

Sharing the Journey...

The Next Mile

VOL. 26, NO. 3

Summer Edition

JULY 2026

Executive Director's Corner

Community Connections & Summer Highlights

Summer has been a season of connection, growth, and community engagement at **The Road to Hope**. From educational conferences to fundraising events and facility improvements, we've been busy strengthening recovery throughout our communities.

Investing in Our Homes

Behind the scenes, we've been investing in our recovery homes to ensure they remain safe and welcoming environments for our residents. This summer, both **Gratitude Ave. House** and **New Beginnings** received complete roof replacements—important improvements that will help protect these homes and the individuals rebuilding their lives within them for years to come.

A Fresh New Look

Road to Hope has received more than just a few updates to our facilities. Thanks to the creativity and dedication of **Kelley Gaster, Executive Administrative Assistant**, and **Carlin Butts, Marketing & Community Outreach Coordinator**, our website and social media platforms have undergone a complete refresh. We invite you to visit **road-to-hope.org** and follow our Facebook page to explore our new look and stay connected with the latest news, events, and recovery success stories.

Thank You for Making Recovery Possible

Every success story at Road to Hope is made possible because of a community that believes in hope, healing, and second chances. Whether you have attended an event, volunteered your time, made a financial contribution, shared our mission with others, or simply kept our residents in your prayers, your support is making a lasting difference.

We would also like to extend a **special thank you** to the many individuals, churches, businesses, and community organizations who have generously donated personal care items for our residents. These gifts—everything from shampoo and soap to toothpaste, diapers, and other everyday essentials—help ease the financial burden on those beginning their recovery journey while reminding them that their community truly cares. Your generosity provides dignity, encouragement, and hope when it is needed most.

From all of us at Road to Hope, thank you for standing beside us as we continue to provide safe housing, compassionate support, and opportunities for lasting recovery. Together, we are changing lives, strengthening families, and building healthier communities—one person, one family, and one day at a time.

Gratefully,
Jeffrey M. Kamms



More Highlights



Raising Awareness & Building Community

In May, Road to Hope was honored to participate as a community resource at the **Riddell Employee Mental Wellness Fair**. Events like these provide valuable opportunities to increase awareness about mental health, substance use disorder, and the pathways to lasting recovery.

Our leadership team also continued its commitment to professional development by attending two statewide conferences. In June, staff participated in the **16th Annual Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Conference**, hosted by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), where this year's

theme, "Inspiring a Stronger Tomorrow," highlighted innovation and collaboration in behavioral health.

In July, members of our team attended the **OhioPRO Peer Recovery Summit**, themed "Connection Creates Recovery: Healing Happens Together." Sponsored by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and hosted by Ohio Peer Recovery Organizations (OhioPRO), the summit welcomed more than 650 peer supporters, recovery leaders, and advocates from across Ohio to share ideas and strengthen recovery support throughout the state.

Alumni Picnic – You're Invited!

Calling all Road to Hope alumni! Join us on **Friday, July 31**, at **Lakeview Park** for our annual Alumni Picnic.

Food will be served beginning at **5:00 p.m.**, with the **Cornhole Tournament** kicking off at **6:30 p.m.** Bring the whole family and enjoy an evening filled with fellowship, games, door prizes, and fun. Kids will love the **Chalk Walk** and **Bubble Station**, and alumni who have met the eligibility criteria will have an opportunity to receive one of the exclusive Road to Hope Alumni hoodies – a symbol of their recovery journey and continued commitment to lasting sobriety.

We can't wait to reconnect with you!

Celebrating Recovery

One of the highlights of the summer was welcoming **Stomper**, the Lake Erie Crushers mascot, to our Recovery Softball League on June 27. The "Meet the Mascot" event was a tremendous success, bringing together athletes, families, and supporters while helping raise awareness about Road to Hope throughout the community.

We also hosted our **Lake Erie Crushers Fundraiser** on July 17. Although the weather was less than ideal, our supporters showed up in full force. Thank you to everyone who attended, purchased tickets, and helped make the evening a success. A special thank you goes to our dedicated staff, alumni, volunteers, and Board members whose enthusiasm and hard work made this event possible.

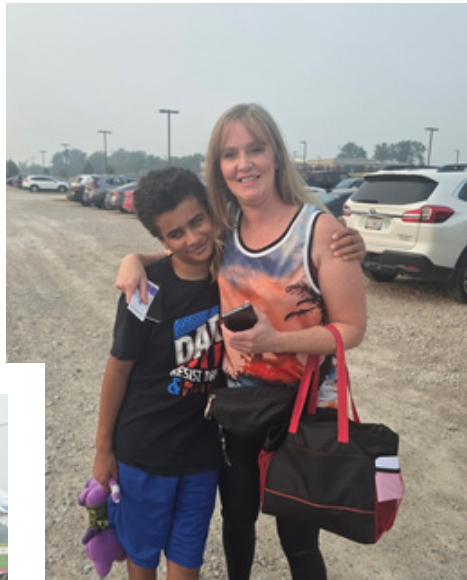
Don't miss the photo highlights from both events in this newsletter edition and on our Facebook page, where you can see our Road to Hope community celebrating recovery, building connections, and making lasting memories together.

ROAD TO HOPE
V.
THE ROCK

Featuring
STOMPER
FROM THE LAKE ERIE
CRUSHERS



BASEBALL NIGHT



RTH

Staff Highlights

Congrats Recovery Court Graduates Tammy Boyd & Tony Zayas

Tammy accepting her
certificate from
Judge Thomas J. Elwell Jr.



Tony shown with
Judge Giovanna Bremke

Please Welcome the Newest Staff Members to RTH...

Christyl Gossett - Resident Coordinator @ Trinity

Cynthia Sheets - Resident Coordinator @ Trinity

Jennifer Mattern - Program Assistant @ Trinity

Patrick Smith - Program Director Elyria Men's

HAPPY *Anniversary*

Elizabeth Boggs- 1 year at RTH 5/11

Bud Yost- 6 years at RTH 7/5

Meranda Dunlap- 2 years at RTH 7/20

Alumni Corner

Celebrating Growth!

Ryan: A Story of Hope



Prior to Road to Hope, I was a post-traumatic vet who drank my pain, fear, and guilt away. There was major wreckage with my family, especially the father that I could not be, and I lacked the ability to care for myself. I was at the point of ending my life with each drink that I took. The pain was so deep and intense that I just wanted it to end, but wanting to realize my potential. There was a drive within me that I just knew life had to be better than what I was living. It was 20 years of knowing but not wanting to admit I had a problem, so finally it was time for that change. I went to detox, then there was a routine of going to various treatment facilities. It was not until I finally went to a 90-day program that allowed me to see that change was the only way that I was going to live to see another day without substances in my life.

From there I was offered the opportunity to go to Road to Hope, and during my journey I was able to get the tools in life to maintain the sobriety that I now have. I am currently in year 2 of my sobriety journey. Today, I have full-time employment, I have a relationship with my children, I have accountability and structure in my life, and most importantly, I have faith in myself. The desire that continues to grow within me is something that I thought I would never have, but recovery has shown me that all things are possible when I simply apply the tools shown to me. Road to Hope grounded me to the point that I was able to forge a recovery foundation; I was able to slow down and see the necessary things within me that needed to change so that I can be the man that I am today.



We are excited to
participate in
Connect to a Cause,
The Community
Foundation of Lorain
County's
annual day of giving!



Community Foundation of
LORAIN COUNTY

Connect 
to a Cause

September 17, 2026 | 8AM - 8PM

This special virtual fundraising event brings our community together for one day to support local nonprofits that are making a difference. This is an opportunity to invest in organizations that strengthen our community and help change lives. At Road to Hope, your support helps provide safe recovery housing, hope, and the tools individuals and families need to build a brighter future.

Save the date: September 17, 2026!
Time: 8am-8pm
Location: Virtual



RTH



On the Horizon

Moving forward, together.



Along the Way:

- **Main Office closed:**

Directors and Admin. off in observance of the holiday

- **September 7th – Labor Day**



Your Next Stop:

- **August 15th –
Annual Golf
Outing @
Hilliard Lakes
Golf Course**

Please note - Registrations and Sponsorships need to be in by August 1st. Don't miss out on this fun event!!



Make a Connection:

- **September 17 –
Connect to a Cause**



The Road Ahead:

- **November 5th –
Heroes Dinner**

18th ANNUAL
THE ROAD TO HOPE/GENE T. CUMMINGS
MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC
SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2026
Hilliard Lakes Golf Course
31665 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, Ohio 44145
4-PERSON TEAM GOLF SCRAMBLE
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABILITY
36-TEAM LIMIT.
REGISTER EARLY.
PAID REGISTRATION
REQUIRED - NO HOLDS.
9AM SHOTGUN START
DEADLINE FOR ENTRY
& SPONSORSHIP:
AUGUST 1, 2026
MAIL FORMS/CHECKS TO:
1863 LIBERTY AVE.
VERMILION, OH 44089
HILLIARD
LAKES
GOLF CLUB
'Let's Play'
RTH
Information/Questions? Contact Kelley at
440.984.1830 or gaster@rthohio.com

Stay connected - visit our Events page for what's next
www.road-to-hope.org

THE NEXT ALUMNI GATHERING WILL BE IN OCTOBER.

Check out the Alumni page under the More tab on the website.

Want to help plan upcoming activities?

Connect with Kelley to get involved, gaster@rthohio.com