

## It's time to celebrate...

...because April is **National Volunteer Month!** We believe it is so important to recognize the contributions made by volunteers everywhere and we want to especially draw attention to the many wonderful men, women, and children who serve here at the Center of Hope. We have said it many times, but it bears repeating, "Volunteers are the backbone of all that we do here."

Many tasks that volunteers perform are behind the scenes and for the most part unheralded. Yet, their massive contributions and importance to the success of the ministry cannot adequately be measured. These individuals have a passion to serve, understanding they play a part in creating an environment where precious souls have a safe haven to find help in their time of need. In that spirit, we salute all our volunteers for the kindness shown others, sacrificing time and talent to bring love and relief to some of the neediest among us.

To all who have ever volunteered with us, we thank you, we appreciate you and we celebrate you!!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Horses and Chariots of Fire **2**

Help others, help yourself? **3**

New team member **3**

Mother's Day **4**

Building our volunteer team **4**



"They only asked that we remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."

Galatians 2:10



# Horses and Chariots of Fire

There is a powerful story in the Old Testament where the king of Syria, who ruled a seeming superpower nation at the time, had set out to capture the prophet Elisha, a man of God and prophet in Israel. The king of Syria had learned of the city where Elisha was staying and dispatched his army's full force to seize him.

In 2 Kings 6:15-17 we read:

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So, the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Interestingly, in today's world it's not that hard to imagine what Elisha's servant must have felt when he woke up that morning and found his people surrounded by the Syrian army. As followers of Christ, we too can often feel surrounded and overwhelmed by the state of our world.

Thankfully, here at Victory Ministries, all we need to do is open our own eyes, quite literally, to see that God has sent an abundance of horses and chariots of fire our way. The only difference is we call them, "Volunteers." Across our services in 2023, we had 430 different people contribute over 11,500 total hours of volunteer service towards reaching the poor in the name of Christ! What a tremendous Army of Fire the Lord uses each day who sacrificially give of themselves for the well-being of others. Our volunteers burn bright as pillars of service and giving.

To say that we are thankful for our volunteers is an understatement. To say that we are humbled by them, that we stand in admiration of their diligence and care for our neighbors, and that their faithfulness daily gives us courage and hope, comes a bit closer to how we feel. We may not yet outnumber the armies of darkness, but I'll take our very own "Horses and Chariots of Fire" any day and for all eternity. With sincerest gratitude, thank you to all who continue to make Victory Ministries a success by volunteering and serving with us each day.

*Jeremy Borsos*

Executive Director





## Help others, help yourself? You Bet!

A quick google search on the benefits of volunteering will give you a multitude of reasons why volunteerism is **VERY GOOD FOR YOU!**

Here's a short list-

- Get a mental health boost, lower your blood pressure, decrease stress and anxiety and you get yourself moving (physical activity)
- Expand your social circle and meet cool people
- New transferrable skills (which can supercharge your career goals)
- Spur your own personal growth (increased empathy, sense of purpose, etc.)

## New team member

It's a privilege to be a new member of the staff here at Victory Ministries. Here is a little bit about me.

I've been married to my best friend for seven years and God has blessed us with two wonderful children. God placed a call on my heart to help the hurting when I was in college in 2009.

I changed my major and graduated from Ohio State in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in social work.

Since then, I have worked in foster care, with special needs students in education and most recently in the mental health arena. I have a deep desire to be God's hands in healing what has been broken, and to seek His will to grow in a deeper committed relationship with Him.

I believe this is what led me to Victory Ministries, and I am excited to begin my journey with the amazing team that God has assembled here. I am so grateful for this opportunity and hope to be a blessing to those whom God places in my path through this ministry. God Bless you.

Priscilla Christy, Neighbor Services Manager



Ready to become a donor?  
Scan QR Code





## Mother's Day Gifts

Would you like to bless the women who visit the Center of Hope with beautiful Mother's Day gifts?

Many of our women will not receive anything this Mother's Day and we always endeavor to fill that need. Donations are needed for a variety of personal care items and here's how you can be involved.

We will be filling the gift bags with: Body Wash, Shampoo & Conditioner, Loofahs, Nail Polish, Nail Care Kits, Body Spray, Lotions, Shaving Items, Deodorant, Hair Accessories and Individually Wrapped Candy.

Donations accepted Monday – Friday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm or a financial donation can be made at: [www.victorycoh.org](http://www.victorycoh.org) with Mother's Day added in the comment section. If you shop Amazon, you can direct your gifts to be shipped to J. Patterson, 321 Aster Ln., Gahanna, OH 43230.



## We are building our volunteer team at the Center of Hope and we would love to have you join us!

Take a look at our current positions

### Reclamation Drivers -

Monday-Friday; times vary- flexible; 1x/week

(18 years and older) Pick up reclamation food from grocery stores or restaurants within a 10-mile radius of COH and drop off at COH each week. Can be done in a car, however a SUV/van/truck are helpful. Some food boxes can weigh up to 35 pounds.

### Clothing Room set-up -

Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-12:00 pm with some flexibility.

Volunteer up to 1x/week (flexible) sorting, hanging and organizing the clothing back-room area.

### Clothing Boutique Shopper -

Tuesday-Friday 10/11:00- 3:30 pm

Assisting neighbors with shopping for their families.

### Mobile Market -

2nd & 4th Wednesdays/ mo. - 5:00-7:30pm

Serve neighbors in an outdoor environment.

- Set up/teardown
- Assist neighbors with check-in/ food selections
- Help neighbors to their cars

More opportunities:

- **Choice Pantry Shopper**
  - Pantry Greeter
  - Warehouse worker
  - Answering phones
  - Front desk/intake.

If you are interested in taking a closer look at Victory's volunteer team, email Priscilla at [priscilla@victorycoh.org](mailto:priscilla@victorycoh.org) or call 614-252-2500 ext. 211 – we would love to talk to you!