

# TRANSPORTATION

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE HELP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

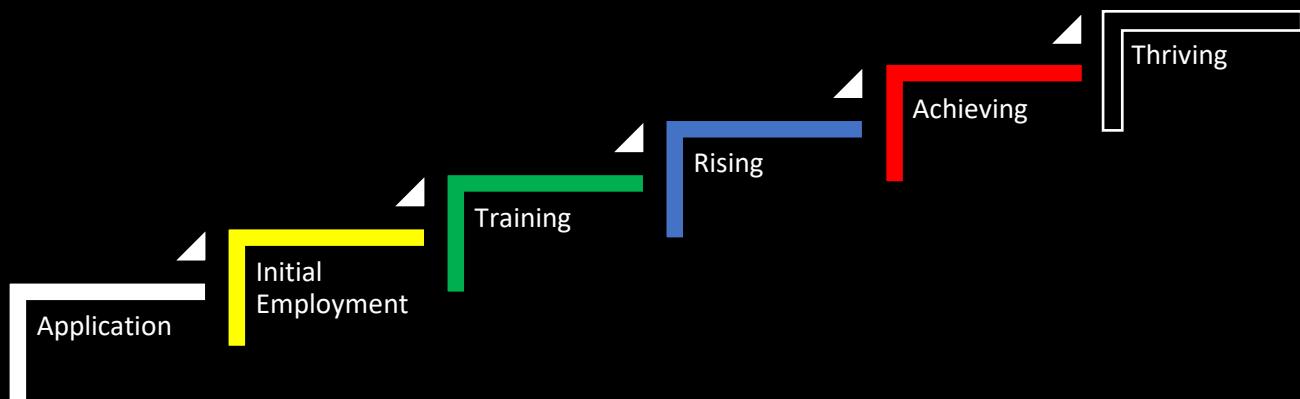
A ride to work,  
a pathway to a new life!



OUR VISION:

MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT, FULL LIVES,  
THRIVING FAMILIES, EDUCATED &  
PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES.

# The HELP Empowerment Process



**Application** Returning citizens contact HELP from a variety of sources. HELP assists in getting an ID, Social Security card & birth certificate.

**Initial Employment** HELP provides an orientation to the process, mission, values, and work expectations and a job opportunity. The job is full-time and does include FREE transportation to-and-from work for individuals who go everyday.

**Training** The reliable workers from the Initial Employment stage are invited to participate in the Training Programs offered by the HELP Program. The training stage includes an assessment in the following areas: transportation, housing, finances, food security, and career options.

**Rising** Members are provided the best job opportunities presented to HELP and the strongest recommendation from the Executive Director. Employers at this stage offer higher pay, benefits and a career path. Members at this stage are eligible for assistance with their needs and are matched with a mentor.

**Achieving** These HELP members are in regular, positive contact with their mentor, maintain Rising Stage employment, and are transportation independent.

**Thriving** Thriving members are giving back to the HELP community. Members at this stage serve as board members, mentors, or donors to the HELP program. The HELP journey is complete because these individuals no longer need assistance but are providing assistance to others.

**Empowerment, NOT Entitlement!**

# VEHICLE DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES

The members of The HELP Program get a direct benefit from every donated vehicle. Donated vehicles become part of the Transportation Independence plan of individual members. A professional mechanic examines the vehicle and HELP funds the repairs through a fund provided by an anonymous donor.

Sometimes the vehicle only needs minor repairs, or no repairs at all, but often there are some issues that need to be resolved so that the vehicle is not a burden on the recipient. Members receiving the vehicle put some “skin-in-the-game” by paying a fraction of those costs as part of their Transportation Independence plan.

The HELP Program makes the car donation process as easy as possible. HELP will pick up the vehicle even if it is not running. HELP handles all the paperwork. HELP then selects a member who has met the employment, financial and program expectations set by the board. The member must have maintained full-time employment for several months, saved enough money to purchase 6 months of insurance for the vehicle, and must pass multiple drug tests.

The receiving members are often shocked at the generosity of donors. The vehicle donations are changing lives. Members go from getting up at 4 am to stand outside and catch the van to work, to being able to sleep an extra 90 minutes and drive themselves.

Everything in their lives becomes easier: grocery shopping, taking children to daycare, participating in HELP activities, and most importantly, getting to work.

The donor receives a tax benefit. More important than the tax benefit, the donor knows they have helped fight poverty. The car directly improves a life. The donation rewards someone who is making the effort to change. The recipient knows that the change has been noticed and is appreciated by the community.

Parishioners from all over the Archdiocese have shown their generosity towards HELP members. Please visit the HELP website and see the Calvin Spears video. Calvin was provided a vehicle by a St. Ignatius parishioner and has thrived ever since. The vehicle allowed Calvin to increase his hourly income by 25%, but his annual income by over 40% because he was able to take on a part-time job. Donations change lives.



# ON THE ROAD TO CHANGE

Seven days a week, at 3:30 am, one or two HELP vehicles hit the roads of Cincinnati. Destinations include 23 pick-up locations at intersections near passengers' homes, spread over 90 miles.

The van pulls over, the passengers board, and the van keeps rolling. Most stops take only a few seconds because too many delays will result in arriving late to at least one of the six workplaces where passengers are dropped off.

The employer partners are very diverse: meatpacking, construction materials manufacturing, chemical processing, packaging, and car part manufacturing. Each partner contacts HELP regularly to discuss employee performance, attendance, and internal pathways to promotion.



By 7:00 am all 1st Shift passengers have been dropped off at work and the driver can fill up the tank for the next run. Any 3rd Shift workers just getting off from working overnight are also picked up during this run.

At noon, the driver for 2nd Shift clocks-in and starts picking up passengers for afternoon jobs. Simultaneously, the driver is picking up the 1st shift workers as they get off and begins to bring them back to the city.

Due to the pandemic, many 1st shift workers are kept for overtime with little or no notice. That creates some down time for the driver to handle other activities. The 2nd shift driver is responsible for taking the van to get washed at Mike's Car Wash, stopping for an oil change at Midas, and for gassing up the van at Speedway at the end of the shift.



**The HELP  
Transportation  
Initiative generates  
over \$3,000,000 in  
annual pre-tax  
wages!**

The 2nd shift driver wraps up around 6:00 pm each day. To close out a long day, a 3rd shift driver clocks-in at 10:30 pm to begin picking up workers from 2nd shift. Finally, the driver drops off anyone scheduled to work overnight.

## 2021-2022 Transportation

New Van	\$ 49,464
Operation Costs	\$ 88,004
<u>Drivers</u>	<u>\$120,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$257,464</b>

waiting outside, on-the-clock, the entire time. By 2:30 am, the passengers have been dropped off, and the van is parked until the 3:30 am route begins.

At the end of a single weekday the HELP vehicles have traveled over 450 miles, used over \$85 worth of gas, and drivers have been on the clock for a minimum of 10 hours.

Every month HELP has the oil changed and a multi-point safety inspection is performed by a professional. New tires are purchased every year, new brake pads installed every 9 months, and other light maintenance is completed as needed.

The cost can become prohibitive. The manager at the MIDAS on Glenway Avenue is a returning citizen and has been very generous and supportive of the HELP mission. When the van or another HELP vehicle comes for service, the manager makes our repairs a priority and makes sure he finds any available coupons or discounts to apply to the bill.

The generosity of the Bosse family provided the blessing of the van. The ongoing generosity of the St. Francis de Sales parish council provides the money to maintain the van. The generosity of donors funds the daily operations. A few employers, realizing their benefit from the workers HELP transports, have donated some funds to support the van. On behalf of the HELP board, thank you to everyone for their support!

The meatpacking industry, hit hard by the pandemic, often requires 2nd shift employees to stay over until the whole truckload of meat has been processed. That means the employees working this shift may not get released until 2:00 am even though they expected to be off at 11:45 pm. The driver is

## Funds Raised

<b>Van replacement collected to date:</b>	
Donations	\$ 10,320
Employers	\$ 8,500
<u>Grants</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,820</b>

<https://helpprogramcincinnati.net/donate/>

Mail to 1600 Madison Road, Cin, Ohio 45206

# TERRY O'CONNOR

HELP Mentor, regular donor and volunteer Terrance O'Connor has dedicated significant time to the HELP program in 2020. As the new Transportation Independence Mentor, he takes members to multiple counties to find open times to take the Ohio License exam, provides personal driving instruction in his own vehicle, and helps members study for the written test.



*James Perkins, pictured, with his own vehicle. James assisted HELP in funding the repairs on the vehicle.*

*Please visit YouTube and see a video interview of James speaking about the changes in his life since joining the HELP Program.*

*Search: James Perkins HELP*

*Left - Terry O'Connor, HELP volunteer and Transportation Independence Coordinator.*



Terry O'Connor is a member of Good Shepherd Parish and learned about the HELP program during a Dismas Journey event. Mr. O'Connor is very active with HELP and now sits on the Development Committee, the Upward to Work Leadership Team, the Dismas Task Force and is a certified forklift trainer for the HELP Program.

One of the duties that Terry has taken off the hands of the Executive Director is the coordination of car donations. As parishioners from around the Archdiocese donate vehicles there are issues with the titles, repairs, and the transfer to HELP members. Terry is handling all of that for HELP.

James Perkins (Upward to Work Class II graduate) has never had his own car, a clean driver's license, and full coverage insurance on a vehicle at the same time. Terry O'Connor put in the hours needed to make sure that James is now on the road legally, responsibly, and most importantly, independently.

James was recently promoted, at the same job HELP assisted him in obtaining almost 6 months ago, to the position of Line Leader. Additionally, he drives 3 other members to work every day saving HELP \$100 a week in driver hours and gas.

Brother Mike founded the program to put people with resources like Terry O'Connor in touch with people who have needs, like James Perkins.

# HELP Member Values



Accountability	We are accountable for ourselves and our behavior. This involves self and mutual accountability and is a base for success in the rest of our lives. If it involves me, I own up to it, good or bad. We expect each other to meet commitments and expect to be called out if we do not.
Compassion	We never turn anyone away even if they make mistakes. We “walk with” each other through the good and bad. We show true compassion for what we all have gone through.
Advocacy	We dedicate ourselves to advocate for returning citizens to obtain employment, housing, and their right to live as those citizens who do not have felony records. By advocating, it builds our confidence, self-esteem, and character.
Collaboration	We partner with individuals, organizations and programs which are committed to similar visions and missions for returning citizens. We also collaborate with churches, organizations, and communities to raise awareness of the struggles returning citizens face and how we can make a difference in their lives as they make a difference in ours.
Humility	We pride ourselves in being humble and humility is a tool for our success. We thank each other and show appreciation for what we have and give to each other. We share our stories and experiences with the courage to face the truth.
Gratitude	We appreciate the assistance we are being offered and know that the HELP program operates thanks to the generosity of many people who express their Faith in God through donations of time and money and thus their faith in and hope for us as HELP members.
Leadership	HELP members ‘own’ and direct the program. Our leadership strengthens and sustains HELP while enabling members to grow individually.



The HELP Program is continuing the legacy of Brother Mike Murphy.

The mission of the HELP Program is to inspire hope for people who have been convicted of a felony. Our caring, faith-based community of support provides mentoring and resources to find and sustain employment. This allows members to become financially stable and contributing members of our society.



The HELP Program cannot function without the generosity and support of St. Francis de Sales Parish. St. Francis de Sales is committed to social justice and improving the community. The HELP Program is one of the many ways St. Francis de Sales & Fr. Michael Nartker, S.M. demonstrates that commitment.

Contact Information

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