Ron’s Story

40 years in the coal mines taught Ron a lot about hard work. Here is what retirement taught him about community:

"I spent nearly 40 years working my way up the coal mines of Ohio, starting as a miner and finishing as a mechanic. Hard work never scared me. But when open-heart surgery forced me to retire, I found myself facing a new kind of challenge: keeping my household afloat on a fixed income while taking in family members who needed a place to stay.

With prescription costs and gas prices climbing every month, Social Security only goes so far. That’s where the Salvation Army stepped in. They didn't just help me pay the bills, they gave me a community. Today, I spend my Wednesday’s volunteering for them. It’s simple: they help me, and I help them."

Mutual aid isn't just about charity, it's about dignity, reciprocity, and showing up for your neighbors.