




2020

NEW BEGINNINGS

COVID-19 DID NOT STOP UPWARD TO WORK 3!!!

Upward to Work Class 3 was scheduled to hold a graduation ceremony March 30th, but as the virus began the course schedule was sped up to ensure safety. Luckily, all of the course work was complete!

The Class 3 Cohort was the first to include Industrial Math at Scarlet Oaks. The course was added to the class after feedback from employers. That class was in addition to the financial, life skills and work readiness components. The program continues to be drug free.

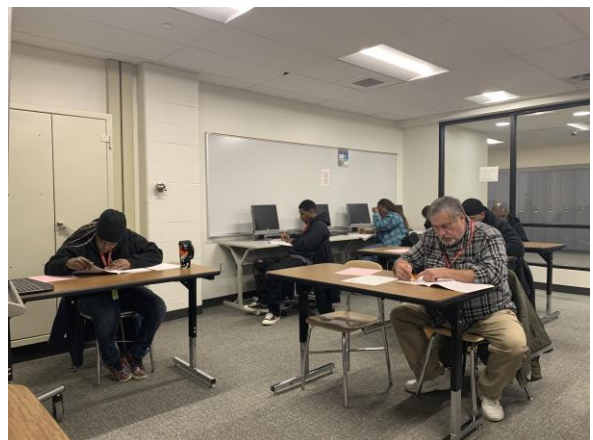
 Class 3 grads had an income increase of 60%!

The Class 3 Graduates earned:

- Industrial Math Training
- OSHA 10
- First Aid Certification
- CPR Card
- Rising Stage ID Card
- Drug free certification
- Getting Out While Getting Ahead Certificates
- A drug free award from St. Vincent de Paul of \$250
- Eligibility for a housing stabilization check from SVDP
- Bank account from First Financial
- Financial management training from volunteer Elaine Prince
- Forklift operator certification from Bobcat
- A transportation Action Plan coordinated by volunteer Terry O'Connor
- Driver's license reinstatement grant funds



Mark W. and Demarcus G. being taught by Kerrie Benning of Scarlet Oaks. @Work Staffing provided the funding through a Workforce Development Program.



Students hard at work focused on fractions, measurement, basic operations, and industrial tools.

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

HELP Mentor (and Board Member) Dean Backsheider hosted a special Dismas Breakfast at his company BGR in Sharonville, Ohio.

The event was the most successful Dismas in recent memory. HELP members got jobs from the event, money was raised for van operations and multiple participants signed up to become mentors. One audience member even donated a car!

Dean is the mentor of one of the more challenged HELP members. Michael, a graduate of Class 1 from Upward to Work, had been incarcerated over 20 years and in a halfway house for an additional 14 months. The world changed dramatically during that time, and Mike needed a lot of assistance to catch up.

HELP was able to get Mike working in several training jobs while he learned to adjust to outside world.

Upward to Work reintroduced Mike to banking, financial management and modern communication (email, cell phones, internet). Dean began to pray regularly with Mike, provided guidance as Mike moved to Dayton, purchased a vehicle, and started experiencing freedom for the first time in a long time.



Mike is working full time, maintaining his apartment, rebuilding his credit, and managing his life independently.

The Dismas Journey, named after St. Dismas, is a partnership with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, started in response to the U.S. Catholic bishops' call for "a new national dialogue on crime and corrections, justice and mercy, responsibility and treatment." Its goals are the empowerment of returning citizens and building bridges of solidarity between them and the Catholic faithful through service and advocacy. If your parish would like to host this dynamic and compelling experience and hear the stories of these men and women as they seek redemption and overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency in our communities, contact Dominic Duren at St. Vincent de Paul dduren@svdpcincinnati.org or (513) 562-8841 ext. 851.

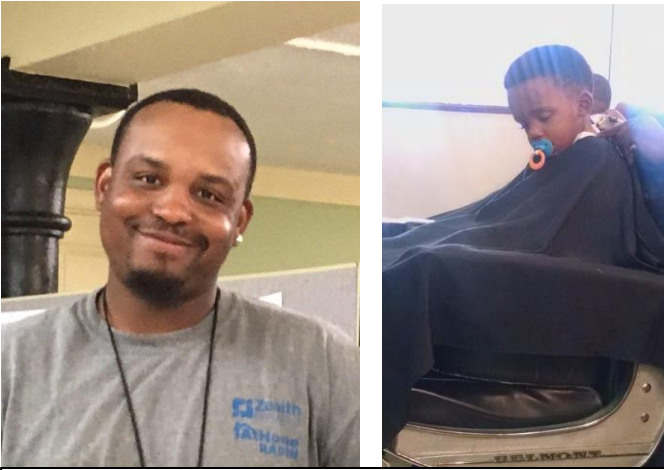


Dean Backsheider, Co-President of BGR, the host for the Dismas Breakfast.



2019 – 2020 HELP Board and Leaders	Brother Mike Murphy Member Emeritus
<p>Father Gene Contadino <i>St. Francis de Sales</i></p> <p>Bob Miller President <i>Christ the King Parish Mentor Program</i></p> <p>Dominic Duren Vice-President <i>St. Francis de Sales Dismas Journeys</i></p> <p>John Finn Treasurer <i>Nativity of Our Lord Business Manager</i></p> <p>Joy Rushing Secretary <i>St. Francis de Sales Action Plan Database</i></p> <p>Rosemary Byes Parish Council Liaison <i>St. Francis de Sales Children's Programs</i></p>	
Dean Backscheider Employer Representative <i>Good Shepherd</i>	Brad Brookbank <i>St. Francis de Sales Member Engagement</i>
Toria Cooper Member Engagement	Joseph Dick Ironworker Training
Emily Gilb <i>St. Francis de Sales Newsletter Mailing List</i>	Nathan Gordon Fatherhood Initiative
James Lunsford Ironworker Training	Andrew Mittower Advocacy
Ed Neenan <i>Good Shepherd Employer Recruitment</i>	Charles Roberts <i>St. Francis de Sales, Parishioner and HELP member</i>
John Smiley Upward to Work	Tom Sparough, <i>St. Clare Storytelling, Interviewing, Public Speaking</i>
Wilson Willard III Executive Director	Linda Neenan <i>Good Shepherd Development Committee Chair</i>
Mike McNamara <i>Nativity Upward to Work – Getting Ahead while Getting Out</i>	
Terry O'Connor <i>Good Shepherd Forklift Training</i>	Vicky Reynolds <i>St. Francis de Sales Grant Writer</i>

THRIVING STAGE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Nathan Gordon (left) and his son at the barber shop.

Nathan Gordon has been a HELP member since 2007. Nate has worked a long series unfulfilling jobs until 2 years ago.

With the encouragement and support of his mentor, Bob Miller, Nathan applied to become a Community Health Worker with Healthcare Access Now and was accepted. The organization provided training and certification through the State of Ohio.

Healthcare Access Now is located in the same building as the headquarters for the Talbert House. While working in the Talbert House Nathan began to make connections and network about future opportunities.

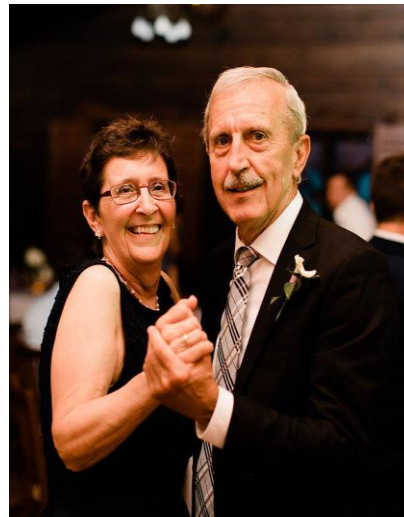
Brother Mike Murphy trained Nate to network and provided office training and experience in the HELP Program offices. Brother Mike took immense pride in the years of growth he nurtured in Nathan.

One of those connections paid off when Nate was invited to come work for Talbert House in the Fatherhood Project. From the Fatherhood Project webpage, "This program assists men in their efforts to become responsible, committed and nurturing fathers. Fatherhood Project helps dads strengthen their connection and involvement in the lives of their children by providing classes, co-parenting and individual coaching, and fellowship support meetings. Additional services include legal, employment and housing assistance."

Nate went through the program as a participant, and then took the training to lead the program. Nate is the proud father to 5 wonderful children.

During 2017 Nate joined the HELP Board in order to give back to other members and recently committed to donating a vehicle for new members to drive.

Nate and Bob have an Action Plan to assist in guiding Nates' career, finances, and eventually hopes to become a homeowner.



Bob Miller, HELP Board President, and mentor to 3 members, along with his wife Charlotte, also a HELP volunteer. As a couple they have sewn masks for all the passengers and drivers using the HELP van and other vehicles during the virus crisis. Mentor Fred Heyse and his wife also sewed masks for HELP.



More information about the Fatherhood Project can be found in this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaqGGKeQi0&feature=youtu.be>



HELP founder Brother Mike Murphy was very close to Nate and is very proud of the progress he has made in the HELP Program. Brother Mike is now a resident of California and we keep him in our thoughts and prayers.



NOW MORE THAN EVER WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP



During this pandemic, your support is critical to us as we serve some of our region's most vulnerable citizens. Please consider providing a little extra in emergency support.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.

Please consider your company, organization, parish, or you as an individual, becoming an "Adopt-a-Month" donor and help defray a portion of our transportation costs.

A one-time contribution of \$1500 would help cover the cost of gas for one month for the two vehicles.

A \$2000 gift would help subsidize our drivers for a month.

Any amount toward our goal is greatly appreciated and will help us achieve our mission of "self-sufficiency through work."



https://helpprogramcincinnati.net/donate/

Empowerment NOT Entitlement!!!

CALL TO ACTION Help us spread the word about the HELP Program by inviting us to meet with members of your parish, business or organization. Please contact Wilson Willard at HelpProgramCincinnati@outlook.com or (513)-432-0907 to schedule a "lunch and learn" or evening information session.

Upcoming Events

Table with 4 columns: Date, Event Name, Location, Time. Includes a 'All Are Welcome' button.

Contact Information

Wilson H. Willard III Executive Director 1600 Madison Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45206-1815 (513)-432-0907 HELPProgramCincinnati@outlook.com www.HELPProgramCincinnati.net

Donation Information: 501(c)3 30-0788420

Ways YOU can be a part of HELP:

- 1. Mentor a member. 2. Share a skill or special activity by teaching a class. 3. Meet about volunteer opportunities 2020 has a new list! 4. Invite HELP to speak at your company, social group or church. 5. Set up a meeting for HELP with your company HR Director. 6. Set HELP as your Kroger Card donation recipient: a. www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com b. NPO #: ni255 7. Set HELP as your Amazon Smile Program recipient a. smile.amazon.com b. select The HELP Program c. select city Cincinnati 8. LIKE our Facebook Page: The HELP Program Cincinnati 9. Go to the website - subscribe to the digital version of the newsletter.