



# A LIFE THAT'S WORKING

CHERRY ST.  
MISSION MINISTRIES

# ENDING THE LINE

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Poverty is not a financial problem. It's a lack of access to programs and services. It's the barriers that people face, whether it be loss of a job, or a health problem. It's a poverty of relationships. A poverty of the soul. It's a complex issue complicated by mental health disorders and drug addiction. It's exacerbated by lifelong feelings of worthlessness and loss of dignity.

In our region, the proverbial line, where people wait for services, has grown longer and more arduous each year. Often these lines are full of unknown requirements, with exceptionally high thresholds and barriers for the very people in which the line was established to serve. As a result, many in the line, are frustrated and have lost interest in receiving this kind of help.

## WHY IS THERE A LINE?

The Life Revitalization Center is designed by Cherry Street Mission Ministries and fueled by community partnerships, to end the proverbial line. We ask and answer the question as to whether any right thinking community whose aim it is for a better life for all should have a line at all. Why should there be a line? Why should anyone have to wait confusingly in a line that doesn't move or worse yet doesn't seem to have an end?



# VISION

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**BUILD A BRIDGE SO THAT WE  
CAN HELP WALK ALONGSIDE  
PEOPLE AS THEY PURSUE  
A LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE ABYSS.**



**DAN ROGERS**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
CHERRY STREET MISSION  
MINISTRIES

# FUELED BY YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ PARTNERSHIP

Cherry Street Mission Ministries' Life Revitalization Center is a central city, one roof, holistic ecosystem designed with integral and strategic partnerships, to end the line for all who arrive by providing thoughtful, comprehensive service options which include day care, vocational and career training, medical help, case management, mental health, addiction recovery, adult basic literacy, adult diplomas, recreation and the arts – all connected to jobs and employers.

Our programs will accomplish this by:

- Enrolling adult students through our intake partnership with Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority, Jobs and Family Services, Community Centers, Catholic Charities and other organizations serving a vast number of people through case management.
- Providing opportunities for students to participate in assessments ranging from aptitude to career path choices.
- Partnering with Feed Lucas County Children to address hunger in our community.



**RUBBER  
MEETS  
THE  
ROAD**

**ERNIE'S  
LIFE IS  
WORKING.**

# WORTHY

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Earlier in his life, Ernie did body work on cars. That was a long time ago. Failed relationships, bouts of depression, and lack of job skills led to years of homelessness.

Throughout his life, Ernie heard one message over and over—he would never be worth anything.

About seven years ago, while staying at a church in Zanesville, Ohio, someone told Ernie about Cherry Street Mission Ministries. He found his way to Toledo.

Today he's a member of the first Auto Tech Training class offered at the Life Revitalization Center and plans to graduate in December.

"We already have car dealerships that have expressed interest in hiring some of the participants," said Renee Monday, director of vocations. "These jobs are in high demand, which is why we offer this training."

Ernie also completed Cherry Street's KeyTrain program, a self-guided computer program that teaches students various skills to be successful in the workplace. While initially hesitant, completing the program was a life-changing moment for Ernie, who like many Cherry Street guests, lacked self-confidence and suffered from a lifetime of low self-esteem.

"I'll always remember the day we handed out the certificates for that class," said Renee. "Ernie held up his certificate and said proudly, 'This piece of paper tells me I'm worth something.'"

With the completion of the Auto Tech Training, Ernie now has an exit plan for leaving Cherry Street.

**"HOPE TO ME LOOKS LIKE NOT LIVING AT CHERRY STREET ANYMORE."**

"In addition to vocational training we work on life skills like budgeting, and job seeking skills which will help Ernie gain self-confidence," said Renee.

"Cherry Street helped me to feel good about myself again," said Ernie, who is 48 years old. "They helped me get through depression and helped me see that I can do anything."

"I want to get a job at a dealership," said Ernie. "This training gives me skills for a future and having a job will let me earn a living again."

When asked what hope looks like to him, Ernie replied, "Hope to me looks like not living at Cherry Street anymore."



# A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

ELIZABETH'S  
LIFE IS  
WORKING.

# PURPOSEFUL



It used to be that you came to Cherry Street for a meal and place to lay your head. People were referred to other places for services like veterans programs and help with housing. Without a job, car,

or bus fare, it is next to impossible to access services. The journey to hope ends before it can really begin.

Cherry Street's Life Revitalization Center has changed that. "The goal is to leverage every meal served with an opportunity to revitalize lives. It's the bridge between a life of poverty and a purposeful life. To end poverty, we have to do more than feed them lunch," explained Elizabeth Sorge, Cherry Street's director of food service.

A centerpiece of the Center will be a commercial kitchen and an accredited culinary vocational school that will provide opportunity for guests to earn a degree as they work. Additionally, a catering business will be established generating a revenue stream while providing jobs at the Life Revitalization Center.

Engaging the community not only as a financial partner, but as a social partner is integral to the success of the program. "Our vision is to develop

a full-service restaurant open to the whole community. We envision Cherry Street guests enjoying a meal alongside people from the downtown business community," explained Elizabeth. To date, more than 30 people have already been trained in food service skills provided by Cherry Street. "Eighteen of those were snapped up for jobs by local employers eager to assist," said Elizabeth.

"We are here to teach more than job skills. We teach life skills – everyday skills," explained Elizabeth. "We are here to make sure every person has an opportunity to once again begin a dignified, productive journey in life."



## MORE THAN A MEAL

*In collaboration with Feed Lucas County Children, the new kitchen will enhance the ability to feed area children, providing the very foundation for educational success, confidence, physical fitness, and overall health. "Our mission is to feed hungry children throughout the year. Together, our goal is to provide millions of healthy meals through the new kitchen," said Wendi Huntley, Interim CEO, Feed Lucas County Children.*





# A HIGHER CALLING

VALENCIA'S  
LIFE IS  
WORKING.

# SELF-AWARE

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Most people look at guests who live at Cherry Street's Men's Mission or Women's Sparrow's Nest only see a face, not a person. But those faces all have stories. Like Valencia.

Most people don't know Valencia had to give up a son for adoption, a decision that ate away at her self-esteem. She worried about him constantly—whether he was happy, healthy, alive, or dead. They don't know Valencia worked and loved it, or that she's always wanted to own her own business, but was never taught budgeting, so she fell deep in debt, losing everything.

They don't know that the staff at Cherry Street, where she's lived for the past two years, see tremendous leadership potential in Valencia, something she is just learning to see herself.

"I've always been afraid that if I tried, I would fail," said Valencia. "Or if I did do something, I wouldn't meet other people's expectations."

That's all about to change. Valencia is completing Call Center Training offered at the Life Revitalization Center.

Valencia is learning a vocation, but also life skills. Thanks to Cherry Street's *Ready for Life* Program, Valencia has a

much better understanding of money management and budgeting.

"I learned that if you don't change how you use money, you'll end up in the same cycle."

Valencia's also learned to forgive, both others—and herself. "One of my "Ah ha!" moments at Cherry Street was when I learned that forgiveness is not for the other person, it's for yourself."

## **"I AM THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS."**

When her son found her this past year, Valencia said a huge weight was lifted. "Now I know he's okay and happy. And her younger son, who just completed high school, is also doing well.

"Valencia has become so much more self-aware since she's been here," said Renee Monday, director of vocations. "She has a wonderful personality, is very articulate, and is a positive influencer with her peers."

"I'm thankful for the support systems," said Valencia. "I don't think I would have ever learned how strong I really am if it wasn't for Cherry Street."

Valencia sees the Call Center Training as her new beginning.



# LEARNING GETS YOU PLACES

JEREL'S  
LIFE IS  
WORKING

# COMARADERIE



Once Jerel got under the hood of the car, he found that's where he really likes to be.

"I've worked in the automotive industry, but never under the

hood of the car," said Jerel who recently completed the ten-month Automotive Mechanic Technology training program at Cherry Street's Life Revitalization Center.

"Now I really understand how the car operates."

His training, which included both classroom work and hands-on work in a shop, focused primarily on brakes, transmissions, and steering, which Jerel calls "the main arteries of the car."

Jerel works as a lube technician at Ballas Buick-GMC in Toledo, a position he hopes will lead to more advanced car work.

"My goal now is to become a master mechanic, and, maybe someday, teach courses like the ones I took."

Jerel learned about the Life Revitalization Center's training program through his pastor.

"I loved the training. It was a wonderful experience and a great program. Employers from different car companies and dealerships came to the classes and that's how I found my job."

"I love the camaraderie I have at the car dealership and the people are great."

"I know that my work is in demand and I now have a skill that a lot of people need."

While the hands-on training was Jerel's favorite part of the program at the Life Revitalization Center, he found he didn't mind the book work that he was concerned about.

"If someone is thinking about taking this kind of training but is worried about whether they can do it, I'd say, "Look at me."

"I'm 40 years old and if they knew my story and difficulties, they'd know they can do it."

"There is nothing like learning to get you places."

# SUCCESS IS CALLING

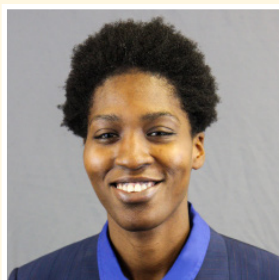
FALL 2017  
CALL CENTER  
GRADUATES

# HELLO.



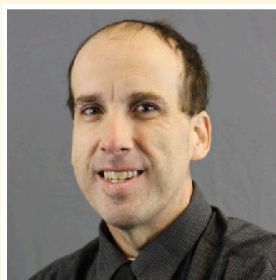
Through the generosity of many donors, Cherry Street Mission Ministries' Call Center Customer Service Training Program became a reality. On December 29, 2017, 15 graduates were recognized for their achievements at a ceremony and reception. Of the 15 graduates, 13 are already employed.

This program is a significant step toward ending the line in our community.



Congratulations graduates! Today you've taken the accountability toward marrying success and divorcing your fears that have stopped you from succeeding.

KENNITHIA ROBINSON



We thank Michael and Michelle Osborne for taking time to speak to the class along with Credit Adjustments for their tremendous support of Cherry Street.

NICKOLAUS GILLMOR



...the call center certificate program . . . is more than just a program. It is the beginning of a fresh start - the opportunity to be rebirthed as a productive member of society.

REGINALD ARRINGTON

# ONE ROOF, HOLISTIC ECOSYSTEM

PROVIDING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
SERVICE OPTIONS

CAMPAIGN GOAL

# \$10 MILLION

ROOF SYSTEM	\$1.3MM
WOODSHOP/HVAC/CONSTRUCTION	\$600K
COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND DINING	\$3.0MM
WELDING AND MACHINE	\$1.1 MM
AUDITORIUM/CHAPEL/CLINIC/DAY CARE	\$1.7MM
RECREATION/MENTAL HEALTH	\$1.3 MM
ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS	\$1.0MM



 LIFE  
REVITALIZATION  
CENTER







**POWERFUL**

**HAPPY**

**DEDICATED**

**THOUGHTFUL**

**MERCIFUL**

**VISIONARY**

**STRONG**

**LOYAL**

**DISCOVERY**

**THANKFUL**

**BELIEVING**

**VICTORY**

**CARING**

**BELIEVE**

**INSPIRING**

**POSITIVE**

**CARING**

**WORTHY**

**A COMMUNITY  
ENGAGED**

# SUPPORTIVE

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“We are honored to support Cherry Street Mission Ministries and the critical work of its Life Revitalization Center. The vision of the organization’s leadership, and the commitment of its strategic partners, provides a solid foundation for developing long-term solutions for ending homelessness and poverty as we know it. This initiative is an important investment into the success of those served as well as our entire community. We are happy to be part of it.”

BARB AND RANDY OOSTRA

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# A BETTER LIFE

LIFE  
REVITALIZATION  
CENTER

CHERRY ST  
MISSION MINISTRIES

DEVELOPING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

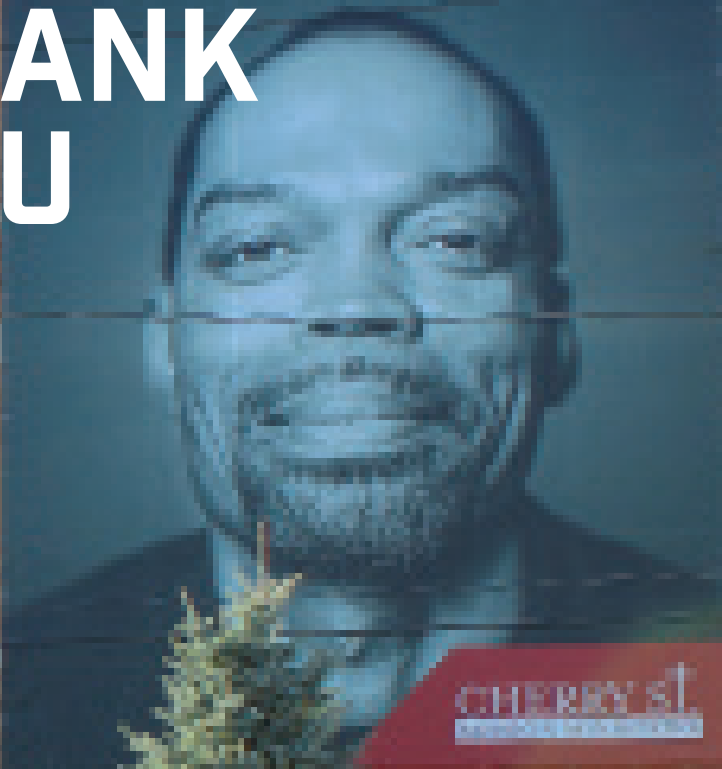




LIFE  
REVITALIZATION  
CENTER

CHERRY ST.  
COMMUNITY CENTER

THANK  
YOU



CHERRY ST.  
COMMUNITY CENTER



A LIFE THAT'S  
WORKING

**A LIFE  
THAT'S  
WORKING**

