delivery nurse for 13 years and has served through women’s ministries in various capacities.

**Bryan Karas** (top left) Joins BHITC as Manager, Open Table and Mission Impact most recently from Cuyahoga Valley Church, where he was on staff for more than a decade. He assumes leadership of the Open Table ministry and will also work to shape how the organization measures and evaluates outcomes.

**Joyce Ng** (botton left) joins BHITC as Development Manager. Born and raised in Malaysia, she first came to the U.S. in 2010 as an international student, and then held positions at Great Lakes Science Center and the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center for the last three years. She will use her writing and communication skills to expand the work of BHITC and the Kingdom through fundraising efforts.

**Amy** was on staff at BHITC for six years, and her legacy will live on as the founder of events like the annual Christmas Store of Hope and the first leader of Open Table. On behalf of the staff and Board of BHITC, thank you, Amy, for impacting the lives of hundreds of children and families in Cleveland!
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 www.remay.com.

Penny Bucaro (Top left), recently joined BHITC as its Business Manager. She manages accounts payable, financial and business systems. She is a CPA and has 20+ years of professional experience in accounting, auditing, financial reporting and budgeting for churches, non-profits, financial consultant firms and more.

Josh Gailer (Bottom left), who has served with BHITC at The Hope Center as an AmeriCorps representative for the last two years, will assume a new role to pilot an initiative called ‘School of Young Leaders’. It will focus on teaching the Bible and Christian theology while providing young adults with mentoring from BHITC volunteers.

Finally, Bethany Bell (left) joins BHITC as its Refugee Program Assistant, supporting ministry and programs at The Hope Center. She will assume Gailer’s previous role at The Center, which focuses on refugee employment. For the last three years, she served as Beulah on the Road Camp Director & Outdoor Education Director for Beulah Beach.

You will begin to see these names and faces more and more, so we wanted to formally introduce them to you, and welcome them to the BHITC family! Visit www.buildinghopeinthecity.org to read their full bios.
You’ve probably taken an assessment that explores your gifting in the FiveFold ministry of Ephesians 4, but how do those five areas play out on a ministry team or in your congregation? Alan Hirsch’s latest book 5Q explores the original and latent intelligence in the body of Christ.

In this MissionSmith session, you’ll explore not only your individual gifting, but also the unique wiring of your team or congregation. You’ll learn how to tailor ministry efforts based on the unique equipping that Jesus himself set up for your team or leaders. You and your leadership team will walk out of this session with an action plan for moving forward the way Jesus intended!

Hirsch is the founder of 100Movements, Forge Mission Training Network, and Future Travelers. Known for his innovative approach to mission, he is widely considered to be a thought-leader and key mission strategist for churches across the western world.
“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

HymnFest 2017

CELEBRATING IN MUSIC
500 YEARS OF REFORMATION
TRUTH, GRACE AND FREEDOM

Friday, October 27, 2017
at 7:30 pm

The Shrine of St. Stanislaus
3649 East 65th St.
in Slavic Village,
Cleveland, 44105

(Conveniently located one mile
from I-77 at the Fleet Avenue exit)

HymnFest 2017 will musically celebrate the theology of the Reformation like no other!

Ticket Information:
General Admission $15 (advance tickets), $20 (at the door)
Parking is free at church lots and on street.
Purchase your tickets online or by calling:
www.buildinghopeinthecity.org
216.281.4673

All proceeds from the event will benefit the ministries of Building Hope in the City.

With generous support by:
Generous Donors Leave Legacies for Hope

On an unsuspecting day in December 2015, Executive Director Brian Upton received a phone call that Parma resident and lifelong Lutheran, Jean Gschwend, had left a generous estate gift to BHITC. No one in the organization had heard of Jean, let alone known her. BHITC was shocked and overwhelmed by the tremendous blessing that no one saw coming. Thanks to her generosity, BHITC was able to exceed the $1 million goal for its Harvesting God’s Promise campaign that was launched in 2013.

Jean’s estate gift is an example of the tremendous impact that you can have in providing for your heirs and blessing the Kingdom of God through planned gifts. For BHITC, planned gifts dynamically contribute to its long-term sustainability. Careful planning and decision-making with a financial advisor can allow you to make a much larger donation than you would otherwise be able to make from your annual income, while also realizing significant tax benefits, too.

Linda Adams tutors at The Hope Center and recently added BHITC as a beneficiary for her IRA distributions. When asked why she chose to do so, she recounted the many blessings of her life. “Why should I keep all that for myself?” she said, noting that she believes BHITC really cares about the people it serves and that kind of deep care and love is contagious. “When I’m gone, I still want to be part of the action and blessings of Building Hope.”

Colin and Melissa Bell have been actively involved with BHITC for about eight years, serving on the board and as CitySERVE site coordinators. They named BHITC as the beneficiary and owner of Melissa’s charitable life insurance policy. As a financial consultant, Colin says that planned gifts are important as he encounters many people who have heartfelt charitable intentions, but may not know how to fully enact them. “With a charitable life insurance policy, a minimal annual premium will result in an immense gift for BHITC in the future. You don’t have to be very wealthy to be able to make a large gift.”

With a charitable life insurance policy, you name a charity (your church, BHITC or other) as the owner and beneficiary. All premium payments are 100% tax deductible, allowing you to make a significantly larger gift than would be possible using current income. Some people even choose to donate paid-up policies, or add a charity as a beneficiary on an existing policy.
These are just some examples of how you could join Vibrant City Collective, BHITC’s Planned Giving society, BHITC’s circle of most generous donors. “Planned gifts are critical to the organization’s long-term vision of seeing our city restored to God,” says Upton. “Vibrant City Collective supporters are our closest partners in delivering faith-inspired solutions to Cleveland’s biggest challenges, including church-planting, social enterprise, poverty alleviation and cross-cultural ministries.”

Want to know more? Contact your financial or tax advisor, or call Brian Upton at 216-281-4673. Here are other ways:

- Join us for an afternoon of appetizers, a wine-tasting lesson and an overview of Planned Giving tools to help you understand your options better.

  When: Saturday, September 23, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
  Where: Dante in Tremont – 2247 Professor Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113

  This FREE event is hosted by BHITC and Thrivent Financial, and is limited to 40 seats. To register, please call Lesa at 216-281-4673 or e-mail lesa@buildinghopeinthecity.org by **September 15, 2017**.

- Make a direct gift to BHITC’s endowment funds. The organization has endowment funds at In His Steps Foundation (ihsfound.org) and the Cleveland Foundation (clevelandfoundation.org). Call 330-528-1785 for In His Steps or 216-861-3810 for the Cleveland Foundation to make a gift today.

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Aug. 15
New Tutor Orientation
Come learn more about tutoring urban and refugee students
Building Hope in the City’s offices
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Aug. 18
Tee Up for Hope: Annual Golf Outing & Barbeque
The Country Club of Hudson
2155 Middleton Road, Hudson, OH 44236
8:15 am shotgun start
$250 per golfer

Aug. 19
Building Hope 101
Building Hope in the City’s offices
8:00 – 9:00 am
Refugee Mentor Training
Building Hope in the City’s offices
Learn how you can welcome a newly arriving refugee family!
9:00 – 11:30 am

Sept. 11
Building Hope 101
Building Hope in the City’s offices
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Sept. 21
Building Hope 101
Gateway West Church/The Hope Center
15135 Triskett Road, Cleveland, OH 44111
5:30 – 6:30 pm
Refugee Mentor Training
Gateway West Church/The Hope Center
15135 Triskett Road, Cleveland, OH 44111
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Sept. 30
MissionSmith with Alan Hirsch
Renew Communities
388 West Bagley Rd., Berea, OH 44017
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
$10 Registration fee | RSVPs required

Oct. 2
Building Hope 101
Building Hope in the City’s offices
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Oct. 11
Open Table Exploration
Building Hope in the City’s offices
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Oct. 14
Understanding Poverty Seminar
Building Hope in the City’s offices
9:00 am – 2:30 pm (Check in 8:30 am)
Advanced registration is required
$15 Registration fee, includes lunch

Oct. 21
Building Hope 101
Building Hope in the City’s offices
8:00 – 9:00 am
Refugee Mentor Training
Building Hope in the City’s offices
9:00 – 11:30 am

Oct. 27
HymnFest: A musical celebration of Reformation’s 500th anniversary.
The Shrine of St. Stanislaus
3649 East 65th St., Cleveland (Slavic Village), OH 44105
7:30 pm
$15 per ticket in advance, $20 at the door

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.